

CALGARY, Alta. (May 17, 2023) – The National accessArts Centre (NaAC) – Canada’s oldest and largest disability arts organization – has become the country’s first multidisciplinary disability arts organization to receive support from the Government of Canada through the Canada Arts Training Fund (CATF). The total investment will be \$200,000 annually for two years, with an opportunity to renew in three-year funding cycles in the years following. Media are invited to attend this important celebration on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 10 a.m. - 12 noon at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks (11 12 Ave SE, Calgary) - in Studio 5 on the fifth floor.

Like the fund’s other longstanding recipients such as the Banff Centre, the Royal Conservatory or the National Ballet, the NaAC’s programs have been recognized as meeting the highest standards in artistic training that have a national and international impact – in this case, for artists living with developmental and/or physical disabilities.

“The Federal investment in the National accessArts Centre (NaAC) represents the Government of Canada’s commitment to programs that reach exceptional standards – both in excellence and in accessibility. I am tremendously proud to see the NaAC shine a national and global spotlight on the creative contributions of artists living with disabilities through its stellar programs,” says George Chahal, Member of Parliament, Calgary-Skyview.

“This investment from the Canada Arts Training Fund (CATF) is a strong testament to the programs that have evolved at the National accessArts Centre, from having a social service focus to becoming much more centred on the arts. We know that this investment from the Government of Canada will help launch the careers of more artists who identify as having a disability,” says Ron Hoffmann, Chair, NaAC Board of Directors.

“Once again, Calgary’s own National accessArts Centre is leading the way in securing partners like the Government of Canada to elevate the artistic excellence of our programs in training and creation. Funding from the Canada Arts Training Fund (CATF) will be a critical next step in advancing our vision of becoming the national home for Canadian artists living with disabilities,” says Jung-Suk (JS) Ryu, President and CEO, NaAC.

Support from CATF is just the latest of several major partnerships that have strengthened the NaAC as a national leader in the disability arts sector. Since 2018, the NaAC has maintained an active partnership with Global Affairs Canada and its cultural diplomacy strategy. Presently, the NaAC is awaiting a funding decision from Infrastructure Canada to make progress with its vision of creating an accessible arts campus in Calgary.