**Women’s Centre of Calgary Artist in Residence - Call for Proposals**

The Women’s Centre of Calgary is excited to partner with the Immigrant Council for Arts Innovation (ICAI) for our 2021-2022 Artist in Residence Program. This year, our goal is to ensure newcomer and immigrant artists who identify as women are represented in our space. We have 3 residency periods: September – December, January – March and April – June. The Women’s Centre has many women who are newcomers that are part of our community, and we want to make sure they see themselves reflected in our AiR program.

**What is the Women’s Centre?**

The Women’s Centre is a resource, information, and community center for women. We work to support women to access basic needs support, connect with others and work for change on issues that affect them.

**What is the Immigrant Council for Arts Innovation?**

The Immigrant Council for Arts Innovation is an arts council based in Calgary, AB; it was founded in January 2019 with the purpose of connecting newcomer and immigrant artists with the existing arts community in Calgary.

**What is the Artist in Residence program at the Women’s Centre?**

This program invites local artists, musicians, speakers, and other creative women in Calgary to share their work in a new environment, provides the Women’s Centre’s community with the opportunity to try something new, and engages with Calgary’s arts and music community. Our goalis to host welcoming events in our Women’s Centre space with a wide array of attendees, providing women with the opportunity to meet women artists and other community members that they would not normally meet.

This year, we are offering three residency spots: Fall (September to December 2021), Winter (January to March 2022), and Spring (April to June 2022).

**What does the Residency include?**

A Women’s Centre artist in residency provides a $600 honorarium, and coverage of all supply costs. Artists in Residence have the opportunity to increase their profile, connect with new audiences and learn about different communities in Calgary. Celebrating diversity is also an important value of the Women’s Centre and we prioritize diverse artists who work to support women in their communities and share their voices and experiences. There is also an option for the artist to connect with past Women’s Centre Artists in Residence for mentorship and relationship-building.

**Artist Commitments:**

* **Special event:** A main responsibility of the Artist in Residence would be to be featured as a special guest at one of our four big events throughout the year (International Women’s Day in March, Annual General Meeting in April, Stampede Lunch in July, and Volunteer Appreciation in October). At these events we can showcase the artist to our wider community. This could be through a performance, introduction, exhibition, presentation, or something else of the artist and committee’s choosing.
* **Curated workshop or special event:** The second main responsibility of the Artist in Residence would be to be featured at one special event or workshop at the Women’s Centre, relating to their craft. Here is an example of some events we’ve held in the past:
  + Inclusive Arts Spaces Discussion with Femme Wave Feminist Arts and Music Festival
  + Live Novel Reading with Deborah Willis
  + Drum Circle with Chantal Chagnon
  + Girls Conference: Rock Anthem Writing with Girls Rock Camp Calgary
  + Building Community through Art Panel with Paula Timm, Michelle Dyer, Christina Stein, Samantha Fodor, and Jennifer Jacoby
  + Open Mic Night with Mita
  + Poetry Night with Cobra Collins
  + Dreamcatchers with Jackie Carrier
  + Mending Circle with Penny Gunderson
  + Lifecasting with Claudia Chagoya
* **Orientation:** As part of our commitment to building a meaningful relationship and supporting the artist, while accurately representing the Women’s Centre in the community, there is an orientation process for the artist. This can include, but is not limited to: an introduction meeting, attending a 2-hour Intro to the Women’s Centre training, discussing media relations, a photo, and an interview for a blog.
* **Artwork:** A Women’s Centre Artist in Residence could be invited to loan pieces of her work to the Women’s Centre for temporary or permanent display.

**Covid 19 Considerations**

The Women’s Centre is committed to running this program in the safest way possible. We hope to run the AiR workshops and events in-person (with safety measures in places as required by AHS), but will commit to moving to online programming if it is not safe to gather in-person.

**Next Steps**

* June 2021 - Interested women artists are invited to apply for one of the Artist in Residence spots by filling the google form provided
* July 2021 - A committee of former AiR artists, ICAI staff and Women’s Centre staff will review applications
* August 2021 – Artist selection will be announced, and we will begin working with the fall Artist in Residence

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Sarah at [sarah@womenscentrecalgary.org](mailto:sarah@womenscentrecalgary.org) or programs@icaionline.org

**The deadline for this application is June 30th, 2021**

Thank you for your interest in this program!