



# Newcomer Arts Professional Program (NAPP)

## DESCRIPTION

The Newcomer Arts Professional Program (NAPP) is a dedicated professional development initiative tailored to empower and support newcomer professional artists, arts administrators, and cultural workers. NAPP is a pivotal platform, fostering connections, resource access, educational enrichment, and professional establishment within the Canadian arts landscape. **This opportunity is for newcomer arts professionals in both Edmonton and Calgary only.**

## NAPP CORE OFFERINGS

- Personalized one-on-one mentorship.
- Professional development sessions facilitated by esteemed Canadian arts professionals.
- Comprehensive training programs and exposure to the Canadian arts industry.
- One-on-One career coaching session
- NAPP extends vital support by providing reliable information, deliberate networking opportunities, and sector-specific insights.
- Paid opportunity to gain Canadian experience and comprehensive guidance.
- Essential information for the successful establishment of careers in Canada.

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by newcomer and immigrant arts professionals in navigating their careers and securing professional opportunities within the arts sector, NAPP is committed to bridging this gap.

## ADDITIONAL NAPP BENEFITS

- NAPP provides personalized mentoring with industry experts and group sessions to build unity, enhance networking, foster community engagement, and develop vital professional relationships.
- Participants also benefit from the chance to gain insights from multiple mentors, enabling them to ask pertinent questions and gain a deeper understanding of the program's overarching goals.
- Participants conclude the program by a career connection event and a



final celebration event sharing knowledge, gaining arts experience, and receiving support for projects. After completion, participants earn a certificate, paid opportunities, and ongoing professional growth support.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

This program supports professional artists, arts administrators, and culture workers in Calgary and Edmonton who are newcomers to Canada, with **less than 7 years of residency on 30 September 2026.**

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for this program, applicants must meet the following criteria:

**Age Requirement:** Participants must be 18 years of age or older.

**Residential status:** Applicants should have resided in Canada for a cumulative total of less than 7 years at the time of their application and live physically in either Calgary or Edmonton areas in Alberta, Canada .

**Student Status:** Individuals currently in Canada specifically for a degree program at any Canadian educational institution are not eligible for participation.

**Professional Background:** Applicants must possess experience in the fields of professional arts, arts administration, or cultural work in their home country.

**Work Status:** Applicants must have legal authorization to work in Canada.

**ICAI Membership:** It is a prerequisite for applicants to be registered as ICAI members. If you are not a member yet, we encourage you to consider joining; membership is free.

→ If you are not already an ICAI member, please fill out our [membership form](#), prior to filling out the [participant / mentee application](#).

## APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Our jury team will carefully review all of the received applications, conducting interviews with the shortlisted candidates to confirm and finalize our selections.

**Participant Applications Open:** Wednesday, 1st April, 2026

**Application Deadline:** Thursday, 30th April, 2026



## STRUCTURE OF NAPP

Please review and note the structure of the program outlined here.

20 PARTICIPANTS / MENTEES
Sep 2026 - May 2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kick start Events in Sep 2026</li>   <li>- Engage in bi-monthly, 1.5 hr facilitated professional development sessions Oct 2026 - Apr 2027.</li>   <li>- Benefit from a comprehensive 4 hours per month one-on-one mentoring experience with a designated mentor.</li>   <li>- Participate in 2 check-ins coordinated by ICAI's Program coordinator.</li>   <li>- Career connection and celebration events in May 2027</li> </ul>

## KEY DATES

Please review and note the key and important dates of the program outlined here. All Professional Development sessions are mandatory to complete the program

\* Note that dates may be subject to change.

WHEN	EVENT	WHERE
9 Sep 2026 Wednesday 5.30 pm to 7 pm	Mentee Orientation	Online
17 Sep 2026 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Kick Start Networking Event (Calgary)	In-Person
24 Sep 2025 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Kick Start Networking Event (Edmonton)	In-Person

1 Oct 2026 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7 pm	PD Session 1	Online
15 Oct 2026 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7 pm	PD Session 2	Online
5 Nov 2026 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7 pm	PD Session 3	Online
19 Nov 2026 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7 pm	PD Session 4	Online
<b>Break in December 2025</b>		
7 Jan 2027 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7 pm	PD Session 5	Online
21 Jan 2027 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7 pm	PD Session 6	Online
28 Jan 2027 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7.30 pm	Check-in event with mentors and mentees separate	Online
4 Feb 2027 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7 pm	PD Session 7	Online
18 Feb 2027 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7 pm	PD Session 8	Online
4 Mar 2027 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7 pm	PD Session 9	Online
18 Mar 2027 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7 pm	PD Session 10	Online
1 Apr 2027 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7 pm	PD Session 11	Online
15 Apr 2027 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7 pm	PD Session 12	Online
6 May 2027 Thursday 5:30 pm to 7 pm	Run down of final event	Online



<b>13 May 2027</b> <b>Thursday</b> <b>5:30 pm to 7:30 pm</b>	<b>Career Connection Event</b> <b>(Calgary)</b>	In-Person
<b>14 May 2027</b> <b>Friday</b> <b>5:30 pm to 7:30 pm</b>	<b>Final Celebration Event (Calgary)</b>	In-Person
<b>20 May 2027</b> <b>Thursday</b> <b>5:30 pm to 7:30 pm</b>	<b>Career Connection Event</b> <b>(Edmonton)</b>	In-Person
<b>21 May 2027</b> <b>Friday</b> <b>5:30 pm to 7:30 pm</b>	<b>Final Celebration Event</b> <b>(Edmonton)</b>	In-Person

## Focus Areas for Professional Development:

1. Comprehensive Understanding of the Canadian Cultural Context.
2. Insight into Stakeholders and Employers Sector.
3. Navigating Grants, from Prominent Funding Organizations across Alberta.
4. Understanding Canadian Taxation, Bookkeeping, and Standard Accounting Practices for Creative Professionals.
5. Guidance on Crafting Resumes, Bios, Artist Statements, and Exhibition Statements, Tailored to the Canadian Arts Context.
6. Development of Crucial Networking, Job Search, Branding, Entrepreneurial and Social Media Skills.
7. Clarity on Contracts, Artist Fees, and Honorariums.
8. Knowledge of Arts Advocacy,
9. Public Arts and Community Engagement.
10. Insights into Branding and Entrepreneurship in the Arts.



## Key Program Benefits:

1. Ongoing Guidance from a Seasoned Mentor Throughout the Program, Along with Additional Professional Development Sessions.
2. Expansion of Professional Networks through Mentorship and Facilitators.
3. Practical Work Experience in the Arts via ICAI's Programs and Partners.
4. A Generous Honorarium of \$1,000 upon Successful Program Completion.
5. Unwavering Guidance and Support from the Mentor During Times of Change and Transition.
6. Long-Term Relationships and Broadening of Professional Networks.
7. Personalized Assistance from a Grant Specialist for your Artistic Projects.
8. Access to Further Professional Development Opportunities through the Rozsa Foundation and the RBC Emerging Artist Program.
9. Participants will be able to enroll in the Rozsa Foundation's Rozsa Admin Fundamentals Training (RAFT) Program, and the fee will be covered by the Foundation, making it free for participants.
10. One-on-one Career Coaching Session..
11. Certificate of Completion at the Program's Conclusion.
12. Immersion and Cultivation of Connections within the Alberta Arts Community and Beyond for an Enhanced and Impactful Experience.
13. Collaborative Opportunities with Peers and Fellow Newcomer Creatives.
14. Extensive Networking Opportunities.
15. Future Support Letter for Grants and Awards from ICAI, upon Request.
16. Career connection event to enhance networking and work opportunities.

## QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES

**Please contact:** Programs Coordinator, Immigrant Council for Arts Innovation, [programs@icaionline.org](mailto:programs@icaionline.org)