



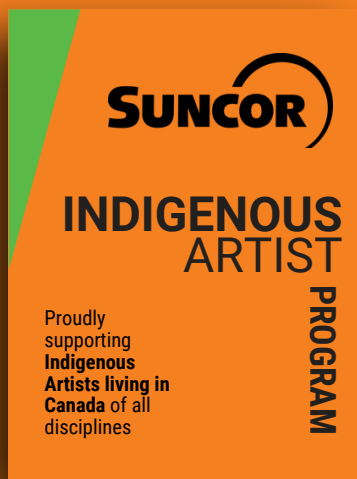
**ARTS COUNCIL**  
WOOD BUFFALO



# ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

ARTS COUNCIL WOOD BUFFALO

## HANDBOOK



[www.artscouncilwb.ca/artist-in-residence](http://www.artscouncilwb.ca/artist-in-residence)

Updated for **Artist in Residence 2025**

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# INTRODUCTION

The **Artist in Residence Program** and **Suncor Indigenous Artist Program** follow the traditional residency model, in which professional artists spend time creating work inspired by the environment, culture and people of Wood Buffalo. Both resident artists mentor local artists, with the Suncor Indigenous Artist prioritizing Indigenous Peoples in the rural communities. Resident artists engage with the community through workshop opportunities and showcase their newly created work through a final event.

The programs are open to artists in any discipline living in Canada, with a preference given to Alberta-based artists.



*Photo of resident artist Cat Sivertsen*

# ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

The Artist in Residence Programs focus on four core goals:



## CREATION

Support incoming artists in the creation of new work, inspired by their time spent in the Wood Buffalo region.



## MENTORSHIP

Further develop local artists' growth through mentorship opportunities provided by the Artist in Residence (i.e. workshops).



## INNOVATION

To inspire innovation for local and non-local artists, through exposure to new perspectives, artistic ideas and techniques that the Artist in Residence can bring to our region.



## AWARENESS

Bring awareness of Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo among non-local artists, motivating creative reflection and artistic production, inspired by our unique region and its people, landscape, infrastructure, culture and heritage.



## RESIDENCY LENGTH

The 2025 Artist in Residence Programs will welcome visiting artists for two different residence periods: Spring 2025 and Summer 2025.



## HOW ARTS COUNCIL SUPPORTS YOU

Each residency will receive a total of \$8,000, payable to the artist upon signing a contract with Arts Council Wood Buffalo. This amount is intended to cover travel, accommodations, materials, supplies, and artist fees. The artist is responsible for arranging their own travel and accommodations, although Arts Council Wood Buffalo staff can provide recommendations for the best places to stay in the region.

Arts Council Wood Buffalo will support your residency by offering a comfortable and suitable workspace and coordinating accommodations for your workshops. They will manage all marketing, communications, and registrations for your workshops and final showcase. ACWB staff will do their utmost to ensure your residency meets your expectations and that you have everything you need to be set up for success. Throughout your residency, Arts Council Wood Buffalo staff will be available to explore the region with you and ensure you feel appreciated and valued for your time, energy, and expertise in contributing to our community.



Photo by M'Guphynn Media

## ABOUT THE REGION

Wood Buffalo is a unique and vibrant region, with people joining us from all over the world to work, play and raise their families. The region is made up of ten sub-communities and Arts Council currently operates out of four: **Anzac, Fort Chipewyan, Fort McMurray and Janvier.**

Depending on your arts discipline, there may be opportunities to interact with artists in the rural communities, as well.



## RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

From numerous festivals to the beautiful Birchwood Trails, Wood Buffalo has a host of recreational activities that you can engage in, to inspire creativity during your time in the region.

Visitors often come to our region to engage in showshoeing holidays, canoeing, kayaking and fishing, to viewing the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) and playing golf or skiing.

Visit [www.explorewoodbuffalo.ca](http://www.explorewoodbuffalo.ca) for more information on what our region has to offer.



## CREATIVE / STUDIO SPACES IN WOOD BUFFALO

### ANZAC

**Anzac Recreation Centre |**

[www.anzacrec.ca](http://www.anzacrec.ca)

**Anzac Recreation Centre, presented by CNOOC, includes a Fitness Centre, the Christina River Enterprises Indoor Running Track, a Youth Room, an NHL-sized arena, field house, boardroom and meeting spaces, the Keyera Indoor Playground and other amenities.**

**Fort McMurray #468 First Nation Community Centre |**

[www.fmfn468.com](http://www.fmfn468.com)

**Large quonset-style open space for any community events, including programming, feasts and birthday parties, located on the First Nation land near Anzac. Holds approx. 80 people.**



## CONKLIN

Conklin Multiplex |

[www.rrcwb.ca/conklin-multiplex](http://www.rrcwb.ca/conklin-multiplex)

The Multiplex includes a fitness centre, arena, gymnasium, fitness studio, children and youth activity space, Elder room, community kitchen, meeting spaces and more. The facility supports the community through sport, programming, recreation and community gathering experiences under the operational leadership of the Regional Recreation Cooperation.

## FORT CHIPEWYAN

Charlie Voyageur Conference Centre |

[www.acfn.com/elders-youth](http://www.acfn.com/elders-youth)

A large community space that is designed to host various programs and conferences. Seats up to 150 people, with audiovisual technologies, coffee/tea and catering services available.

## FORT MCKAY

**Fort McKay First Nation Youth Centre |**

[www.fortmckay.com/facilities/youth-centre](http://www.fortmckay.com/facilities/youth-centre)

Indoor space for youth-specific programs, equipped with a full industrial kitchen, computer lab, music studio, radio station, pottery kiln, office and conference room.



*Photo by Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre*

## FORT MCMURRAY

**Bob Lamb Bandstand |**

[www.rmwb.ca/en/index.aspx](http://www.rmwb.ca/en/index.aspx)

Outdoor performing arts stage located in front of green space for audiences to sit, picnic-style.

**Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre |**

[www.keyano.ca/theatre](http://www.keyano.ca/theatre)

Dance and music studios, rehearsal spaces, a 594-seat main stage theatre, a 194-seat recital theatre, an art gallery, and various reception opportunities.

**The Kirschner Family Community Art Gallery |**

[www.macdonaldisland.ca/facilities/art-gallery](http://www.macdonaldisland.ca/facilities/art-gallery)

No-fee art gallery that highlights the works of local artists and celebrates the arts. Designed to showcase art to the general public in an easy-to-access and high-traffic environment.



### **Jubilee Plaza |**

[www.rmwb.ca/en/parks-and-recreation/jubilee-plaza.aspx](http://www.rmwb.ca/en/parks-and-recreation/jubilee-plaza.aspx)

**Outdoor performing arts and/or exhibition space.**

### **Landmark Cinemas |**

[www.landmarkcinemas.com/showtimes/fort-mcmurray-eagle-ridge](http://www.landmarkcinemas.com/showtimes/fort-mcmurray-eagle-ridge)

**Host a private screening in an auditorium with state-of-the-art projection and audio technologies.**

### **Oil Sands Discovery Centre |**

[www.oilsandsdiscovery.ca](http://www.oilsandsdiscovery.ca)

**Two corporate rooms and a theatre available for rent; beside a colourful, interactive museum experience of the Oil Sands.**

### **MacDonald Island Park |**

[www.macdonaldisland.ca](http://www.macdonaldisland.ca)

**Owned by the Regional Recreation Corporation, the Island has the venues and experience to host large events, concerts, banquets, family programming, camps and a variety of other community collaborations.**



*Photo by Nick Vardy*

### Shaw Spotlight |

[www.shawspotlight.ca](http://www.shawspotlight.ca)

Organization that allows volunteers to borrow high-end video equipment, and offers free training on how to utilize them.

### Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts |

[www.secpa.fmcschools.ca](http://www.secpa.fmcschools.ca)

Cultural hub that offers a number of dynamic visual and performing arts programs for community members.

*Photo by Birdair*



## JANVIER

### Janvier Sekewha Youth Centre |

[www.sekweha.ca](http://www.sekweha.ca)

Youth program-driven building, in the centre of Janvier, including full kitchen, office space, living-room style programming space, a baseball diamond, with a park behind the building.

# RESIDENCIES BY ARTFORM

This list serves to provide an overview of potential residencies that an artist may apply for. We also welcome applications from artists who feel that they belong to art forms different from those on this list.



*Photo by M'Guphynn Media*

## CRAFT

**Examples include:** beading, sewing, hair tufting, pottery, glass-blowing, etc.

A Crafter's residency would be designed to allow for the creation and development of new works. Arts Council would support artists in the initial creation phase of a new work, which they'll begin to create in local studio spaces. Artists would be expected to create work during their residency, with the intention of giving a final presentation, and will be asked to create and facilitate 2-3 workshops in a specialized area of their expertise.

## DANCE

**Examples include:** ballet, pow-wow, jazz, jigging, hip-hop, hoop dance, etc.

A Dancer's residency would be designed to allow for the creation and development of new works. Arts Council would support artists in the initial creation phase of new work, which they'll begin to create in local studio spaces. Artists would be expected to create work during this residency with the intention of giving a final presentation or performance, and will be asked to create and facilitate 2-3 workshops in a specialized area of their expertise.



## LITERARY ARTS

Examples include: fiction, non-fiction, short story, poetry, storytelling, etc.

A Writer's residency would be designed to invite aspiring and established writers to come and stay in the Wood Buffalo region, with the goal of creating new work inspired by their time here. Work may include poetry, short story, playscripts, short story, screenplay, storytelling, written journalism, fiction, non-fiction, prose, or any fusion thereof. Artists would be expected to create work during this residency with the intention of giving a final presentation or performance, and will be asked to create and facilitate 2-3 workshops in a specialized area of their expertise.

Photo by Lilith McDermid



## MEDIA

Examples include: film, video, podcasting, animation, graphic design, radio, etc.

A Media Artist's residency would invite media artists to come and stay in the Wood Buffalo region to create new works. Works may include film, video, podcasting, graphic design, animation, digital art, web-based art, audio/sound art, media art installation, or any fusion thereof. Artists would be expected to create work during this residency, with the intention of hosting a final presentation, and will be asked to organize and facilitate 2-3 workshops in a specialized area of their expertise.

## MUSIC

Examples include: drumming, throat singing, pow-wow, fiddle, hip-hop, DJ, etc.

A Musician's residency would be designed to invite aspiring and established musicians to come and stay in the Wood Buffalo region, with the goal of creating new works inspired by their time here. Artists may be someone who performs, composes, writes songs, DJs, and/or works in technical production in all genres of music. Artists would be expected to create work during this residency with the intention of giving a final presentation or performance, and will be asked to create and facilitate 2-3 workshops in a specialized area of their expertise.



## PERFORMING ARTS

Examples include: stand-up comedy, playwriting, directing, design, technical theatre, etc.

A Performing Artist's residency would be designed to invite aspiring and established performing artists to work on the initial creation phase of a new work in one of our region's studio spaces. This residency offers a range of work spaces and facilities, depending on the participants' needs and availability. We invite project proposals from individual artists, artistic collectives, and companies of all sizes. Artists with projects at various stages of development are encouraged to apply – whether at the conceptual, creation, development, refinement, or redevelopment stage of a new work. Artists would be expected to create work during this residency with the intention of giving a final presentation or performance, and will be asked to create and facilitate 2-3 workshops in a specialized area of their expertise.

## VISUAL ARTS

Examples include: soapstone carving, photography, painting, wood carving etc.

**A Visual Artist's residency would invite an aspiring and established artist to come and stay in the Wood Buffalo region, with the goal of creating new works inspired by their time here. Works may include painting, sculptures, drawings, printmaking, or installation art. Artists would be expected to create work during this residency, with the intention of hosting a final presentation, and will be asked to create and facilitate 2-3 workshops in a specialized area of their expertise.**



*Photo by Richard Baldonado*

# APPLICATION PROCESS



Photo by Stacey Northcotte

## STEP 01

### Review the Handbook

You're already doing it! Familiarize yourself with the Residency program and decide if it's for you.



## STEP 02

### Apply

Apply for a Residency through our [online portal](#), or contact [byron@artscouncilwb.ca](mailto:byron@artscouncilwb.ca) for a mail-in form or to coordinate an oral submission.



## STEP 03

### Shortlisting

Shortlisted applicants are given an opportunity to present their proposal for Residency to Arts Council.



## STEP 04

### Selection

All presentations will be assessed by ACWB staff and successful artist(s) will be notified.





## APPLICATION DATES

In 2025, the Artist in Residence and Suncor Indigenous Artist Programs will run for separate residence periods. We aim to welcome artists to our region in Spring 2025 and Summer 2025 for 3-4 weeks each.

**PROPOSALS DUE:** September 16, 2024

**SHORTLISTED ARTISTS NOTIFIED:** September 27, 2024

**INTERVIEWS TAKE PLACE:** October 28, 2024 – November 8th, 2024

**SELECTED ARTISTS NOTIFIED:** November 15, 2024

## ELIGIBILITIES

- Artists must be 21 years of age or older
- Artists must reside in Canada
- Artists must have at least 2 years of professional experience in their field
- Artist must self-identify as an Indigenous person, if applying for the Suncor Indigenous Artist Program



## SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

You have four options:

1

### **Fill in our online form**

This option allows you to save as you go, and offers written support along the way

Visit: [artscouncilwb-opportunities.awardsplatform.com](https://artscouncilwb-opportunities.awardsplatform.com)

2

### **Mail-in your Proposal**

A printed template can be mailed out to you with a self-addressed return envelope. This needs to reach the Arts Council office by 12PM (MST) on the proposal due date.

**Contact: 587-674-1625 ext. 101 or [byron@artscouncilwb.ca](mailto:byron@artscouncilwb.ca)**

3

### **Oral submission**

Oral submissions will be accepted as a recorded audio file. This audio file will not be transcribed to text. It will be presented to the selection committee in its recorded form, so that it is received in your voice, as originally intended.

**Contact: 587-674-1625 ext. 101 or [byron@artscouncilwb.ca](mailto:byron@artscouncilwb.ca)**

4

### **Set up an appointment**

Any artists struggling with any other options are welcome to meet with our team in person or virtually to ensure a smooth application process.

**Contact: 587-674-1625 ext. 101 or [byron@artscouncilwb.ca](mailto:byron@artscouncilwb.ca)**



## INCLUDE IN YOUR PROPOSAL

You will be asked to provide the following information in your proposal:

### ▶ CONTACT DETAILS

*Provide your name, contact phone number, email address and home/company address.*

### ▶ PROJECT SUMMARY

*Provide a summary of the project you would propose to work on during your Residency (200 words).*

### ▶ SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

*Share any special requirements or conditions that Arts Council should be made aware of to support your ability to participate safely and comfortably in the program.*

### ▶ WORKSHOP SUMMARIES

*Share a summary of workshops (1-2) that would be presented to urban and rural communities in the surrounding areas of Wood Buffalo.*





## PROJECT BUDGET

Each Resident Artist will be given a total allocation of \$8,000, payable to the artist upon signing a contract with Arts Council Wood Buffalo. This sum is intended to cover expenses for travel, accommodations, materials, supplies, and artist fees. The artist is responsible for arranging their own travel and accommodations, though Arts Council Wood Buffalo staff can offer recommendations on best places to stay in the region.

### ▶ WORKSHOP PLANNING

*Typically calculated at \$50/hour x Number of workshop planning hours.*

### ▶ WORKSHOP DELIVERY

*Typically calculated at \$50/hour x Number of workshop delivery hours.*

### ▶ WORKSHOP MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

*Including fees for materials and art supplies and/or printing needed for workshop participants.*

### ▶ RESIDENCY MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

*Including fees for materials and supplies you will need to create your work while in Wood Buffalo.*







## ACCOMODATIONS TO SUPPORT EQUITY

Arts Council celebrates and supports diversity, and is committed to creating an inclusive environment for all, free of barriers and discrimination. We are committed to providing programs that are accessible and barrier free.

We welcome the unique contributions all artists make towards the arts community in terms of education, opinions, and culture, and all eligible applicants will receive consideration without regard to ability, race, religion, beliefs, colour, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, veteran status, or status as an individual with a disability among other things.

Arts Council hopes to build artist capacity by paralleling an application process that is adopted by the wider arts communities across Canada and the world. However, we also recognize that this process may be stressful to some.

Any artists who may be struggling to complete their application in any way are encouraged to reach out for help.

For more information or support on this or any part of the applications process, please contact the Programs Coordinator at [byron@artscouncilwb.ca](mailto:byron@artscouncilwb.ca) or by phone 587-674-1625.





*Photo by Nick Vardy*

# PAST RESIDENCIES (EXAMPLES)



## 2023 - DANIELLE PIPER

*Interdisciplinary Visual Artist*

Danielle Piper is an interdisciplinary visual artist located in Mohkinst'sis, Treaty 7 territory.

During her time in Wood Buffalo, Danielle created large and small scale visual art works, which included water colour paintings, hide, beading, tufting, and more. She was inspired by the landscape in Wood Buffalo. She also taught workshops in beading and fishscale art.

## 2023 - LOUISE CASEMORE

*Playwright & Theatre Artist*

Louise Casmore is an artist advocate, prairie nuisance, and two-time Sterling Award winning playwright. She is based in Alberta on Treaty 6 and 7 Territory.

Louise taught two workshops during her residency, one centred on providing critical feedback and the other on creating site-specific theatre. Her creative focus was on developing a new script.





## SUMMER 2022 - COLIN WOLF

### *Performing Arts / Indigenous Arts*

Colin Wolf is a Métis performer, theatre maker, and activist from the North-East of Moh'kins'tsis (Calgary), AB on Treaty 7 Territory.

During his time in Wood Buffalo, Colin worked on developing his original script, "Coywolf". He facilitated two performing arts workshops in Fort Chipewyan and Fort McMurray that focused on developing a story using movement and various writing exercises.

## SUMMER 2022 - CAT SIVERTSEN

### *Mixed Media Arts*

Cat Sivertsen is a multi-disciplinary/mixed media artist from Victoria, BC. Her work in Wood Buffalo was focused on botanical printmaking on different types of textiles, resulting in numerous finished pieces and an exhibition at the Keyano Art Gallery.

Cat taught two workshops during her residency, one in Fort McMurray and one in Anzac in Artist Book-Making, where participants learned drawing, printmaking, collage, text and water transfer methods.







## FALL 2021 - HEATHER MORIGEAU

*Visual Arts / Indigenous Arts*

Heather Morigeau is an award-winning Indigenous artist, who came to the Wood Buffalo region from Calgary for the first iteration of the Suncor Indigenous Artist Program (a component of the Artist in Residence program). During her residency, she held a series of workshops, including resin-casting, and pine-needle basket weaving. She also developed a series of resin paintings using a mixture of iridescent neon, and UV reactive glow-in-the-dark pigments, and black silhouettes of pine trees and wildlife to accentuate the bright colours of the starlit sky and Aurora Borealis.

## FALL 2020 - CARLA WHITE

*Literary Arts / Performing Arts*

Carla White engaged as the Fall 2020 Artist in Residence, where she developed a script dramatizing the events, demographics, learnings and community-building that arose out of the 2016 Horse River Wildfire.

Arts Council recruited a Dramaturg and Director to support White with her project, as well as videographers from M'Guphynn Media, who compiled her residency into a documentary called *Sparking Creativity*.





## SPRING 2020 - MICHELLE THORNE

### *Performing Arts*

Michelle Thorne engaged as the Spring 2020 Artist in Residence and supported her journey as she directed a community theatre run of *The Great Gatsby* at Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre. Though the theatre run was cancelled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Thorne continued to offer a 4-week "Directing from Script to Stage" program for local theatre artists. Workshops included such elements as script analysis, stage management, auditions, casting, marketing and publicity and culminated with participants creating their own Director's Proposal by the end of the workshop series.

## FALL 2019 - WAYNE ARTHURSON

### *Literary Arts / Indigenous Arts*

Wayne Arthursen is a professional writer of Cree and French-Canadian descent, with over 30 years' experience including the bestselling and award-winning *Leo Desroches* crime series. Arthursen spent time in our community working on his literary practice and performed several in-person readings and discussions, sharing his experiences as an Indigenous literary artist. He worked with Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists in two of our rural communities and in the urban centre of Fort McMurray.





“

During this time, I was supported by the amazing team at Arts Council Wood Buffalo, who welcomed me warmly and ensured I had everything I needed to make this an amazing arts

opportunity (including a cozy AirBNB in Fort McMurray for myself and my furry traveling companion, Izabella the cat).

**- Heather Morigeau**



# ARTS COUNCIL

## WOOD BUFFALO

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## CONTACT

**ARTS COUNCIL WOOD  
BUFFALO**

**8115 Franklin Ave,  
Fort McMurray AB  
T9H 2H7**

**587-674-1625**

[www.artscouncilwb.ca](http://www.artscouncilwb.ca)

[programs@artscouncilwb.ca](mailto:programs@artscouncilwb.ca)

[@artscouncilwb](https://www.instagram.com/artscouncilwb)