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# Arts Programming 2023 2024





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RESET.  
REFOCUS.  
REIMAGINE.

NaAC

# Message from the Director and Programming Team

Dear NaAC artist:

We're excited about the ongoing expansion of our programs at the National accessArts Centre (NaAC). This is not only a reflection of our organization's commitment to you as an artist, but it is also a testament to the extraordinary skills and creativity you bring to our programs.

As Canada's first multidisciplinary disability arts organization, the NaAC has a full suite of programs that span multiple artistic disciplines, and we encourage you to explore as many of our program offerings as you'd like. Remember, the NaAC is here to support you and your creative vision – and if you feel your vision can be better supported by mixing visual arts and music, dance and digital media, or any combination of the above, this is your limitless sandbox to do just that.

We know that Canada – and the world – is ready to witness your next artistic journey.

**Let's continue to shake up our  
arts and culture scene through  
the power of your creativity.**

## The NaAC Programming Team

**Karly Mortimer**

Director, Artist and Program Development

**Raewyn Reid**

Manager, Studio

**Ashley Brodeur**

Manager, Performing Arts

**Clayton Smith**

Lead, Programs + Exhibitions

**Richelle Bear Hat**

Coordinator, Indigenous Programs

**Katie Wackett**

Coordinator, Artistic Projects

**Carlos Arteaga**

Coordinator, Audio + Music Programs



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# Program Locations

## CALGARY

### **NaAC Visual Arts Studios**

8038 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary

Most of our programs currently operate out of the NaAC Visual Arts Studios, across both levels.



## CALGARY

### **Decidedly Jazz Danceworks**

111 12 Ave SE, Calgary

Dance and movement programs operate out of Decidedly Jazz Danceworks.



## TORONTO

### **NaAC x Won Lee Community Arts Hub**

1594 Queen Street West, Toronto

Some programs will have workshop and exhibition opportunities at our NaAC x Won Lee Community Arts Hub in Toronto.



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ARTS PROGRAMMING

# Artistic Training

Programs have various registration requirements.  
Contact NaAC staff to learn more about how you can register.

## Visual Arts Open Studio

YEAR ROUND

### NaAC Visual Arts Studios

Our visual arts studio will continue both in person and online throughout the year. Weekly open Studio Sessions engage NaAC artists in self-governed explorations of their creative practices, with an emphasis on community building and collaborative participation. These sessions give artists the opportunity to provide and receive feedback about ongoing projects, and establish interpersonal connections through a shared love of art. Stay tuned for more exciting ways that we will better support our artists including workshops and other creation opportunities.

During summer 2023 NaAC is gearing up to offer an exciting free workshop series that will take place during open studio sessions. NaAC Studio Facilitators will lead artists through new and experimental processes in painting, drawing, ceramics, and fibre arts. Additionally, we will be hosting a daily demo table that will teach NaAC artists foundational technical skills that will bolster and diversify their artistic practices.

## Online Studio

YEAR ROUND

### Online via Zoom and Shaw artLMS

With input from our online artist community, NaAC has retooled remote programming to deliver thematic, workshop-style, Zoom studio sessions twice each week. NaAC Studio Facilitator Jarret Hlady will guide artists through the creation and development of innovative projects, providing live weekly sessions and instructional video demonstrations that artists can reference outside of scheduled sessions. Supply kits will be delivered to the artists' homes, complete with everything they will need to delve into specific artistic mediums and follow along with the weekly curriculum. There will be an art-sharing component at the conclusion of each online workshop, giving artists the opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments and new skills.



## **Jazz Dance**

### **Skills Development**

YEAR ROUND

**THURSDAYS – OPEN PARTICIPATION**

#### **Decidedly Jazz Danceworks**

Get those jazz hands ready – it’s time to dance! In this session, we will explore some jazz-based movement suitable for all participants including isolation of certain body parts, rhythm and storytelling through dance. Together, we will choose a collection of our favourite musicals and retell these musicals through dance and movement! At the end of each session, there will be a casual final presentation.

## **Hip Hop**

### **Skills Development**

YEAR ROUND

**TUESDAYS – OPEN PARTICIPATION**

#### **Decidedly Jazz Danceworks**

Groove, move and express with us as we discover Hip Hop movement, music and history. Originating in the Bronx, NYC during the 1970’s, Hip Hop is one of the most popular styles of dance and music today. Through movement and foundations, hip hop boosts personal expression and style. In these sessions, dancers will discover their own movement style, explore freestyle, connect with fellow dancers and enjoy music from the 70’s, 80’s and 90’s! Each session will end in celebration of their learnings with a final, casual presentation.

## **Animation + Movie Making**

### **Skills Development**

YEAR ROUND

**OPEN PARTICIPATION**

#### **NaAC Visual Arts Studios**

Make some moving art with NaAC Animation & Movie Making Community Classes! The NaAC offers a variety of film and video making classes to introduce and develop media practices, such as Super 8 Filmmaking and Stop Motion Animation. These classes aim to inspire artists to share their unique stories through moving image art.

## **Songwriting**

### **Skills Development**

YEAR ROUND

**OPEN PARTICIPATION**

#### **NaAC Visual Arts Studios**

The NaAC is excited to introduce Songwriters, a series of Music Community Classes for all artists interested in creating their own music. Whether you want to create your own songs, perform, connect to community through music, or learn about songs you love, Songwriters is designed to guide artists through all aspects of accessible music-making. With no music experience required, each Songwriters workshop series will introduce participants to activity-based methods of music-creation.

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ARTS PROGRAMMING

# Professional Track

These programs are by invitation only or through specific application processes.

Canada

The NaAC's Professional Track Programs are supported by the Government of Canada through the Canada Arts Training Fund (CATF).

ATB Financial™

ATB is a proud sponsor of the NaAC's Professional Track Programs.

NaAC

DJ Wheel Sexi – Photo by David Wudel

# New Work, New Ways

JANUARY TO MAY 2023

## NaAC Visual Arts Studios – Upper Level

Our seven ensembles (Musical Theatre, Music, Film, Ways of Knowing, Dance, artShare, and Conference of the Birds) will continue their weekly meetings to learn new ways of making. Monthly all ensemble meetings introduce the ensembles and their practices to one another, to see how artists at the NaAC approach their professional works.

This specific project is also supported by Calgary Arts Development.



## Musical Theatre Professional Ensemble

**MONDAYS**

### NaAC Visual Arts Studios – Lower Level

Originally founded through our partnership with the Calgary Opera in our Storytelling Through Opera: Act One and Two programs, the Musical Theatre Ensemble is a group of five artists who have continued to explore storytelling in the performing arts. This group meets weekly creating and discovering all aspect of a production including theatrical performance, script writing, scene and character development, stage direction, set design, lighting, costume and musical/audio elements. The first program of its kind in Canada, we are looking forward to our presentation through the New Work, New Ways project and continuing this work towards future productions.

## NaAC Craft Guild

**LAUNCHING SUMMER 2023 – MONDAYS\***

\*Funding dependent.

### NaAC Visual Arts Studios – Upper Level

The NaAC's Fibre Arts Guild will support artistic development and exploration of fibre arts practices. The NaAC Fibre Arts Guild will be a welcoming and adaptable community that provides technical training in an accessible studio where large, ambitious works can be realized. Artists will be focusing on technical training in quilting, weaving, and tufting practices while creating individual and collaborative works for everything from traditional craft guild showcases, to markets, to fine art exhibitions.



## Music

### Professional Ensemble

TUESDAYS

#### NaAC Visual Arts Studios – Upper Level

NaAC Music Ensemble artists have expressed interest in furthering their audio and music skills, and often participate in large-scale projects similar to their 2021 album release, Robot Revelations. Artists in the Ensemble will examine and refine their individualized approach to music creation while the NaAC provides the tools, space, and guidance to create and explore new works. Currently, the Ensemble meets weekly to create to co-create a podcast as a part of the NaAC's CADA funded project: New Work, New Ways.

## Film + Media

### Professional Ensemble

TUESDAYS

#### NaAC Visual Arts Studios – Lower Level

The NaAC Film & Media Ensemble gathers weekly to support film and video art practices. Working collaboratively, this ensemble explores moving image art through discussion and creation. The Film Ensemble's work includes storyboarding, screenwriting, costume and production design, digital video, analog Super 8 filmmaking, animation, editing, and even film curation. Work created by the Film Ensemble has been selected to screen at film festivals and continues to gain momentum in the Calgary film scene. Selected work will be showcased in partnership with Yonge and Dundas Square in Toronto as well as international presentation opportunity (funding dependent) at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai.

David Oppong DJing at ICONIC – Photo by Baz Simoe

## Ways of Knowing

### Professional Ensemble

WEDNESDAYS

#### NaAC Visual Arts Studios – Lower Level

This project is supported by:



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Since 2022, the Ways of Knowing artist ensemble has been examining the ways artists with disabilities can enter into conversations about Indigenous histories and learnings about Indigenous artistic practices. The ensemble meets weekly where they participate in discussions, research and shared resources of Indigenous knowledge. They have been working with guest faculty to explore various themes including local Indigenous histories, the importance of representation, artistic practices, and issues of cultural appropriation. This ensemble will produce an online publication from their learnings, sharing experiences and resources including plain-language guides and best practices.



## artShare

### Professional Ensemble

THURSDAYS

#### NaAC Visual Arts Studios – Upper Level

Blending explorations in art history, critical thinking, and experimentation, the artShare ensemble has been developing alternative approaches to conceptualizing and making original artworks. Weekly meetings combine studio production with group critiques and studio visits from guest artists. The artShare ensemble has been working hard to cultivate their ideas through multiple stages of creation, articulate their processes, and learn in a collaborative group setting. The NaAC is excited to present a selection of their works at the Grand Theatre in May 2023 that will be truly experimental in nature.

## Conference of the Birds

### Professional Ensemble

THURSDAYS

#### NaAC Visual Arts Studios – Lower Level

The Conference of the Birds ensemble has been collaborating since May 2021 and completed an exhibition of photographs and video work that has since traveled internationally. The ensemble presented and travelled with this exhibition to the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. They engaged the local community through exhibition tours and a panel discussion. In 2022, their photographs were presented at the Embassy of Canada Prince Takamado Gallery in Tokyo, Japan and at the What Works Summit in Banff, Alberta. Currently the ensemble is gathering again and meeting weekly to work towards a presentation at the Grand Theatre in downtown Calgary, Alberta for May 2023.

## Queering Spaces

FRIDAYS

### NaAC “Hockey Lobby” + the Won Lee Community Arts Hub

This project is supported by:



Canada Council  
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du Canada

This cohort will explore the ways we make spaces and processes our own. Through art-based activities and discussions this cohort will explore the ways we “crip” or “queer” and reclaim those terms to mean something that makes space for more ways of doing things and ways of identifying. Working with peer artists in the Won Lee Community Arts Hub in Toronto, we will grow connections and relationships between artists from the disability and LGBTQA+ communities.

## Dance

### NaAC Professional Dance Ensemble

FRIDAYS

#### Decidedly Jazz Danceworks

Through the practice of improvisation and style specific dance, the seven-member NaAC Professional Dance Ensemble is a collective of dance artists who are committed to pushing the boundaries, conceptually and physically, of dance as we know it. Formerly Momo Movement, over the past 14 years, this Professional Dance Ensemble has performed in numerous venues presenting original work such as The Mind Palace (2018-19) and the film Moving Pictures, Pictures Moving (2022). In 2022, the Ensemble worked with Daniel Vais (Culture Device, Drag Syndrome) igniting their future work, ICONIC, to be premiered in 2024 at Tangente Danse in Montreal – and featured as part of the Opening Ceremonies of the 2024 Special Olympics National Winter Games Opening Ceremonies (TBC).

2023  
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ARTS PROGRAMMING

## NaAC Practicum Program

October 2023  
to June 2024

Second cohort. Applications  
open in September

### NaAC Visual Arts Studios

This program builds the capacity of NaAC artists to move further in their professional careers. With a focus on technical training and studio operations, practicums will gain skills that will increase their understanding of their artistic medium, confidence, and employability in the arts.

Each practicum will work directly with a mentor who will teach them skills in their chosen medium. In the first half of the program, the focus will be on shadowing their mentor and assisting in the studio with hands on learning. In the second half of the program, practicums will focus on assisting and applying their skills to their independent studio practice.

# NaAC-led Artist Commissions

Here are just a few confirmed commissioning opportunities created for NaAC artists.

### DIALOG / Calgary Studio

This project is supported by:

**DIALOG**<sup>®</sup>

This year long program supports quarterly visual art exhibitions for practicing NaAC artists, hosted in the open-concept office space of DIALOG's Calgary studio. Curated by the NaAC, this initiative provides paid exhibition opportunities and a chance to celebrate solo collections of work by NaAC Artists.

### Open Spaces / City of Calgary Public Art

This project is supported by:



This program sees two quarterly exhibitions in a public window space in downtown Calgary. The NaAC will provide ongoing support to scale up projects and create site specific work, alongside guest speakers and supporters from Calgary Public Art.

### Calgary Pride

During summer 2023, artists will create a performance leaning into traditions found in Drag to create a presentation for September.

### ICONIC

In the fall of 2023 the NaAC Dance ensemble will be refining and redefining their ICONIC performance.



# Showcasing the NaAC. Locally and around the world.

For more details, please visit [accessarts.ca](https://accessarts.ca) and view our events calendar.

## LAUNCHPAD 5.0

May 8, 2023

### Festival Hall

Celebrate the NaAC's ongoing international exhibitions as we say "good bye" to the works that will be proudly displayed in Seoul, Korea and later in Ottawa as part of Intense Difference Of Its Own: 60 Years of Korean-Canadian Diplomatic Relations. LAUNCHPAD will also celebrate the launch of the NaAC's first digital music album – Robot Revelations. This is a fun party you do not want to miss!

## New Work, New Ways

May 25, 2023

### The GRAND Theatre, Calgary

This project is supported by:



Featuring new works by NaAC's various artist ensembles, this will be an evening of sculpture, film, visual arts, dance, and music.

## NaAC Practicum Showcase

June 8, 2023

### NaAC Visual Arts Studios

Celebrate the learnings of the NaAC's inaugural practicum cohort, featuring Andea Paradis (Fibre), Mark Bedford (Painting + Drawing), Allison Cherer (Ceramics), and Laura LaPeare (Photography).



## Intense Difference of Its Own: 60 Years of Korean-Canadian Diplomatic Relations

June 29, 2023 (Opening)

Korea Foundation Gallery  
Seoul, South Korea

This project is supported by:

Canada



Canada Council for the Arts  
Conseil des arts du Canada

The largest NaAC exhibition of 2023, Intense Difference of Its Own explores the ways cultural diplomacy can be underscored through the disability arts. Bringing together works by 20 artists with disabilities, the exhibition demonstrates how diverse voices lead to open cultural exchange. Drawing on a variety of independent studio practices and collaborative projects, we can see that power lies in an artist's ability to draw from their unique perspectives, and that difference, challenge, and perspective can collide to engage with complex ideas. The exhibition is open to the public until mid-August 2023.

## Ways of Making

September 2, 2023 – Opening  
Reception: September 9, 2023

Leighton Art Centre, Millarville

This project is supported by:



Canada Council for the Arts  
Conseil des arts du Canada

In Fall 2023, our Ways of Making ensemble will continue to share through an exhibition at the Leighton Art Centre. With 80 acres of rolling Foothills grasslands, spectacular Rocky Mountain views, native flora and fauna, and a gallery in Barbara Leightons' historic home, the Leighton Art Centre will be a perfect place to invite the public to reflect on our connection to the past, present, and future in Treaty 7. The artists will be sharing 2D artwork, performances, talks and workshops that are free and open to the public.

## Intense Difference of Its Own: 60 Years of Korean-Canadian Diplomatic Relations

September 6, 2023

Korean Cultural Centre, Ottawa



한국문화원  
Korean Cultural Centre

Our exhibition in Seoul will travel to Ottawa where works will be proudly on display at the Korean Cultural Centre. Celebrated Korean artist Pixel Kim will also be participating in an open studio/residency program at the Centre.



## Calgary On Purpose: Disability Arts in Calgary

December 3, 2023

### Contemporary Calgary

This project is supported by:



At these evenings we delight in our remarkable neighbours knowing that meeting with and appreciating each other is a powerful balm against the currents of fear and hate eroding our civic life. Our mission is to encourage Calgary to be a model of how the peoples of the world can live well together.

We begin with a few extraordinary creative Calgarians showing brief examples of their work, who will then be interviewed by the inimitable Dave Kelly. Following this, Dave will engage all of us in the audience in conversation. The program will finish by 8:30PM but the bar will be open for those who wish to stay and chat further.

## ICONIC @ Tangente

January 18-21, 2024

Espace Orange, Edifice Wilder – Montreal

This project is supported by:



**TD READY  
COMMITMENT**

In addition to its ongoing support for NaAC programs in general, the NaAC wishes to acknowledge the additional investment by the TD Group to support our professional ensemble prepare its work to be presented on the national stage.

Through discovery with Daniel Vais (Drag Syndrome, Culture Device, UK) this project stems from contemporary movement, individual expression and collaboration. A collection of solos, duos and group work, this performance piece captures the essence of each performer individually and who they are, along with the stories they want to tell and Icons they wish to be. Bridging movement, storytelling, visual art and spoken word, ICONIC offers a multi modal experience for its audiences.



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ARTS PROGRAMMING

## NaAC @ Contemporary Calgary

This project is supported by:



The NaAC will be curating several events at Contemporary Calgary that highlight the various programs and disciplines supported at our organization. Some of the events include:

### NaAC Artist Tours: Storytellers

**JANUARY 27**

Join artist and curator Michelle Bennie as she tours you through the exhibition as she shares her connections and impressions of the works to help audiences embrace their personal reactions and connections to artwork.

### NaAC Presents: Movie Screening

**FEBRUARY 24**

NaAC's Film Ensemble will present a program of film and media art that highlights the voices of creators with disabilities. This screening will feature work by NaAC artists as well as a curated selection of films that reflect the theme of "Breath."

### Panel: Athletic & Artistic Practices in the Disability Arts

**FEBRUARY 24**

Former pro snowboarder and NaAC's Manager, Studio Raewyn Reid moderates this entertaining panel about how practices as athletes collide, compete and complement.

### ICONIC: Performance & Party

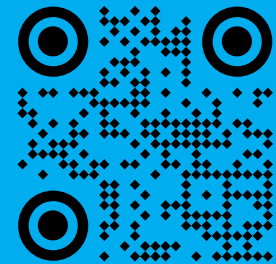
**MARCH 23, 2024**

Join us in celebration of the NaAC Ensemble's newest work, ICONIC. Recently debuted in Montreal as a part of Tangente Danse, this local premiere will showcase excerpts from the production. Afterwards, we will celebrate in true NaAC fashion – dance party style! Meet our artists, mix and mingle and dance the night away.

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For more information regarding our programs,  
please call Kylie at 403.253.3174 ext.0 or  
email [kylie.poppe@accessarts.ca](mailto:kylie.poppe@accessarts.ca).

### National accessArts Centre

Visual Arts Studio  
8038 Fairmount Drive SE  
Calgary, AB

### Won Lee Community Arts Hub

1594 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON

[accessarts.ca](http://accessarts.ca)

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