

NaAC  
CNaA

National  
accessArts  
Centre

Centre  
National des  
accèsArts

PRESENTED BY  
PRÉSENTÉ PAR



# Connecting audio and music creation to Canadian artists with disabilities

PROGRAM GUIDE 2024-25



# Introduction

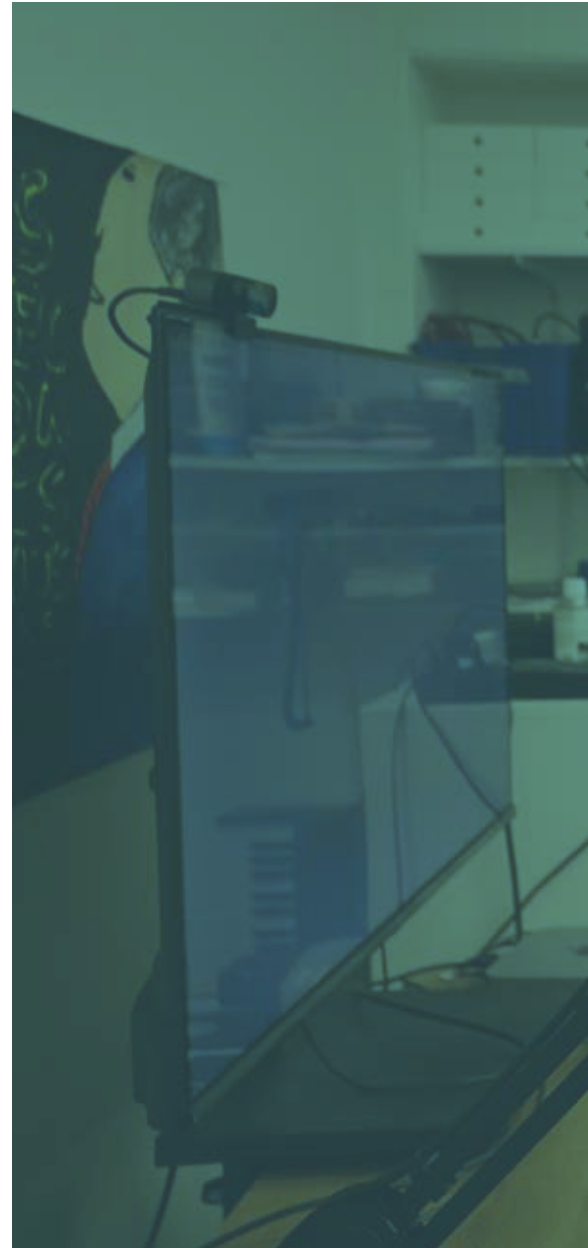
The National accessArts Centre (NaAC) is dedicated to empowering artists with physical and cognitive disabilities, offering inclusive programs that foster creativity, community, and artistic excellence. As Coordinator of Audio and Music Programs, I bring over 18 years of experience as a musician, producer, and recording engineer. My career has been shaped by a passion for creating music that uplifts and connects people, which aligns seamlessly with NaAC's mission. Together, we will nurture the talents of our artists and amplify their voices, contributing to the vibrant cultural landscape of Calgary.

Our vision for the next two years is ambitious yet deeply rooted in the values of inclusion and collaboration. By 2026, our goal is to produce an original song written by NaAC artists and pitch it to agencies like Tourism Calgary, celebrating the unique stories and artistic spirit of our community. To achieve this, we will launch and develop a series of dynamic music programs tailored to the diverse needs of our artists.



**SJ Obatusin**

Coordinator, Audio and Music Programs





# Composition Goal: Celebrating NaAC and Calgary

By 2026, NaAC Music aims to compose an original song that commemorates our center's contributions to the arts and highlights Calgary's cultural richness. This song will be the product of a dedicated composition program, bringing together NaAC artists in collaboration with local musicians and community partners. The process will serve as a platform for artistic growth, fostering skills in songwriting, arranging, and performance.

To support this goal, we will establish feeder programs that prepare artists for participation in the composition initiative. These programs will be open to all eligible artists through an application process, ensuring inclusivity and equitable access to this exciting opportunity.





# Proposed Program Streams

(LAUNCH: APRIL 1, 2025)

## FAARM Group

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The FAARM Group is an existing program designed to introduce artists to songwriting within a group. Participants will learn the fundamentals of collaboration within songwriting and recording original music, while contributing to research in partner with the University of Western Ontario and creating a portfolio of original work by the end of each cycle.

### DURATION:

Continuous

### PARTICIPANTS:

Up to 6 artists

### OUTCOME:

Artists will gain hands-on experience with studio equipment, understanding the basics of songwriting, recording and production. They will complete the cycle with confidence in their technical abilities and a collection of their recorded work.



# NaACapella Ensemble

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Transitioning into an invite-only ensemble group, NaACapella will focus on vocal performance and group harmonization. Participants will work on unique arrangements of contemporary and classic songs, tailored to the abilities and strengths of each member.

**DURATION:**

3 months

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Up to 6 artists

**OUTCOME:**

Artists will enhance their vocal technique, learn the intricacies of ensemble performance, and develop a deeper sense of collaboration. The program will culminate in a live performance or recording project.



# Verse, Hook and Harmony

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This program will guide artists through the process of writing original songs, from concept to completion. Topics include lyrical storytelling, melody creation, and song structure.

**DURATION:**

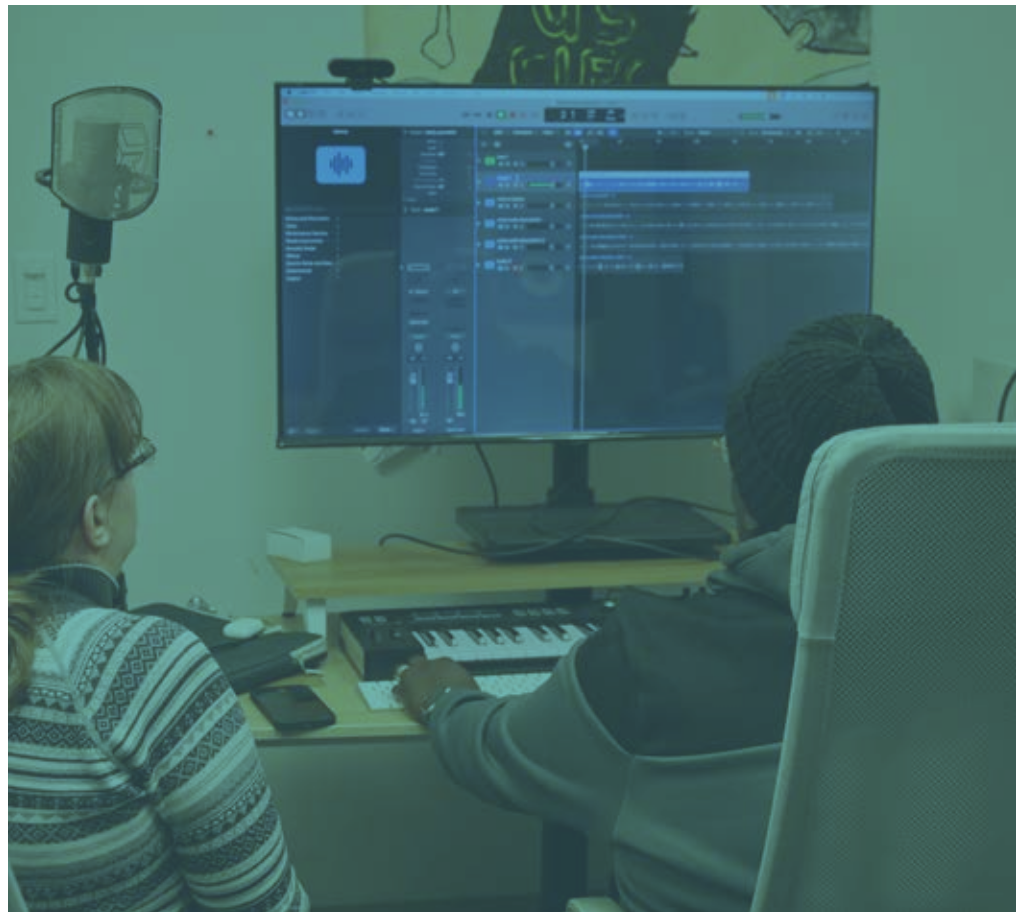
3 months

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Up to 6 artists

**OUTCOME:**

Participants will understand the craft of songwriting and leave with one or more original compositions. The program will also prepare interested artists for future collaboration opportunities.





## Rhythmic Voices (Rap and Spoken Word)

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Rhythmic Voices explores the power of rhythm and language, offering a creative outlet for self-expression through rap and spoken word poetry. Artists will explore performance techniques, lyrical construction, and the cultural roots of these art forms.

**DURATION:**

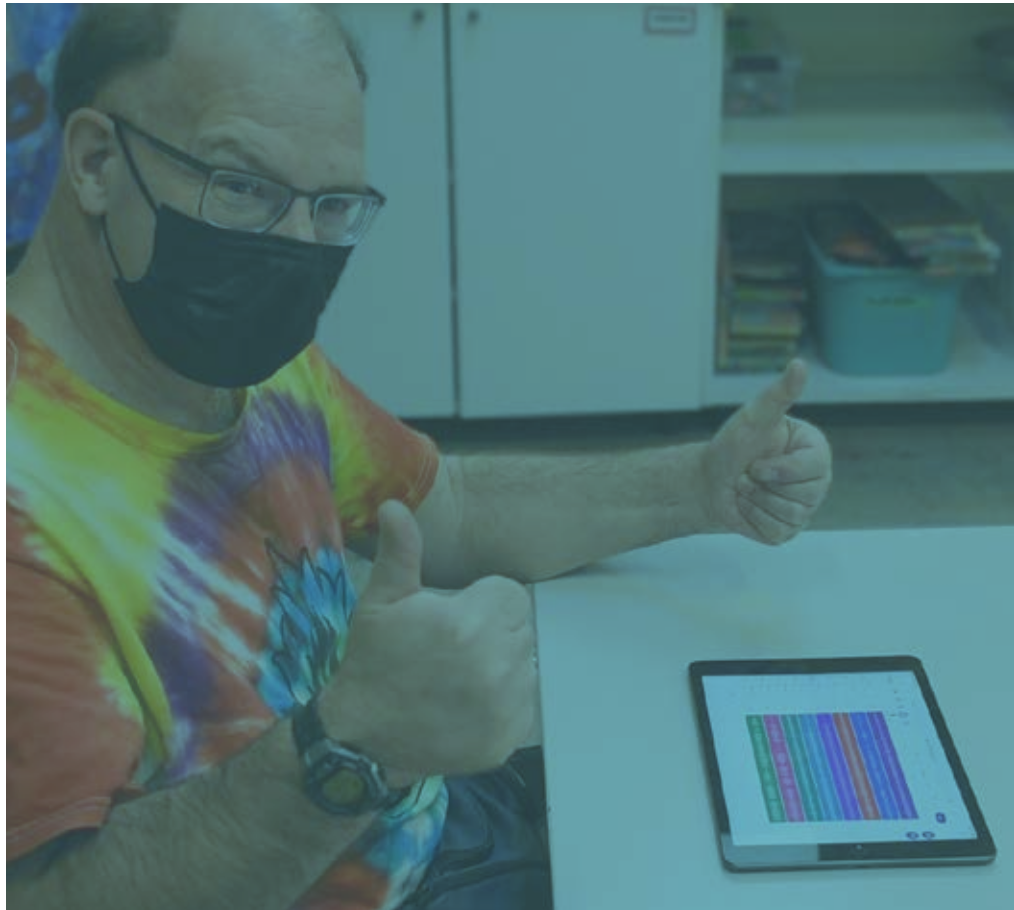
3 months

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Up to 6 artists

**OUTCOME:**

Artists will develop their unique voices, understanding the intersection of rhythm, words, and performance. The program will culminate in a showcase or recording.



# Sound Haven

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This program introduces artists to the world of digital music creation and sound design. Using accessible software, participants will create ambient soundscapes, experiment with electronic music, and learn about the art of audio storytelling.

**DURATION:**

3 months

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Up to 6 artists

**OUTCOME:**

Participants will complete the cycle with a digital portfolio of their work, an understanding of basic sound design principles, and increased confidence in using music technology.



# Program Duration and Outcomes

Each program will operate on a three-month cycle, enabling participants to explore a specific focus area in depth. At the end of each cycle, artists will showcase their work through performances, recordings, or exhibitions, gaining both technical skills and self-assurance. These experiences will prepare them for participation in larger collaborative initiatives, including the 2026 composition project.

**Next Steps:** We are committed to launching these programs by April 1, 2025, with recruitment and onboarding of participants starting in February. By cultivating an inclusive and dynamic music ecosystem, NaAC will empower artists to reach their full potential while contributing to the cultural fabric of Calgary.

For more information,  
please contact:

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