



SONGWRITER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Updated August 2020

RESIDENCY: January 2021

LOCATION: Dawson City, Yukon, Canada

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 31, 2020



Since 2006, the Dawson City Music Festival Association (DCMF) has proudly operated a Songwriter in Residence program with the support of the Klondike Institute of Art & Culture (KIAC) and North Klondyke Highway Music Society. Each year, the program brings a songwriter to Dawson City for a month-long stay where the Artist receives living and studio space at the centrally located and historic Macaulay House.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, only artists residing in Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and British Columbia may apply at this time. As the situation evolves, we may accept applicants from elsewhere, and we will announce in advance of the deadline.

ARTIST APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

We consider applications from songwriters working in all genres. Applications are ranked according to the following criteria:

- **Quality and suitability of the proposal**
- **Artistic merit**
- **Suitability of the Artist for the residency**
- **Performance history**

A committee made up of DCMF staff and Board, community members and peer advisors will assess applications according to the selection criteria above. Only selected Artists will be contacted.

Applicants must read the Goals of the Residency (below) before preparing and submitting their application.



PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR APPLICATION:

- A brief description of your background and performance history (500 words or less).
- A short proposal outlining how you would engage in community outreach – see section 5 below (500 words or less).
- A digital sample of your music, a live performance video, and links to your online content.

Please submit your application in PDF format.

SEND COMPLETE APPLICATIONS TO:

assistant@dcmf.com

Please use the subject line: RESIDENCY APPLICATION 2021

Deadline: October 31, 2020, 11:59 pm PST

NOTE: Digital applications only, please.

Application requirements may be flexible, and we encourage any Artist who feels they could benefit from this program to apply. If there are any barriers to applying, comments or questions, please email us at assistant@dcmf.com and we will help you proceed with your application.

DCMF reserves the right to cancel this program at any time should COVID-19 restrictions change.

NOTE: No stipend is provided to the songwriter; however, DCMF will provide studio space and accommodations, pay Artist fees for the public concert and cover travel expenses to and from Dawson City.

RESIDENCY GOALS AND INFORMATION

1. Goals of Residency

- To provide songwriters with unrestricted time and space to research, develop and produce ongoing and/or new material.
- To introduce visiting artists to northern people, cultures, and landscapes.
- To provide outreach activities such as concerts, workshops, and talks intended to promote interaction and foster a greater appreciation and understanding of songwriting, music, and the arts in general in our community.
- To provide opportunities for collaboration between visiting artists and both professional and developing Yukon songwriters and musicians.



2. Residency Dates

The residency will take place during the month of JANUARY each year. Exact dates to be agreed upon between DCMF, KIAC, and the successful applicant. The resident must be available for the month of January.

3. Fees

There is no residency fee charged or stipend paid to the Artist by either DCMF or KIAC. However, DCMF will compensate the Artist for one performance engagement during their residency, as specified in paragraph 4.

4. Performance Obligation

In agreement with DCMF, the Artist is required to perform one public concert during their residency. However, due to the nature of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the delivery of this performance may need to be reworked to fit public health guidelines (**see below: 10. COVID-19 Restrictions**). There is an opportunity for alternative forms of performance, such as live-streamed concerts, recorded "live sessions," or other means to be determined between the Artist and DCMF.

- The Artist's performance date and location shall be confirmed and arranged in advance with DCMF.
- The duration of the Artist's performance shall not be less than 60 minutes, exclusive of intermissions if performed in a typical concert setting.
- Provided that the Artist meets all obligations herein, DCMF will pay a fee to the Artist. Exact fees will be relayed to the Artist in advance.

5. Community Outreach

In addition to a public performance, the Artist will engage in a community outreach project. Outreach projects provide training or development opportunities, community building, or mentorship, and should engage local musicians, community groups, or the general public. Outreach activities are most commonly presented as workshops but can take many different forms. For example, past residency participants have instructed songwriting, music business and DIY recording workshops, hosted drop-in experimental sessions, led after-school youth initiatives, and engaged with Seniors and Elders through performances.

The style, content, method of delivery and desired outcomes of outreach activities are at the discretion of the Artist and should be outlined in the Artist's application. DCMF will advise and work



with the successful applicant to further develop and facilitate the outreach component and ensure it is feasible.

Dawson City is home to people from many different backgrounds. Outreach activities inclusive of Indigenous persons, LGBTQ2IA+ persons, Elders and senior citizens, youth or students are encouraged.

COVID-19 restrictions and community safety must also be taken into account when planning your outreach project.

Due to the nature of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the delivery of the outreach component may need to be reworked to fit public health guidelines (**see below: 10. COVID-19 Restrictions**). You must take current restrictions and community safety into account when writing your proposal. Please consult Yukon Government's [website](#) for the most up-to-date COVID-19 guidelines.

If you have any questions or would like guidance as you develop this section of your application, please contact us. We would be happy to provide further information or assist however we can.

6. Additional Performances

The Artist may seek out and secure other public performance opportunities in Dawson City during their residency, but requires that any such engagements, paid or unpaid, be approved by the DCMF in advance. Performance engagements in Whitehorse may be permitted on a case-by-case basis but must be discussed with and approved by DCMF in advance. Any additional performances must adhere to strict COVID-19 guidelines.

- DCMF reserves the right to refuse any request by the Artist for permission to accept additional performance engagements.
- It is understood that the Artist's acceptance of any DCMF-approved performance engagements other than that specified in paragraph 4 in no way voids or alters either the Artist's or DCMF's obligations.
- Employment other than paid public performances during the residency is not permitted. The Artist is expected to arrive financially prepared to work independently on their art for the residency duration.

7. Travel

DCMF typically covers flight costs (including one piece of luggage) to and from Dawson City and ground



transportation and accommodations in Whitehorse if necessary. Mileage may be considered. DCMF will coordinate travel with the Artist in advance.

8. Facilities

The Macaulay House, constructed in 1901, is home to the residency program. This two-story home is now owned by Parks Canada as part of the Dawson Historical Complex National Historic Site of Canada and is centrally located in Dawson City at Princess Street and 7th Avenue. Individual studio space, a bedroom, living room, bathroom and fully equipped kitchen are provided. The house has full laundry facilities.

Accessibility: The Macaulay house is situated on a dirt road*. A small ditch and uneven, rocky ground is followed by a step up to a boardwalk, leading to 6 steps up to the front door. The front door has a one-inch wooden lip on the bottom of the door frame. Inside, there is a small porch with a doorway (no door) entering the main house. Laundry, kitchen, living room and one studio are located on the main floor. Two bedrooms, washroom (standard, step-over tub with showerhead) and a second studio space are located on the second floor, up a flight of stairs. Please contact us at assistant@dcmf.com or info@dcmf.com if you require further descriptions or photographs.

*all but one road in Dawson is dirt, and sidewalks are elevated, uneven boardwalks with no cuts.

The Macaulay House is furnished and has high-speed wireless internet, a 1.33 GHZ Mac Mini (MacOS 10.5) with CD/DVD Burner, USB and Firewire ports, Adobe Suite, Microsoft Office, and Final Cut7 software. The house computer is a little worn, and we encourage artists to bring a laptop. With notice, DCMF may be able to provide a basic laptop with Windows operating system. Note that internet use covers a basic bandwidth package and that any extra download costs are billed to the resident. No pets are allowed at the residence. Smoking is not permitted.

9. Additional Information

Dawson City is a unique, small, and isolated northern town located within the traditional and contemporary territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, who have lived along the Yukon River for millennia. Situated at the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon rivers, Dawson City is 230 km south of the Arctic Circle. It is 536 km northwest of Whitehorse – approximately 6 hours driving on a good day or one hour by air.

Dawson is a diverse and active community with many opportunities for program participants. In



January, temperatures can range from -10 Celsius to -50 Celsius, and daylight averages approximately five hours each day. Skiing, snowmobiling, curling, hockey, and taking in the northern lights are popular wintertime activities. [The City of Dawson](#) is a great resource to find out more information on many recreational programs happening in town. 1.5 hours drive from Dawson and up the Dempster Highway is Tombstone Territorial Park, a 2,200 km² unique wilderness of rugged peaks, permafrost landforms and abundant wildlife, and is a sight to behold year-round. The area's Hän name, Ddhäl Ch'èl Cha Nän, means "ragged mountain land." The park is a legacy of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Land Claim Agreement and lies within their Traditional Territory.

Dawson City is known for its vibrant arts and cultural scene, including the [ODD Gallery](#) at the Klondike Institute of Arts and Culture ([KIAC](#)), and the Yukon School of Visual Arts ([SOVA](#)). KIAC provides extensive arts education and programming and hosts several workshops, concerts, theatre, classes and festivals throughout the year. SOVA offers a Foundation Year Program and brings dozens of burgeoning artists to our region annually. Local bars such as Bombay Peggy's, The Pit and The Downtown occasionally host live music, open mic and karaoke nights.

Residents should be aware of the location and isolation of Dawson City. The cost of living is substantially higher than in many parts of Canada. Some products, supplies, and services are unavailable or challenging to find. However, Dawson City has various stores, including two grocery stores, a hardware store, gas station, art gallery, restaurants and bars, bookstore, pharmacy, and Canada Post outlet. One bank is available, CIBC, with 24 hr bank machine access.

10. COVID-19 Restrictions

The current COVID-19 restrictions (**phase 3, as of Aug 26th**) in Yukon include:

- Social bubbles can increase up to 15 people;
- People can gather socially in groups of up to 100 people outdoors and up to 50 people indoors but must still stay physically distanced;
- Indoor, planned, seated events can take place with up to 50 people with physical distancing;
- Outdoor, planned, seated events can take place with up to 100 people with physical distancing;
- Restaurants can provide dine-in services at 100% capacity with physical distancing, as well as take-out;
- Personal services can reopen;
- People should travel responsibly within the territory;
- We're meeting with sports organizations to plan for a safe return to sports; and
- Everyone must continue practising the [Safe 6](#).



Travel Restrictions:

- Residents of Yukon, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut do not have to self-isolate when they arrive in the territory if they have not travelled outside of these four regions.
- Residents of other parts of Canada who arrive in Yukon must self-isolate, with limited exceptions.
- When you self-isolate, monitor yourself for symptoms.

yukon.ca/en/covid-19-information

yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/industry-operating-guidelines-covid-19/organizing-safe

11.) Code of Conduct

The Dawson City Music Festival Association (DCMF) operates on the principle of respect and dignity for all participants and the communities within Dawson, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, and Yukon territory as a whole. DCMF and its programs celebrate art, community and friendship, and we strive to infuse those values into all that we do. We value freedom of expression, creativity, and spirited celebrations, but not at the expense of others' rights to feel safe and free from harm, and not at the cost of care and respect.

DCMF does not tolerate ableism, ageism, assault or violence, cultural appropriation, discrimination, fatphobia, gender discrimination, homophobia, racism, sexism, sexual harassment, transphobia, unsolicited and inappropriate sexual attention or touching, or any other behaviour or language that may perpetuate violence, oppression or discrimination. No one should feel uncomfortable or unsafe by your actions or opinions.

All program participants, including the resident, selections committee members, organizers, DCMF staff and Board, and event contract staff are expected to abide by our full Code of Conduct, which will be provided in advance of contracting.