



SONGWRITER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Updated October 2021

RESIDENCY: January 2022

LOCATION: Dawson City, Yukon, Canada

APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 14, 2021

NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION: November 25, 2021



OVERVIEW

Since 2006, the Dawson City Music Festival has proudly operated an annual Songwriter in Residence program in partnership with [Klondike Institute of Art & Culture](#) and North Klondyke Highway Music Society. Each January, the program brings a songwriter to Dawson City for a month-long stay. The artist receives studio and living space at the centrally located and historic Macaulay House. Like KIAC's Artist in Residence Program, DCMF's Songwriter in Residence Program aims to present an inspirational environment and culturally relevant context for creation and research. **Please see section 1 for the goals of the residency.**

Past DCMF Residents have gone on to be shortlisted for the Polaris Music Prize, be nominated for and win Juno Awards, and have gone on to perform at some of Canada's premier venues such as Massey Hall and the National Arts Centre.

Residents have immersed themselves in the community and have found it an enriching, once-in-a-lifetime experience. Whether mentoring aspiring songwriters or collaborating with local musicians; hosting experimental noise sessions or learning the ropes at [CFYT Radio](#); volunteering for [Yukon Quest](#) or [Shiver Winter Arts Festival](#); performing at the MacDonald Lodge Continuing Care facility, or leading workshops at the Robert Service School, there are many opportunities to experience Dawson.

We encourage applications from songwriters and song creators of diverse communities and backgrounds. We work to support the needs of our successful applicants, so please let us know of any accommodations you need during the application process or the residency itself that are not mentioned below.

ELIGIBILITY

This program is open to songwriters/song creators with a professional practice at any stage in their career (established, mid-career, and emerging). Consideration will be given to all musical genres, and participation is not limited to traditional lyric-based songwriting.



WHAT WE PROVIDE

- Fully-equipped accommodations and basic studio space at the historic Macaulay House (**see section 3**)
- Access to DCMF audio equipment and facilities at KIAC, which include video & sound equipment, art supplies, printing facilities, darkroom and performance space (**see section 3**)
- Professional performance fee for one public concert (**see section 4**)
- Return travel to and from Dawson City (within Canada only) (**see section 5**)

EXPECTATIONS

Residency participants are expected to

- Spend the month of January in Dawson City actively working on their craft (**see section 6**)
- Perform one public concert (**see section 7**)
- Facilitate one outreach activity such as a talk, presentation or workshop intended to promote interaction, engagement or professional development within the community (**see section 8**)
- Be approachable, participatory, considerate and culturally respectful
- Be willing to exchange, share ideas and knowledge, and learn
- Abide by DCMF's Code of Conduct (**see section 10**)

The artist will structure their time based on their artistic goals.

Please note that the format of the concert and outreach activity is subject to change pending Covid-19.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must read all eligibility information, expectations, and goals of the residency (**section 1**) in full before submitting an application.

Applications must include:

- Name
- Current place of residence
- Contact information
- Links to a digital sample of your music, a live performance video, and online presence (e.g., website, social media)



- A brief bio and description of your performance history (max. 500 words or max. 10 minute filmed statement) OR current CV
- A brief proposal outlining what self-directed work you plan to pursue during the residency and how you would like to engage in community outreach (max. 500 words or max. 10 minute filmed proposal) **(see sections 6 and 8)**

Important Notes:

- Please send samples of music, live performance videos, or filmed statements and proposals, as links or email attachments only. Links are preferable—NO ZIP FILES.
- Please send text files as PDFs

Submit your application to:

info@dcmf.com

Please use the subject line: RESIDENCY APPLICATION 2022

Deadline: November 14th, 2021, 11:59 pm Pacific Time

NOTE: Digital applications only, please.

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

While we strive to reply to each applicant, it is possible that only selected artists will be contacted.

SELECTIONS PROCESS

A Selection Committee composed of DCMF staff, Board, peer advisors and other community members will assess each application based on the following criteria:

- Suitability of proposed self-directed work to the program and facilities
- Originality and suitability of the presented outreach activity to the organization and community
- Demonstrated professional practice, e.g., performance history, recorded music (singles, e.p's, full-length or other), video, online presence or other
- Artistic work that resonates with the interests of DCMF

The selected Artist will be notified by November 25th, 2021.

DETAILED INFORMATION

1. GOALS OF RESIDENCY

- To provide professional songwriters/song creators with unrestricted time and space to



research, develop and produce ongoing and/or new material, and work on related activities, e.g., readying PR for an album release, launching new music digitally, building a tour etc.

- To introduce visiting artists to Northern Canada in a non-appropriative, respectful way
- To provide an outreach activity such as a concert, workshop, or talk intended to promote interaction, foster an 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
- To provide Dawson City with exposure and access to a wide range of contemporary Canadian music

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. FACILITIES

The Macaulay House, constructed in 1901, is home to the residency program. This two-story furnished home is owned by Parks Canada as part of the [Klondike National Historic Sites Complex](#) and is centrally located at Princess Street and 7th Avenue. There are two individual studio spaces (desk and chair provided) and bedrooms to choose from, a living room, bathroom, fully equipped kitchen, and laundry facilities. The house has high-speed wireless internet.

Note: internet use covers a basic bandwidth package, and any extra download costs are billed to the resident. To avoid overage charges, make sure your streaming services are set to low-medium quality. Pets (other than service animals) are not permitted. Smoking is not permitted inside.

Artists have access to DCMF audio equipment and facilities at KIAC, including video & sound equipment, art supplies, printing facilities, darkroom, and performance space. **Please note that equipment may be limited or unavailable, so it's best to inquire in advance.**

Accessibility: The house is situated on a dirt road*. A small ditch and uneven, rocky ground follow 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. The laundry, kitchen, living room and one studio are located on the main floor. Two bedrooms, a washroom (standard, step-over tub with showerhead) and a second studio space are located on the second floor, up a flight of stairs.

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

Please get in touch with us at info@dcmf.com if you require further descriptions or photographs.

4. FEES

There is no residency fee charged or stipend paid to the Artist by either DCMF or KIAC. However, DCMF will pay a professional fee for one public concert during the residency provided that the Artist meets all agreed-upon obligations. The fee will be determined with the Artist before signing a residency agreement.

5. TRAVEL

DCMF typically pays for return airfare (including one piece of luggage) to Dawson City. Mileage may be considered. DCMF will coordinate and book travel with the Artist in advance.

6. SELF-DIRECTED WORK

The Artist is expected to arrive financially prepared to spend the bulk of the residency working on their craft. We recognize that music, especially during the pandemic, is not necessarily the sole source of income for artists, and therefore, employment (remote or otherwise) is permitted. If working, the Artist must be available for all scheduled DCMF engagements and have flexibility in their schedule for things that may come up. The Artist must be able to work independently on self-directed projects.

Self-directed work is at the discretion of the Artist. The residency provides unrestricted time and space to research, develop and produce ongoing and/or new material or work on related activities, e.g., readying PR for an album release, launching new music digitally, building a tour etc.

7. PERFORMANCE

In agreement with DCMF, the Artist is required to perform one public concert at the KIAC Ballroom during their residency. The performance date shall be confirmed and arranged in advance by DCMF. The duration of the performance shall not be less than 60 minutes, exclusive



of intermissions.

8. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Artist will engage in a community outreach project. Outreach activities are most commonly presented as workshops or talks but can take many different forms. For example, past residency participants have instructed songwriting, music business and DIY recording workshops. Others have hosted drop-in experimental sessions, led after-school youth initiatives, or engaged with Seniors and Elders through specialized performances. These projects often provide training, mentorship or professional development opportunities for musicians or those interested in becoming a musician but can also be about engaging with the general public and broader community groups.

The style, content, method of delivery and desired outcomes of outreach activities are at the discretion of the Artist.

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

If you have any questions or need 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.

9. Additional Performances and outreach

The Artist may secure other public performance or outreach engagements in Dawson City during their residency but requires that any such arrangements, paid or unpaid, be approved by DCMF in advance and must not occur before the residency concert.

Performance or outreach engagements in Whitehorse or other Yukon communities may be permitted on a case-by-case basis but must be discussed with and approved by DCMF in advance.

DCMF reserves the right to refuse any requests for additional performances or engagements

It is understood that the Artist's acceptance of any DCMF-approved performance engagements in no way voids or alters either the Artist's or DCMF's obligations

10. CODE OF CONDUCT



DCMF is committed to fostering a harassment-free workplace and cultural experience where people are treated with respect and dignity. This Code of Conduct is one part of our ongoing work and commitment to creating safer cultural spaces. DCMF operates on the principle of respect for all artists, audience members, employees, organizers, participants, vendors, volunteers, and the communities within Dawson, including the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon territory as a whole. The Festival, our year-round activities, and the organization as a whole are a celebration of art, community, friendship and caring. We strive to infuse those values into all that we do.

All program participants, including the resident, selections committee members, organizers, DCMF staff and Board, and event contract staff, are expected to abide by our [Code of Conduct](#). Please visit <http://www.dcmf.com/safer-spaces/> for more information. Note that the page is under construction, and more information will be added, including a link to our full policy and procedures.

11. COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

You can find current COVID-19 restrictions and information on the official [Government of Yukon website](#).

As of November 30th, 2021, proof of vaccination will be required to access non-essential services and attend events, and as such, all program participants must be fully vaccinated* by the time they arrive in the Yukon.

*Fully vaccinated in the Yukon is defined as two doses of a Health Canada approved vaccination (Moderna, Pfizer, AstraZeneca) plus two weeks since your last dose.

Due to the nature of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and shifting public health guidelines, public performance and community outreach delivery and format may be subject to change, and the residency may be subject to cancellation.

Please take current restrictions and community safety into account when writing your proposal.

12. 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, a self-governing 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, and the [Klondike Visitors Association](#) keeps tabs on events/other activities.

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.

Dawson City is known for its vibrant arts and cultural scene, including [Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre](#), [Yukon School of Visual Arts \(SOVA\)](#), [ODD Gallery](#), and the [Klondike Institute of Arts and Culture](#) (KIAC). KIAC provides extensive arts education and programming and hosts several workshops, concerts, theatre, classes and festivals throughout the year. In addition, 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 higher than in many parts of Canada. Some products, supplies, and services are unavailable or challenging to find, though we see more and more available every day. Dawson City has various shops, including two grocery stores, a hardware store, a well-stocked gas station/convenience store, a bookstore, a pharmacy, a Canada Post outlet, and more. One bank is available, CIBC, with 24 hr bank machine access.