

*"City as an Advocate (Mixed Media Painting)"*  
Dawn Marie Marchand

# **Indigenous Artist-in-Residence Program Guide 2025**



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# Program Summary

The Indigenous Artist-in-Residence (IAiR) program, hosted by the City of Edmonton's Indigenous Relations Office, is a key initiative of the [City of Edmonton's Indigenous Framework](#). The program supports Indigenous artists' growth and development, recognizing their important role in influencing societal change through sharing their stories, knowledge, and cultural understandings. The IAiR program aims to amplify Indigenous presence and cultural resurgence within Amiskwaciwaskahikan, Treaty 6 territory and Métis homelands, and foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Indigenous culture among the broader community. The IAiR program aligns with the City of Edmonton's Indigenous Framework, which aims to build strong relationships with the Indigenous community, and support Indigenous artists in sharing their culture and stories through their art.



# Program Story

The City of Edmonton started the Indigenous Artist-in-Residence program as a pilot project in 2016, with Dawn Marie Marchand as the first artist. City Council at the time was inspired by Marchand's work with Free Footie, creating a soccer ball with an Edmonton Treaty Six design for kids who had barriers to play sports. The City of Edmonton recognized the impact of hosting an Indigenous Artist and supporting their creative practice. The goal of the IAiR program is to support Truth and Reconciliation and increase the visibility of Indigenous artists and their art in Edmonton.

Marchand played a key role in developing the pilot project into a full program with support from the Indigenous Relations Office, Edmonton Arts Council. She focused on honouring traditional protocols and collaborating with the community. An Advisory Committee was formed in 2017, including artist mentors and knowledge holders, to guide the program's development. Since its official launch in 2019, the program has hosted two more Indigenous artists, MJ Belcourt and Matthew Wood (a.k.a. Creeasian). The program continues to evolve with the artists and mentors through an artist-centered approach, learning to better serve the Indigenous arts community in and around Edmonton.



## Mission

To elevate and empower Indigenous artists and arts communities in Edmonton. The IAiR program achieves this by offering resources and support that commission artists to fulfill their creative aspirations and artistic potential, while contributing to economic reconciliation.

## Vision

To support the cultural revitalization of Indigenous presence and visibility through the arts in the City of Edmonton.

*"My people will sleep for one hundred years, but when they awake it will be the artists who give them their spirit back."*

- Louis Riel



*"Mispon, (It is snowing)"*  
Melissa-Jo (MJ) Belcourt Moses



# Values

**Resurgence:** The IAiR program's purpose is to create supportive and safe spaces for Indigenous Artists to create and contribute to the growth of Indigenous representation through art and storytelling in city spaces.

**Artist-Centered:** The IAiR program exists to nurture Indigenous Artist through an artist-centered approach, designed to meet the needs of Indigenous artists by providing resources for mentorship, cultural connections, and professional development opportunities guided by the artists' goals and vision. This program provides opportunities for artists' creative experimentation in their artistic practice in creating new work.

**Inclusive:** The IAiR program is led by the Indigenous Relations Office at the City of Edmonton in partnership with other City Departments, Edmonton Arts Council, and an Advisory Circle made up of Indigenous Artists. These partnerships help support inclusive, ethical, and equitable approaches to program facilitation, working with Indigenous artists, and program processes.

**Community Building:** In order for the IAiR program to better serve Edmonton's Indigenous Arts community, the program includes a diversity of Indigenous Artist voices from Edmonton's arts community to provide guidance and insight, and give experience to Indigenous artists in selection processes and committee roles.

**Kinship:** The IAiR program is guided by Indigenous teachings of kinship and interconnected relationships. The residency program structure is



created to show care and create kinship with Indigenous artists through an accessible approach and ongoing learnings.



*"IAiR Program Structure and Values"*



# Intention & Alignment

To promote the representation of Indigenous artists and enhance the visibility of Indigenous arts within Edmonton's arts and culture scene, this program aims to influence societal change by decolonizing city systems through artistic expression and revitalizing Indigenous knowledge systems. This initiative aligns with Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #83 and provides financial support to Indigenous artists to sustain their artistic practice, contributing to economic reconciliation.

*#83. We call upon the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process.*

## In alignment with the Indigenous Framework

- Seven Commitments (#3): Identify and implement ways to make City spaces and buildings welcoming and safe for Indigenous peoples and ensure they can see themselves reflected in the City's spaces and places.
- Indigenous Art in new/existing structures: Explore opportunities to include Indigenous art into new/existing structures (e.g. glazing on ETS shelters) and City Operations facilities. Focus on assets that City Operations already owns/and maintains.



### Guiding Principles:

Relationships, Agreements, Celebrations, Renewal



### 4 Roles:

Listener, Connector, Advocate, Partner



### 7 Commitments





## In alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation Municipal Plan

- Resurgence: funding and partnerships with Indigenous communities to support the reclamation of culture, knowledge, language and autonomy.
  - Supporting the growth and development of Indigenous Artists in the City of Edmonton

## In alignment with the MMIWG2S+ Action Plan

- Invest in Indigenous Art and Culture ensuring sustainable funding for all artforms:
  - Fund and support local Indigenous art and culture initiatives



*"Heartbeat of a Nation"*

Brad Crowfoot

As well, the IAiR program is in alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Articles 11 and 31:

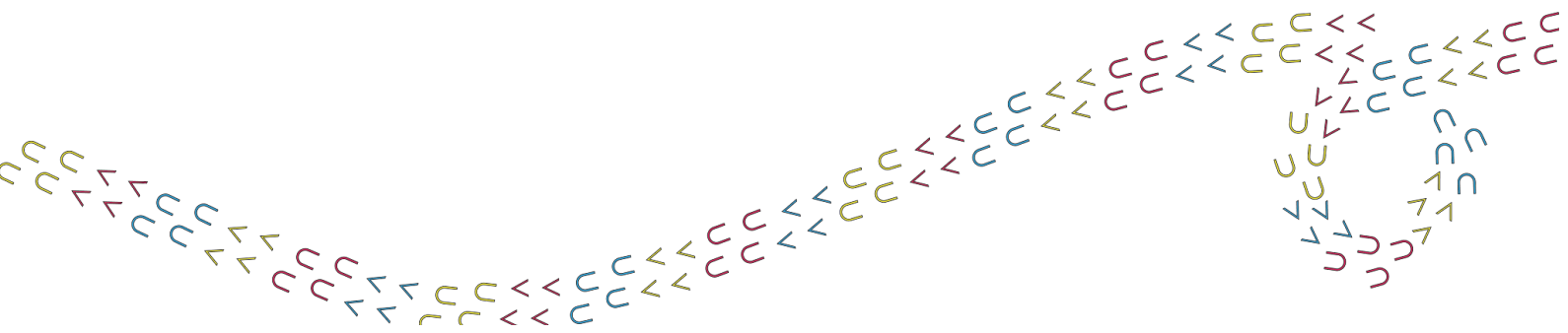


Article 11

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artifacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.

Article 31

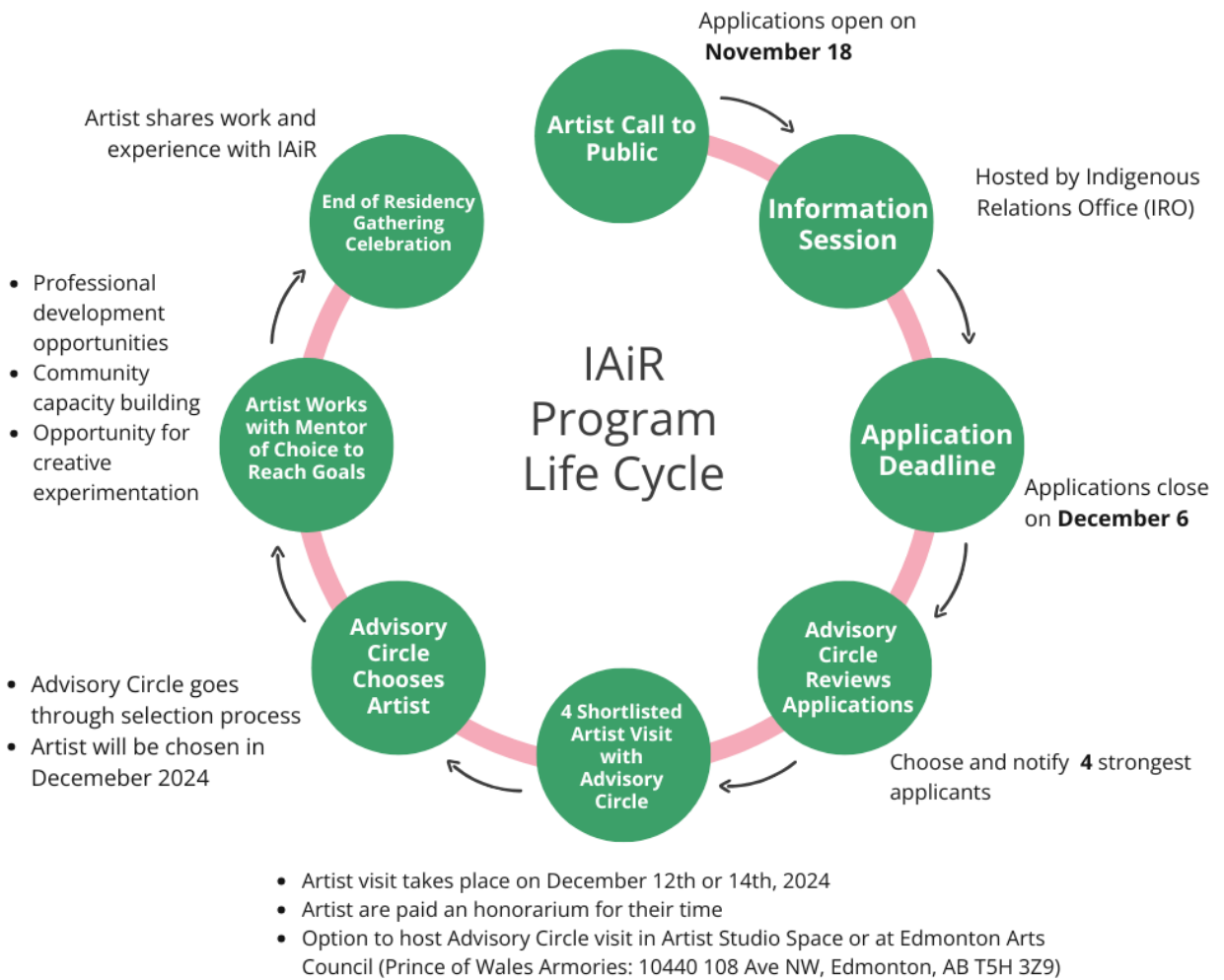
Article 31 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts.



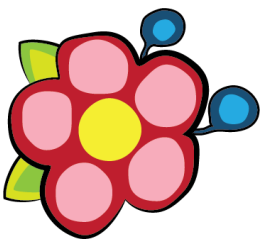
The IAiR program aims to provide Indigenous artists with the space and resources to uphold their cultural practices through visual and performing arts. Its objectives include mentorship, professional development, and sharing their work with the Edmonton community.



# Program Life Cycle



*"IAiR Program Life Cycle"*



# Artist Eligibility & Submissions

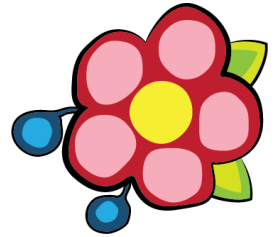
- An Indigenous Artist - First Nations, Métis, or Inuit.
- Current resident of Edmonton or surrounding Edmonton. This includes the Indigenous communities of Enoch Cree Nation, Alexander First Nation, Paul First Nation and Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation (artists may be asked to provide proof of residency and will be required to provide their own transportation).
- 18 years of age or older.
- Actively producing artwork (i.e. recent examples of work, exhibitions, performances, publications, etc.).



Matthew Wood a.k.a "Creeasian" - 3rd Artist-in-Residence for the City of Edmonton

## Examples of Art Genres (but not limited to this list):

- Traditional and contemporary Indigenous art practices
- Fine Craft
- Media Arts
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts
- Literary Arts



## Application Attachments:

- Attach Support Material in Application form (2-5 Artworks - Images, either in JPEG or PDF formats, Video or Audio clips, written material in PDF format, Media clippings, or social media/website links)
- Letter of support from community peer or mentor in PDF format (optional)

## Submission Content:

- Artist Bio
- Artistic Practice (500 words or 5 minute oral video)
- Art Pieces
- Oral video submissions or written submissions are both accepted, options for video submission with instructions are found here: [IAiR Video Submission Instructions](#)

**[Application Closes on Friday, December 6 at 5 p.m.](#)**

## IAiR program Information Session

- In-Person; Wednesday, November 27 from 5:30-8 p.m.; Room 440, [The Orange Hub](#).



# Selection Process

Advisory Circle reviews all submissions from **December 9-13, 2024.**

The Advisory Circle is made up of Indigenous artists and leaders who live and work in the Indigenous Arts Community of Edmonton.

1. The Advisory Circle will review all submissions individually and choose four artist applicants to shortlist.
2. The four shortlisted artists will be contacted for a visit with the Advisory Circle before the end of December and meet at the [\*\*Edmonton Arts Council\*\*](#).
3. The shortlisted artists will receive honoraria (CARFAC fee of \$362) for their time to share more about their work with the Advisory Circle. The selection process will focus on finding an individual who:
  - Has the skills and potential to create a new body of artwork;
  - Has the time and energy to commit to this residency;
  - Can help make connections with Indigenous Artists and the broader community;
  - Is able to commit to hosting art workshops for City staff at one of the City Operations studio locations; and
  - Share ideas and goals for this residency opportunity.
4. Chosen Artist will be selected and notified by **December 2024.**
5. Contract to **start January 2025 and end December 2025.**



# Program Supports

## Supports provided for the 2025 artist in residence include:

- Artist will receive a \$36,000 salary for the 12-month Residency Contract with the City of Edmonton.
- Artist will receive a budget of \$10,000 for supplies, materials, professional development training, and other expenses that will support their creative process and goals of residency program.
- Honoraria will be available to work with mentors such as Elders and Knowledge Holders to support the Artist's cultural and creative development during residency.
- Studio space provided by the City Operations department in a facility space that best meets the needs of the Artist and their artistic practice.
- City of Edmonton program coordinators from Indigenous Relations Office and City Operations Indigenous Framework team will support the artist's goals and planning for 2025 12-month cycle, including support on purchasing materials and coordinating honoraria payments for mentors.



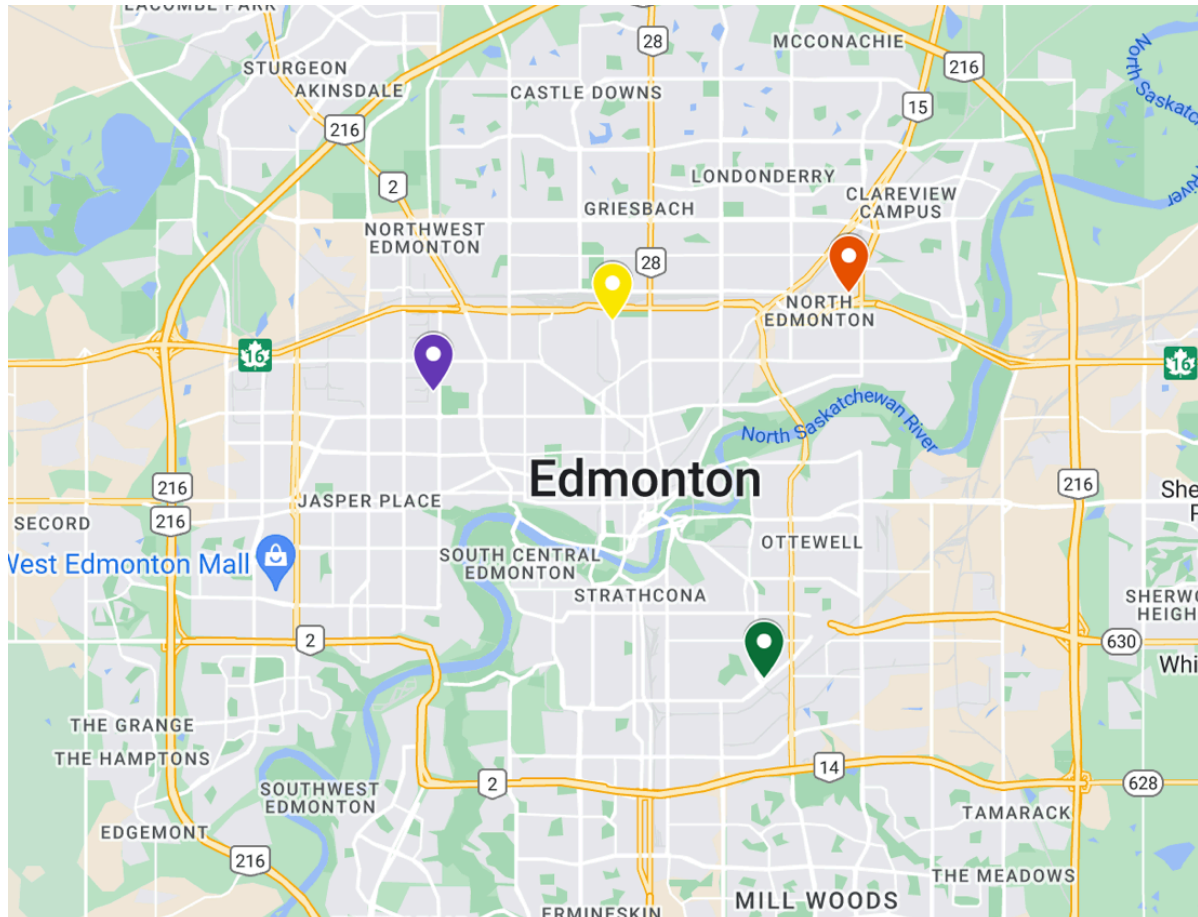
*"pisiskapahtam" (To notice and observe or watch)*

Lana Whiskeyjack



# Studio Spaces

In collaboration with the City Operations department, studio spaces are available based on the artist's needs. Studio spaces are optional.



- **Kennedale Eco Station** - [5355 127 Avenue NW](#)
- **Coronation Eco Station** - [11440 143 Street NW](#)
- **Westwood Integrated** - [12304 107 Street NW](#)
- **Reuse Centre** - [6835 83 Street NW](#)

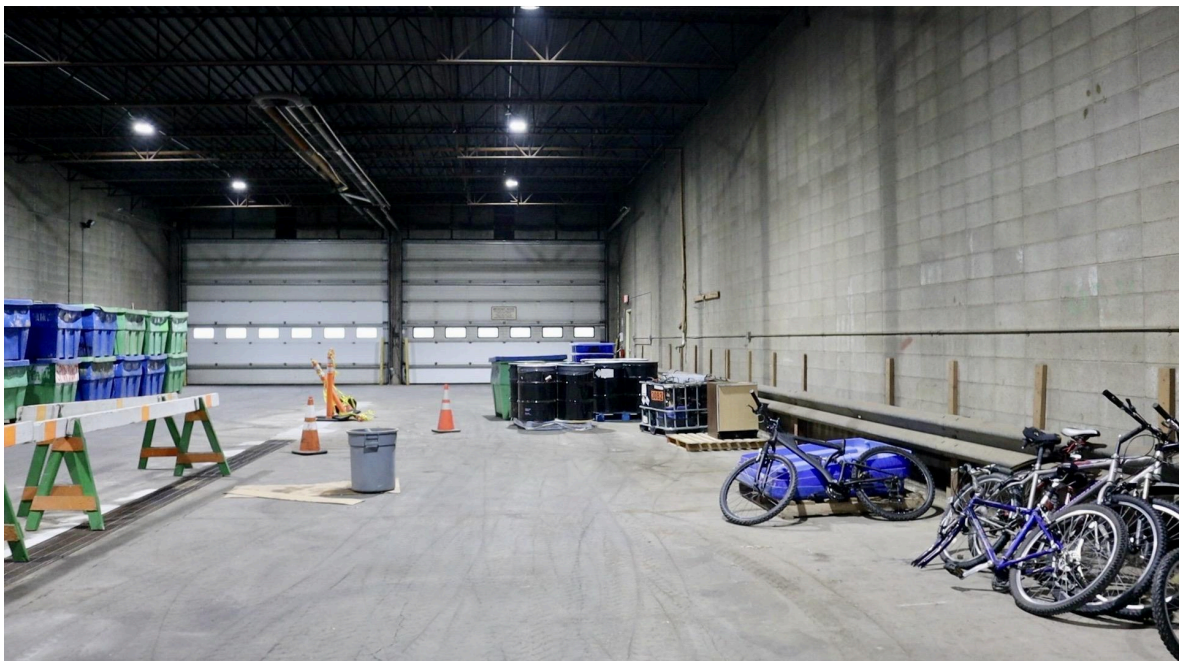




**Kennedale Eco Station** - 5355 127 Avenue NW



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More information about studio spaces will be provided at orientation.



