



Indigenous
Artist-in-Residence

Edmonton

Program Guide 2026

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About the Program

The Indigenous Artist-in-Residence program offers Indigenous artists in Edmonton the time, space and support to focus on their art practice, connect with the community and share their stories.

Now in its fourth cycle, the program continues to grow through the artists, relationships and experiences that shape it. Each residency builds on what has come before, contributing to a growing legacy of Indigenous artists shaping how art, culture and community are experienced in Edmonton.

This program is developed in relationship with Indigenous artists, Elders, Knowledge Holders and community partners. It reflects a shared commitment to strengthening Indigenous presence, visibility and cultural expression across the city.

Delivered through a partnership between the City of Edmonton, the Indigenous Relations Office and the Edmonton Arts Council, the program supports artists to grow their practice while contributing to a more inclusive and connected city.

Artists are supported to explore their ideas, deepen cultural connections and create new work that reflects their voice and priorities. This includes opportunities for public sharing, community engagement and collaboration with City staff, shaped by each artist's practice and interests.

Through this program, the City creates space not only for artistic expression, but for learning, relationship building and meaningful dialogue between artists, communities and City staff.



Who Can Apply

This program welcomes First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists who are connected to Edmonton and are actively engaged in their artistic practice.

You are eligible to apply if you:



- Self-identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit
- Are 18 years of age or older
- Live in Edmonton or surrounding communities, including Enoch Cree Nation, Alexander First Nation, Paul First Nation or Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation
- Have an active and ongoing artistic practice in any discipline
- Are able to commit to the expectations of the residency over a 12 month period
- Have a valid Social Insurance Number or GST number

Artists at different stages of their careers are encouraged to apply, including emerging, mid-career and established artists.



This program welcomes a wide range of artistic practices, including visual arts, performance, music, writing, digital media, traditional and land-based practices, and multidisciplinary work.

If you have questions about your eligibility or would like support with your application, please contact us. We are committed to reducing barriers and supporting Indigenous artists to participate.

What You Receive

This program provides financial support, dedicated space and meaningful connections so you can focus on your work and grow your practice.

As the Indigenous Artist-in-Residence, you will receive:

Financial support

You will receive a total of **\$36,000** over the 12 month residency. This funding recognizes your time, labour and creative work, and is intended to support sustained focus on your artistic practice.

Project and professional development funding

An additional approximate amount of **\$12,000** is available to support materials, supplies, training and other expenses connected to your



residency project. This funding is flexible and designed to align with your goals and creative process.

Mentorship and cultural support

Funding of approximately **\$10,000** is available to provide honoraria for Elders, Knowledge Holders and mentors you choose to work with. This supports cultural connection, guidance and learning throughout your residency.

Final showcase

An approximate amount of **\$10,000+** is dedicated to curating the final showcase to feature your new body of work to the public at the end of the residency program in June 2027. The showcase is timed to align with National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Dedicated studio space

You will be provided with a studio space in a City facility hosted by City Operations. The space will be selected in collaboration with you to support your artistic practice and working style as much as possible.

Program support and coordination

You will be supported by staff from the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Arts Council throughout your residency. This includes assistance with planning, coordination, purchasing materials, and facilitating payments such as honoraria, so you can focus on your work.

Opportunities to connect and share

You will have opportunities to engage with Indigenous communities, collaborate with City staff and share your work with the public through activities such as workshops, open studios, media interviews, presentations or exhibitions. These opportunities will be shaped by your practice and interests.

An artist-centred approach

This program is designed to support your voice, priorities and ways of working. We are committed to creating a supportive environment that responds to your needs and helps you achieve your artistic goals.

**Budget amounts are subject to change upon finalization of the program budget.*

Studio Space

You will be provided with a dedicated studio space to support your creative work throughout the residency.

As the Indigenous Artist-in-Residence, you will have access to a studio within a City of Edmonton facility. The space will be selected in collaboration with you to align as closely as possible with your artistic practice and project needs.

We recognize that artists work in different ways. The studio will be configured, where feasible, to support your materials, process and approach.

The space is intended to provide consistency and focus over the course of the residency, allowing you to develop your work over time. Depending on your interests, it may also be used for activities such as open studio sessions, small workshops or opportunities to share your work with others.

Program staff will support you in accessing and using the space, including orientation to the facility and any guidelines related to safety, scheduling or shared use.

This studio is a key part of the residency, providing a stable and supported environment for creating, reflecting and preparing your work for public sharing.

Funding and Agreements

Before the start of the residency, the Artist-in-Residence is required to obtain **\$2-Million Dollar Liability Insurance** to work in a City Facility. This expense can be reimbursed by the Program Budget.

This residency includes financial support and a formal agreement to provide clarity, accountability and a shared understanding of the work.

Funding for the Indigenous Artist-in-Residence program is administered by the Edmonton Arts Council in partnership with the City of Edmonton.

The selected artist will enter into an agreement with the Edmonton Arts Council and the City of Edmonton that outlines:

- The 12 month, part-time residency term

- The artist fee and project funding
- Expectations and responsibilities
- Use of studio space and resources
- Processes for communication, support and reporting

Funding supports your time as an artist, your creative work and related activities. This includes your artist fee, project expenses such as materials and professional development, community engagement activities and honoraria for Elders, Knowledge Holders or mentors.

Funding will be distributed over the course of the residency in alignment with the agreement.

Program staff will assist you with accessing funds, understanding eligible expenses, purchasing materials and coordinating payments such as honoraria, so you can focus on your work.

If you have questions about funding, contracts or eligible expenses, we encourage you to reach out. We are committed to providing clear guidance and support throughout your residency.

What is Expected

This residency is a one year, part-time commitment that supports you to focus on your work while building relationships and sharing your practice.

As the Indigenous Artist-in-Residence, you are expected to:

Commit to your artistic practice

Dedicate approximately **20 hours per week** to your work over the 12 month residency. This includes studio time, planning, reflection and participation in program-related activities.

Create and share new work

Develop a **new body of work** during your residency and share it publicly in a way that reflects your practice. This may include an exhibition, performance, presentation or other form of sharing.

Engage with community

Build respectful and reciprocal relationships with Indigenous artists, Elders, Knowledge Holders and community members. This may include workshops, open studio sessions or participation in community events. The type and level of engagement will be shaped by your practice and interests.

Contribute as a program representative

At times, you may be invited to participate in events or activities as the Indigenous Artist-in-Residence. This could include attending community events, sharing your work or speaking about your practice. Participation will be planned with you and supported by program staff.

Collaborate with the City

Share your work and perspectives with City staff through activities such as workshops, conversations or open studio opportunities. This supports learning, awareness and connection across the organization.

Use resources responsibly

Manage your time, funding and materials in a way that supports your goals and the success of your residency. This includes planning your work, tracking your budget and working within agreed timelines.

Participate in the residency process

Take part in regular check-ins and planning conversations with program staff to support your progress, address any needs and adapt your approach as your work evolves.

This residency is designed to be flexible and responsive, supporting your growth while creating meaningful opportunities for connection, visibility and shared learning.

What Success Looks Like

Each residency is unique. Success is shaped by your goals, your process and the relationships you build along the way.

There is no single way to define success in this program. We recognize that artists work in different ways and bring different priorities to their practice.

By the end of the residency, success may include:

A completed new body of work

You have created new work that reflects your artistic vision and growth, and have shared it publicly in a way that is meaningful to you. This new body of work will positively impact your artistic practice, the City, and the community.

Strong and respectful relationships

You have built or deepened connections with Indigenous artists, Elders, Knowledge Holders, the City, and community members through reciprocal and respectful engagement.

Opportunities for sharing and exchange

You have created opportunities to share your knowledge and practice through workshops, presentations, open studios or other forms of engagement.

Increased visibility of Indigenous perspectives

Your work has contributed to a stronger presence and understanding of Indigenous cultures, stories and ways of being within the city.

Growth in your artistic practice

You have explored new ideas, developed your skills or expanded your approach in ways that support your ongoing work.

Each residency will look different. Program staff will work with you throughout the year to support your goals, reflect on your progress and adapt as your work evolves.

Is This Program a Good Fit for You

This program is a good fit for Indigenous artists who are looking for time, space and support to focus on their work while building meaningful connections with the community and the City.

You may find this residency a good fit if you are interested in:

Growing your artistic practice

You want to develop a new body of work, explore new ideas or approaches, or take your practice in a new direction.

Deepening cultural connections

You are exploring your relationship to culture, language, land or community through your work.

Engaging with others

You are open to sharing your knowledge and learning with others through workshops, conversations, open studios or community events.

Sharing your work publicly

You want to present your work in ways that connect with a broader audience.

Working in a dedicated studio space

You are interested in using a City-provided studio to support your creative process and develop your work over time.

Collaborating in a shared environment

You are open to engaging with City staff, community members and other artists as part of your residency.

For example, this residency could support a visual artist creating new work while mentoring youth, a musician exploring language through songwriting, or a writer engaging the community through storytelling.

There is no single way to be a good fit for this program. Artists with different experiences, practices and perspectives are encouraged to apply.

If this opportunity aligns with your goals and interests, we encourage you to submit an application.

Program Values

This program is guided by shared values that shape how we work together, build relationships and support Indigenous artists.

These values are grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing and being, and guide how the residency is experienced by the artist, the City and the community.

Kinship

Rooted in principles such as Wahkohtowin, Wahigicobi and Ilagiingniq, kinship reflects the interconnected relationships between people, land and community. This program is grounded in respect, reciprocity and care, and supports meaningful connections between the artist, Elders, Knowledge Holders, community members and City staff.

Cultural revitalization

Art is a way of sharing stories, knowledge and ways of living. This program supports the continuation and expression of Indigenous languages, traditions and cultural practices, as defined by each artist and their community.

Equity

This program is grounded in an artist-centred approach. We are committed to reducing barriers and creating a welcoming and respectful environment where Indigenous artists can exercise self-determination and bring forward their work in ways that reflect their identities and experiences.

Growth

The residency supports the development of each artist's practice while creating opportunities for learning, reflection and change across the City. The presence of the artist helps shape spaces, relationships and understanding in meaningful ways.

These values guide how the program is delivered and how we work together throughout the residency, with a shared commitment to respect, accountability and ongoing learning.

How to Apply

Apply through the Edmonton Art Council's online portal [SmartSimple](#).

Complete (or update) an individual profile in the online portal eac.smartsimple.ca.

To apply, please submit the following:

1. Artist information

Your name and a brief description of your artistic practice, including the disciplines you work in.

2. Residency proposal

A clear plan for your residency that outlines:

- What you want to create during the 12 month period
- How you plan to approach your work
- How you would like to engage with community
- How the residency will support your growth as an artist

Your proposal should be realistic, achievable within the one year term and aligned with your goals.

3. Work samples

Provide 2 to 5 examples that best represent your work. This may include:

- Images (such as JPEG or PDF)
- Video or audio files or links
- Written material
- Links to your website or social media

4. Optional support material

You may include a letter of support from a peer, mentor or community member.

Application Deadline

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 12 p.m. (Noon)

Please ensure your application is complete at the time of submission.

Application Support

We recognize that applying to programs can take time and effort. If you have questions about your eligibility, your proposal or the application process, we encourage you to reach out.

We are committed to reducing barriers and can provide support where possible. This may include answering questions, clarifying requirements or discussing alternative ways to submit your application.

Contact

Email: jair@edmonton.ca

How Applications Are Reviewed

Applications are reviewed through a fair and transparent process that respects different artistic practices, lived experiences and ways of knowing.

A selection panel with experience in Indigenous arts, community and cultural work will review all applications based on the following **selection criteria:**

Artistic practice and vision

The strength of your work, your artistic experience and your vision for creating a new body of work during the residency.

Feasibility

A clear and realistic plan that can be achieved within the 12 month term, including how you will use your time and resources.

Alignment with the program

How your proposal reflects the purpose of the residency, including an artist-centred approach, cultural revitalization and opportunities to share your work with others.

Impact

The potential for the residency to support your growth as an artist and contribute to increased visibility, understanding and connection within the community.

How Decisions Are Made

The selection process considers the diversity of Indigenous artistic practices, perspectives and lived experiences. There is no single path or definition of a strong application.

Decisions are based on the overall strength of each application and how it aligns with the goals and values of the program.

All applicants will be notified once the selection process is complete, expected by the end of May 2026.

Timeline

- Applications Open: April 27, 2026 at 12:00 pm (Noon)
- Information Session: May 4, 2026 at 12:00 pm (Noon)
- Applications Close: May 20, 2026 at 12:00 pm (Noon)
- Selection Panel reviews applications, and will assess applications based on selection criteria to shortlist 4 Artists for Interviews on June 5, 2026.
- Short-listed Artists will be notified of Decision in June, 2026.
- The selected Artist will start the Residency Program by July 1, 2026.

Accessibility and Support

We are committed to reducing barriers and supporting Indigenous artists to participate fully in this program.

We recognize that artists have different needs, experiences and ways of working. This program is guided by an artist-centred approach, and we will work with you to identify supports where possible.

If you require assistance at any stage of the application or residency, we encourage you to reach out.

Support may include:

- Answering questions about eligibility or the application process
- Clarifying what is required for your proposal or submission
- Discussing different ways to share your application, such as written or video formats
- Identifying reasonable accommodations related to communication, scheduling or access

During the residency, program staff will continue to provide support through regular check-ins, planning conversations and coordination assistance, including help with navigating processes and accessing resources.

We are committed to creating a respectful, welcoming and supportive environment where Indigenous artists feel valued and able to participate in ways that reflect their needs and priorities.

About the Partnership

This Indigenous Artist-in-Residence program is a collaborative partnership between the City of Edmonton's Indigenous Relations Office and the Edmonton Arts Council (EAC). The program is jointly guided by both organizations' priorities for reconciliation.

This initiative reflects the City of Edmonton's ongoing commitment to reconciliation and strengthening relationships with Indigenous Peoples. It is anchored by the City's [Indigenous Framework](#) and aligns with the EAC's strategic direction, specifically the Indigenous Principle within [Connections & Exchanges: A 10-Year Plan to Transform Arts and Heritage in Edmonton](#).

By creating space for Indigenous stories, languages, and artistic practices in public and civic settings, the program supports ongoing learning and helps build a city where Indigenous presence is visible, valued, and respected. This partnership supports Indigenous rights, cultural expression, and self-determination, linking to broader local, national, and international commitments