

**Call for Submissions
Preamp (Short Term Residency) – PILOT PROJECT**

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: November 11, 2018

Email proposals to:

Joshua Dalledonne, Producing & Engagement Associate

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Subject: ATTN: Preamp Application

Description of the opportunity:

After initial conversations and consultations, Arts Commons is exploring different ways we may respond to the artistic needs of diverse communities and artists. We are currently accepting proposals from early to mid-career artists to develop work in its earliest stages over the course of a 7 day short-term residency at Arts Commons. This call is open to ALL forms of artistic practice, however preference will be given to works that are – or lean towards the – performative, collaborate across artistic disciplines, and challenge those involved.

The opportunity includes: use of [the Engineered Air Theatre](#) for 7 days; artist fees for up to 3 artists; and limited technical support. Please note that artist fees use CAEA workshop scale as a reference. The residency will finish with an informal public sharing on the final day.

Who is this opportunity for:

- Professional artists who self-identify with a diverse community.

Arts Commons recognizes that the term ‘**diverse**’ is very broad, however it is used intentionally to capture the complex network and intersectional nature of the groups we aim to better serve. Those served by this initiative may self-identify with one or more of the following communities: an ethno-cultural community (e.g. Asian Canadians, Indigenous nation), an ability-based community (e.g. deaf/hard-of-hearing, developmental disability), a sexual-minority/gender-variant community (e.g. queer, non-gender conforming), an age-defined community (e.g. seniors/families with young children), an artistic community (e.g. interdisciplinary performance, new media practice), and there are – of course – many others.

Arts Commons defines a **professional artist** as an individual who has specialized training in their artistic field, are recognized by their peers as a professional, have a history of public presentation, and are committed to devoting more time to artistic activity if financially possible. Please note that Arts Commons recognizes and values approaches to creativity and expression that originate from non-western cultural traditions, meaning that ‘specialized training’ or ‘public presentation / engagement’ of an artist does not need to originate from institutions or contexts commonly recognized within the established artistic community.

This pilot initiative aligns with Arts Commons’ commitment to *creating a compassionate society through the arts*, and those served by this opportunity will be asked to provide feedback on their experience. Our intent is to use feedback to assess the effectiveness of the opportunity, and determine what changes may be needed in future iterations as we continue to find ways to better support diverse communities.

To be eligible to submit a proposal:

- The artist(s) must currently reside in Calgary and be legally entitled to work in Canada.
- The artist(s) must be 18+.
- At least one artist involved in the project must self-identify with at least one diverse community.
- The artist(s) must be a professional as described above.

To submit a proposal, please provide:

- The full name, telephone number, email address, and mailing address of the individual who will act as the main point of contact for the proposal.
- A biography of the artists involved in the short-term residency (use as many or as few words as you choose). Some points to consider in the biography:
 - You may choose to use the biography as a way to outline your professional experience as you define it.
 - Please indicate in the biography the diverse community / communities with which you identify.
- A description of your proposed activity (no more than 1-page is necessary, however take the space you require). Some points to consider in your project description:
 - Include the artistic discipline(s) being utilized during the residency
 - Include what objectives you have for the residency.
 - Include how this project proposes a challenge and why this particular challenge is of interest to you here, and why is it of interest to you now.
- OPTIONAL: You may choose to include the CV's of the artists involved.
- OPTIONAL: You may choose to include support materials (images, videos, etc.) that you feel will provide a better understanding of your practice and/or the project you wish to develop during the residency.

We want to decrease the barriers to accessing opportunities like this, and recognize that an onerous application process is a barrier in and of itself. With that in mind, we are open to receiving applications that consider this and the points outlined above are there to provide more clarity rather than requirements. We commit to connecting with each applicant to let them know the status of their application, regardless if they are accepted or not.

We encourage you to share this call for submissions within your networks. One of the aims of this pilot is to broaden the network of artists that Arts Commons connects with, and any assistance in this is (of course optional, but) highly appreciated. To stay up to date with events and notices from Arts Commons, feel free to sign-up for our newsletter at www.artsccommons.ca

Please do not hesitate to connect with any questions or comments you have; particularly if any of the required materials or if the format or language in this call for submissions presents a barrier to you. Where we fail to be responsible, we commit to being fully accountable. There may be delays in us responding to you, but we will indeed reply.

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Arts Commons is the third largest performing arts centre in Canada (after the National Arts Centre in Ottawa and Place Des Artes in Montreal), and is home to an ever evolving range of music, theatre, dance, visual and media arts, and events of all kinds. As a civic partner to the City of Calgary, Arts Commons is responsible for the care of our facility, which is over 13 acres of public space. We are home to six resident companies (Alberta Theatre Projects, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the Calgary Int’l Children’s Festival, Downstage, One Yellow Rabbit, and Theatre Calgary), with *Arts Commons Presents* operating as a distinct seventh resident company.

Arts Commons Presents is a team of six individuals working with a diverse team of arts professionals who together engage over 48,000 people a year at concerts, performances, visual and media arts events, community events, and speaker series; and through our Arts Learning programs we reach over 10,000 students. Of course, none of this would be possible without the 340+ artists we work with annually who create the moments of connection between audience members and the art they’ve come to experience.

The Producing and Engagement Portfolio is part of a renewed focus that expands and deepens the work Arts Commons has previously accomplished in the areas of equity, diversity and inclusivity. The intention of this portfolio is to identify and remove barriers to engagement for audiences and artists, expanding the range of voices and artistic practices in our spaces, and providing equitable and inclusive environments to create and celebrate. In doing so, we intend to honour and serve the broad network of communities that make our home – home. We recognize that the process for activating initiatives that accomplish these goals will be non-linear, require ongoing consultation with stakeholders, the courage to re-evaluate assumptions, and the reflection needed to learn from failure. To that end, we welcome feedback at all stages of our processes. All of these objectives are inspired and guided by Arts Commons’ values: *to be our best, always; to do the right thing; and to be open: minds, hearts and arms.*