

# MEDIA RELEASE



*For Immediate Release*

## Arts Commons and TD Bank Group Announce Naming Sponsorship of TD Incubator and Inaugural Cohort of Artist Development Program

**CALGARY** – In an important announcement regarding the support of the future of the arts in Calgary, **Arts Commons** and **TD Bank Group (TD)** are proud to share the newly named **TD Incubator** program, formerly the Arts Commons Incubator program, embarking on a three-year commitment of support for homegrown Calgary artists. Built to support those who work across artistic disciplines and have historically been underrepresented in the downtown Calgary cultural scene, TD Incubator program aims to accelerate the careers of 20-35 QTBIPOC interdisciplinary artists each season who reflect the diversity and vibrancy of Calgary. Prioritizing artists from communities who reflect the diversity of Treaty 7 territory, this program is for artists whose work is in conversation with the world around them.

*"A longtime supporter of Arts Commons Presents through the TD Jazz series and more recently TD Amplify Cabaret series, TD Bank Group has shown their steadfast commitment to community building and their fundamental understanding of the role that the arts play in that goal," says Alex Sarian, President & CEO of Arts Commons. "I'm excited to see where this next chapter in our partnership with TD will take us."*

With this support, the TD Incubator program can commit to three cohorts of artists and will provide each with a season of engagements under four themes: networking; professional development; mentorship; and paid live performance, exhibition, and teaching opportunities within Arts Commons initiatives. Each season of the program will be under the leadership of the program Fellows, which will change from season to season. The inaugural season of TD Incubator is under the leadership of Fellows Jae Sterling and Contra and is made up of 18 multidisciplinary artists from across Canada including DeVery Bess, Wakefield Brewster, Priscille Bukasa, Nicole Charlton Goodbrand, Natalia Chai, KTheChosen, Alisha Ebrahim, Bryan Faubert, Ariel Fuoco, Herbert Poll Gutiérrez, Oseremen Irete, Lisa La Touche, Jon McCaslin, Harvey Nichol, Tomi Nu, Rufi Oswald, Silvia Temis, and Uyemi. Read their full bios [here](#).

*"Having entities like TD support the launch of this program is incredible," says Fellows Jae Sterling and Contra. "We need more powerful examples like this of what it really looks like to invest in the arts of a city, present and future, especially for programs in their beginning stages with the potential to become something really huge, like TD Incubator."*

Artists are increasingly moving between and blending artistic forms, genres, and industries to better reflect, create connections, and make sense of the complex world around us. Arts Commons, with the support of TD Bank Group, is uniquely positioned to support them through Arts Commons' multidisciplinary programming including visual and media arts galleries well as performance series like TD Amplify Cabarets. The 2021-22 cohort as well as upcoming cohorts will be featured in these spaces and series.

*"TD is thrilled to continue to support Arts Commons and the vibrant artistic community in Calgary," says Robert Ghazal, senior vice president for branch banking in the Prairie Region. "Through the TD Ready Commitment, we are working to amplify underrepresented and diverse voices across the arts and culture landscape and create opportunities to share fresh and needed perspectives on the world around us, while helping emerging artists flourish."*

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For media inquiries, high resolution images, or more information contact:

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**Arts Commons** is the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada located in the heart of downtown Calgary. For over 35 years, it has been a key contributor to the social, economic, cultural, and intellectual life and well-being of Calgarians. It is home to six resident companies, including Alberta Theatre Projects, Arts Commons Presents, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Downstage, One Yellow Rabbit, and Theatre Calgary. It houses six gallery spaces, five theatres, and the Jack Singer Concert Hall, and promotes local, national, international, emerging and established artists with a focus on inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and equity.

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