

City of Guelph Artist-in-Residence (AiR) Program 2025 Information Session

January 29, 2025



Land Acknowledgement

As we gather, let us take time to reflect on our privilege to live and work in Guelph; a city built over rich Indigenous histories. We are guests here, and we should reflect upon the responsibility to care for this land, the people who live here today, and the generations to come. If our actions today can move us towards reconciliation, we should take pause and make those decisions with intention and gratitude.

This place we call Guelph has served as traditional lands and a place of refuge for many peoples over time, but more specifically the Attiwonderonk, and the Haudenosaunee. This land is held as the treaty lands and territory with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Guelph lies directly adjacent to the Haldimand Tract and is part of a long-established traditional hunting ground for the Six Nations of the Grand River. Many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, who have come from across Turtle Island, call Guelph home today.

Agenda

- Overview of Program: Program goals, scope of work, eligibility, timeline
- Selection process
- Phase one and two evaluation criteria
- Tips & tricks for your phase one application
- Question & Answer period



About the program

The Artist in Residence (AiR) program is an incubator for artistic creation, inspiration, and community connections.

This program invites artists to consider how community might witness, contribute to, engage with, and/or participate in their art.

The residency prioritizes projects that creatively and accessibly animate public spaces. Artists practicing in all mediums and modes of expression are encouraged to apply including those working in literary, media, performance, and visual arts.

In 2025, one project will be awarded \$10,000.

Program goals

- Increase opportunities for artists while building the city's reputation through arts and culture.
- Creatively animate public space(s) – indoor or outdoor.
- Provide opportunities for artists to engage with the public through creative practices.
- Amplify under-represented voices to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion in the arts.
- Nurture the community's interest in the arts by broadening their experiences and opportunities to engage.
- Cultivate connections between artist(s) in residence, the public, and their shared communities.
- Share stories that reflect the place currently known as Guelph and the diverse experiences that have lived, live, and/or grow here.

Scope of work

- Residency period: July 1 – October 12, 2025
 - Note that this is not a live-in residency
- Artists are encouraged to create new work, to advance work-in-process, or to re-imagine past work
- Artists should consider the community's various ways of experiencing art (e.g., hearing, touch, sight, etc.)
- The residency will contribute to Culture Days (September 19 and October 12, 2025) in a way that can be shared and celebrated with the public – for example, through:

Installation | Performance or event | Exhibition | Workshop
Self-guided, public activity | Artist talk | Community centered experience

Eligibility

- Open to all artists and art collectives (two or more people working as an artist group or who have chosen to collaborate for this program)
- The project budget can be used towards all costs associated with the creation and implementation of the residency project
- Artists and artist collectives are encouraged to express their unique and intersectional identities in the description of their practices
- Artists are encouraged to share how their lived experiences inform their art and their residency proposal

You are not eligible if:

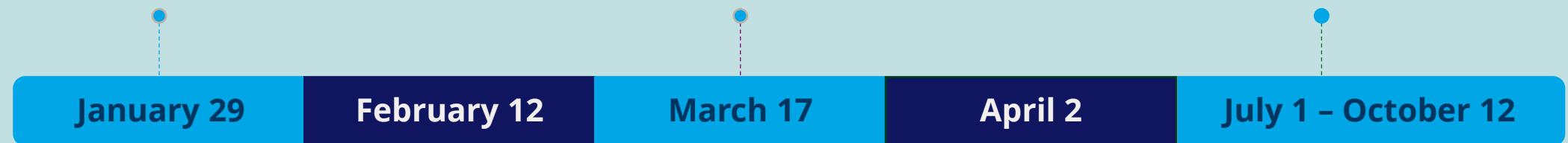
- you are a previous City of Guelph Artist-in-Residence
- you are a City of Guelph employee
- you're proposing a fundraising activity

Program timeline

Phase One Application
Information Session

Phase Two Application 1:1
Information Sessions

Approximate
Residency Period



Phase One Application
Deadline, 11:59 p.m.

Phase Two Application
Deadline, 11:59 p.m.

Selection Process

- Applicants are selected through a two-phase process:
 - (1) Call for Expressions of Interest
 - (2) Request for Proposals from short-listed candidates
- All applications will be reviewed by the City's Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC)
- Successful shortlisted applicants will be notified March 14

To request an accommodation for the application process, contact:

Curator, Museums & Culture, City of Guelph

519-836-1221 extension 2774

culture@guelph.ca

TTY 519-826-9771

Phase one application materials

- Expression of interest (500 words max)
 - A proposal that describes the project concept, desired outcomes, and a vision for how the artist(s) will facilitate community engagement
- Artist CV or resume (up to 3 pages)
 - Artist(s) are encouraged to “tailor” their CV/resume to the residency program
- 3-6 Support materials
 - photos, video, text samples, drawings, etc.

Only include the items listed above. Additional materials **will not** be presented to the selection panel.

Phase one evaluation criteria

Qualifications and experience (40%)

- Ability to deliver work of high artistic quality on time and on budget **(20%)**
- Ability to engage with the community **(10%)**
- Connections to or familiarity with Guelph **(10%)**

Phase one evaluation criteria (cont'd)

Quality of preliminary project proposal (60%)

- Deliver work of high artistic quality, and produce an outcome or creative process that can be shared and celebrated with the public **(20%)**
- Vision for inclusive community involvement **(15%)**
- A project that will creatively animate public space(s) **(15%)**
- Realistic and achievable **(10%)**

Phase two evaluation criteria

Evaluation criteria

- Qualifications and Experience (20%)
- Quality of Proposal (40%)
- Realization of Proposal (40%)

Supports

- Shortlisted candidates will receive a \$400 honorarium for their second submission
- Shortlisted candidates will have a one-to-one conversation with Culture staff to go over any questions, feedback, and tips for their phase two application

View more details at guelph.ca/air

Tips & tricks: Plan ahead

- Give yourself time to find an editing style that works for you, and to take photos of your work or create support materials
- Double check for typos – consider using a program like Grammarly
- Send to a friend or family member to review before you submit
- Come back to it with a fresh set of eyes

Tips & tricks: Do your research

- Look at program goals and evaluation criteria – this is what the jury will evaluate you on:
 - **Reminder:** a vision for inclusive community involvement, and the outcome or creative process are the highest scored evaluation criteria
- Look at past Artist-in-Residence projects to gain inspiration – but don't submit an identical proposal!
- Don't be afraid to reach out if you have any questions

Tips & tricks: Be creative

- We are looking for projects that are unique, out-of-the-box proposals that creatively and accessibly animate public space
- How does your project invite various ways of enjoying art?
- How could this residency help to grow your artistic practice?
- Community engagement can look like:
 - Setting your studio up in a public space to invite people to watch you work
 - Inviting public to contribute to your creative process
 - Creating an immersive community experience at the end of your residency
 - Expressing or collaborating through public platforms
 - Art talk, workshop, & more

Tips & tricks: Don't assume

- Pretend the jury knows nothing about you or your proposal
 - If this is a re-imagined work, maybe the jury has seen the piece before. Re-explain the work and how you will build upon it in the context of this residency
 - Be clear about your experience and abilities
 - When putting forward your vision for community involvement, outline any organizations or other artists you might want to work with

Tips & tricks: Show your best self

- Select the support materials that show off how great you are!
 - Are the photos/videos clear?
 - If it's a video link, is it publicly accessible, so the jury can view?
 - Did you choose support material that best represents your project proposal?
 - Does the support material amplify the things you're saying you can do in your proposal?
 - Be true to yourself – the best proposals are authentic to the artist(s)' abilities and passions.

Tips & tricks: Continuity counts

- Make sure your support materials “match” your proposal
- Submit your material in the requested file formats on the application form. Don’t go over the page/word count.
- Title all your materials in the same way
 - **Example:**
 - “OwenDawn_CV”
 - “OwenDawn_ExpressionOfInterest”
 - “OwenDawn_SupportMaterial1”
 - “OwenDawn_SupportMaterial2”
 - “OwenDawn_SupportMaterial3”

Questions?





Thank you for coming!

For questions and to request an accommodation, please contact

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