



info@stepspublicart.org
stepspublicart.org
@STEPSpublicart

416-366-6565
39 Queens Quay E, Suite 100
Toronto, ON, M5E 0A4

2021 CreateSpace BIPOC Public Art Residency Open Call for Artists

Are you, or an artist you know, interested in gaining experience, building networks and professional skills needed to launch or expand a public art practice?

[STEPS](#) believes public art has the ability to challenge the systemic inequities that exist in public space. In support of this important work, we facilitate programs that: foster inclusive public art practices; build the capacity of artists who are underrepresented in Canadian public art and demonstrate the power of art to reimagine equitably designed cities.

We are thrilled to launch CreateSpace, a national public art residency program designed in consultation with advisors from coast to coast, to provide emerging Black, Indigenous and racialized artists with the skills, relationships and practical experience needed to take their public art practice to the next level.

CreateSpace artists-in-residence will gain:

- **Skills:** virtual workshops, artist talks and studio visits for greater understanding of the public art process through the lens of Community, Identity, Accessibility, and Land, including: demystifying public art RFPs, exploring fabrication and approaches to public engagement.
- **Relationships:** opportunities to connect with public art practitioners from across the country, cultivating professional networks in various sectors and industries.
- **Practical Experience:** creating new public work with tailored coaching from STEPS staff and artistic advisors, through which experimentation is encouraged.
- **Public Audiences:** through promotional support leveraging STEPS and partner network, as well as supports to document and present past and current public work.
- **Financial Support:** artists will each receive a \$1000 stipend to support their participation, as well as have the opportunity to request additional accessibility, production, documentation and engagement resources.

This residency is open to early to mid-career Canadian-based visual and media artists working in public space, who identify as Black, Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) or racialized, interested in participating in a virtual residency from March through December 2021. Up to ten residents will be selected for this opportunity by a review panel of BIPOC members of the arts community, with half of CreateSpace's first cohort reserved for applicants who express a willingness to exhibit work in partnership with [ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021](#). Program components will be offered primarily in English, with translation and ASL services available as needed to support participation of a diverse community of artists. Applicants must be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident to qualify for this opportunity.

Interested applicants must submit their expressions of interest by January 31, 2021 at 11:59pm EST. Those living outside of the Eastern time zone are encouraged to use a [timezone converter](#) to ensure your application is received by the deadline. More information on the application process and what participants can expect can be found at www.publicartresidency.ca.

CreateSpace is in partnership with ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021, and supported by TD Bank Group.



As part of their participation in CreateSpace, Artists in Residence with support from STEPS staff and mentors are expected to:

- Attend in at least 15 of approx. 20 residency sessions held over 10 months which will include: workshops, artist talks, facilitated discussions, studio visits, etc. *We estimate each session to be an hour to an hour and a half time commitment per session. These sessions will run primarily between 1pm and 8pm EST, Mondays through Saturdays.*
- Identify and execute a public art project by the end of the residency.
 - *While residents are NOT expected to have well thought out plans for a public art project at the time of their application, having a project concept and clearly defined learning objectives for advancing your public art practice are important to make the most of the support STEPS and CreateSpace partners can provide.*
- Contribute to the planning and execution of one CreateSpace virtual public event through serving as a speaker, panelist, facilitator or moderator. This is an opportunity to develop your public engagement skills and reach new audiences with your work!
- Participate in ongoing program evaluation that will help shape the CreateSpace Public Art Residency and other artist capacity building programming.
- Respect the time and knowledge of CreateSpace advisors, mentors, staff and fellow participating artists, by committing to cultivate a safe, inclusive, supportive and respectful space for learning, exploration and growth.

Key Program Dates

- **Submission Deadline:** January 31, 2021
- **Results Communicated:** February 2021
- **Residency Begins:** March 2021
- **Residency Programming:** March - November
- **Public Artwork Production/ Installation Period:** June - September
- **Residency Concludes:** December 2021

How to apply

To apply, please click here to fill out the application form by January 31, 2021 at 11:59pm EST.

PLEASE NOTE: Applicants cannot save the form and return to complete it at a later time. We strongly recommend downloading the following form and saving your answers on a separate document prior to filling out the online form.

We encourage all applicants to visit the [STEPS](#) website prior to preparing this application to have a better understanding of the organization that will be facilitating this residency. Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for the 2021 **CreateSpace Public Art Residency** program are [here](#).

Applicants who are Deaf, have a disability, or who need support applying for this opportunity are encouraged to contact Janet Hinkle, STEPS Program Coordinator at janet@stepsinitiative.com or call 416.366.6565 ex. 2 at least two weeks before the submission deadline (January 17, 2021) to allow STEPS to appropriately accommodate your needs and to discuss alternate formats for submitting your application.

APPLICATION FORM

- Full Name *
- Preferred Name *if applicable
- Preferred pronouns
- Primary Phone Number *
- Email Address *
- Street Address *
- City/ Town *
- Postal Code *
- Website or Online Portfolio *
- Social Media Link 1
- Social Media Link 2
- The CreateSpace Residency is open to Canadian-based artists who self-identify as Black, Indigenous and/or racialized, and identify as early or mid-career artists.

STEPS encourages applications from individuals that represent the full diversity of communities in Canada, including complexities of intersecting identities such as ability, age, class, gender, race and sexual orientation. Please check all of the following that you identify with:

- An Artist living with a disability or chronic illness
 - Black
 - Deaf or hard of hearing
 - English as a second language speaker
 - Francophone
 - First Nations
 - Inuit
 - Métis
 - LBTTQQAAP2S+
 - Mixed-race
 - Newcomer or refugee
 - Person of colour
 - A member of another under-represented artistic community (please provide details below)
 - Please name any unlisted communities here:

 - Prefer not to disclose
-
- **If you would like to provide any additional information regarding the identities you have selected above, including how (if at all) they impact your artistic practice, we invite you to do so here.** (optional)

- **Artist Biography** (max 200 words)
For selected artists, a version of this biography may be used in program materials
- **Do you have any past public art experience?** (This is not a requirement for participation in the CreateSpace residency program)
Yes
No
- **Do you have any past community arts or public engagement experience?** For example, facilitating activities with a group of people to collaboratively develop an art project. (This is not a requirement for participation in the CreateSpace Public Art Residency program)
Yes
No

What are your primary motivators for applying to participate in the CreateSpace Public Art Residency? Please select THREE.

- Being a part of a peer network of BIPOC artists based in Canada
 - Developing new technical or artistic skills that I can apply in my practice
 - Developing public or community engagement skills
 - Making connections on how my art practice can better align with a social justice framework
 - Enhancing my public art portfolio and/or artistic CV for professional advancement
 - Expanding my professional networks
 - Discovering how to engage community concerns in the creation and development of my art
 - Experimenting with new modes of working in a safe environment
 - Honing project management, communication, facilitation and other transferable skills
 - Increasing my ability to secure large-scale public art opportunities
 - Learning about the diverse practices of other BIPOC artists
 - Reaching new audiences with my work
- **Please tell us why you would like to participate in the CreateSpace Public Art Residency, highlighting connections to your artistic practice, any past public art experience and your learning objectives** (max 200 words)
 - **The CreateSpace Public Art Residency is designed to build the capacity of emerging Black, Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit, or Métis), or racialized artists, as well as amplify the work of more established BIPOC public art practitioners. Tell us about any artists / arts workers who you would like to connect with, learn from or just generally find inspirational.** (max 100 words)
 - **Participating artists will be supported in developing a public art project over the course of the residency. If you have any ideas for a public art project concept, please provide details as well as share any support that you would hope to gain through your residency participation that would help advance this project (e.g. knowledge, skills, networks, etc.). Concepts shared are your intellectual property and will remain confidential during the review process.** (max 200 words)

Half of CreateSpace's 2021 cohort will be reserved for artists interested in presenting work in partnership with ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021. Due to COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions, this may include works that can be mailed and installed by third parties, for artists who reside outside of Ontario. Would you be interested in being considered for these opportunities?

- Yes, sign me up!
- No, I don't think that is a fit.
- Maybe, I have some reservations, but would be interested in learning more.
- Other

Accessibility

- Most CreateSpace sessions will be facilitated in English. In order to meaningfully participate in sessions, please indicate if you would require any of the following:
 - ASL
 - Closed Captioning
 - French translation
 - Language translation (non official language - if so please click "other" and indicate language below)
 - Language not listed above: _____
- Do you have access to an internet-enabled device with which you could join residency sessions and access materials through platforms that may include: Zoom, Google Meets, Google Drive, Miro, Dropbox, WeTransfer, WhatsApp, etc?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Yes - with limitations (please provide further details)
- In addition to any language or technology support you may have already shared, are there any other supports you may need to successfully participate in this program? (optional, maximum 1200 characters)

Support Materials

Please upload the following as one combined PDF document (max 5 pages) with a filename that begins with your last name.

- Artistic CV
- Past Sample Works (Image and/ or Video)
- Include a URL for where your video files may be reviewed (please include a password if required to view the content)
- Please include artwork details (eg: date, size, title, material)
- Letter of Recommendation *optional

When naming your files, please use the following format: LastName, FirstName. 2021 CreateSpace Application Materials.

Please submit no more than three (3) images of past work or video content that is no more than three (3) minutes.

As an alternative to providing support material in PDF format, applicants may provide a link here to a video or audio recording that does not require a download (eg. link to YouTube, Vimeo, etc). Please include passwords if needed.

About the Residency Program

What is CreateSpace?

CreateSpace is a suite of STEPS programming that demonstrates public art's ability to reimagine equitably designed cities, aiming to directly serve, support and amplify the work of Black, Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Métis), or racialized artists who explore, transform and engage with public space. Past *CreateSpace* programs have included an ongoing series of capacity building workshops with topics ranging from Self-Care for Artists through to Tax Workshops for Creatives; artist-led studio tours, DIY approaches to public art, and a recent series of artist-led panel discussions that center around art and public space. The *CreateSpace BIPOC Public Art Residency* combines each of these programming threads, with the aim to connect emerging and mid-career artists across the country who are interested in exploring and activating public space in their communities; fostering connections and cultivating conversations around social equity in city-building and design while also inspiring broader dialogue on equitable representation in public art.

How does STEPS define public art?

Public art is art in any media whose form, function and meaning are created for the general public, is publicly accessible and aims to engage and/or reflect the local community, general public or surrounding area.

Is this a paid opportunity?

Artists-in-residence will each receive a \$1000 stipend to support their participation, as well as have the opportunity to request additional accessibility, production, documentation and engagement resources.

Explain the ArtworxTO component of this residency.

Half of CreateSpace's 2021 cohort will be reserved for artists interested in presenting work through a partnership with ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021. Due to COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions, this may include works that can be mailed and installed by third parties, for artists who reside outside of Ontario.

Who are the members of the advisory committee for this residency?

Charles Smith, Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario (CPAMO)

Jennifer Smith, National Indigenous Media Arts Coalition (NIMAC)

Sean Lee, Tangled Arts & Disability

Queen Kukoyi, Black Speculative Arts Movement (BSAM Canada)

Nico Taylor, Black Speculative Arts Movement (BSAM Canada)

Sidi Chen, Professional Artist

Tash Naveau, Professional Artist

Jamaias DaCosta, Professional Artist, Writer, Performer

2021 CreateSpace BIPOC Public Art Residency FAQ

Residency Timeline

How long is the 2021 CreateSpace Residency term?

The 2021 CreateSpace Residency term is 10 months total, running from March 2021 to December 2021.

When will I be paired with the mentor and how often do we meet?

We will be pairing residents with the mentors in April. From April through to November, CreateSpace artists-in-residence and mentors will meet monthly for one-on-one check-ins for approximately 1 hour per session based on their mutual availability.

What is the production period mentioned in the call for artists?

The timeline for the residency's production period runs from June to September 2021. During this time, CreateSpace artists-in-residence will work one-on-one with mentors and STEPS staff to further develop their concepts, installation plans and engagement strategy, while independently fabricating their public artworks. The production period will culminate in the installation of a temporary public artwork within the artists' community and involve an unveiling and documentation. During the production period, artists will also meet monthly as a cohort to explore themes and issues related to public art and their individual career paths through various programming opportunities.

Will artists be responsible for identifying their public artwork's installation site?

Yes. CreateSpace artists-in-residence will be asked to identify potential sites for their works to be installed. STEPS staff and mentors will support this process and help the artist secure the final installation site for their public artworks.

Does the public artwork created need to be permanent or temporary?

The length of the installation will depend on the installation site and its property owners among other factors, but CreateSpace artists-in-residence will be encouraged to produce temporary public artworks during the 2021 CreateSpace Residency term.

What types of programming opportunities will artists-in-residents be encouraged to attend during the 2021 CreateSpace Residency term?

Programming during the program will include capacity building workshops, artist-led studio tours, artist-led panel discussions, industry connectivity opportunities and more!

Upcoming CreateSpace related programming will be available at publicartresidency.ca beginning in January 2021.

Resident Participation & Time Commitment

What is expected of me while I'm at the residency?

The CreateSpace Public Art Residency is a project-oriented program, so artists-in-residence will focus their efforts on the production of a public artwork in their community while in residence.

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Our program is also focused on network building and education so artists-in-residents will be required to attend at least 15 virtual residency sessions over the course of ten (10) months, including: workshops, artist talks, facilitated discussions, studio visits, etc.

What if I need to leave the residency early? Can I apply for a shorter/longer residency?

Unfortunately, the 2021 CreateSpace BIPOC Public Art Residency requires a ten (10) month time commitment (March to December 2021) from artists-in-residence, with no opportunity to delay or extend your participation in the program.

How does the “virtual residency format” work?

Residents will be required to attend monthly virtual group cohort gatherings and one-on-one check-ins with the program coordinator and their individually paired mentors to develop their individual public artworks and identify areas of additional support. Additionally, artists-in-residence will also be encouraged to participate in a limited number of virtual residency programs open to the public.

CreateSpace artists-in-residence will need to have access to a strong internet connection and an internet-connected device (i.e.: computer, tablet, smartphone, etc...) to participate in this residency. If you're unsure about your ability to participate in this program due to your current tech set up, please contact Janet Hinkle, STEPS Program Coordinator at janet@stepsinitiative.com or call 416.366.6565 ex. 2.

I have a full time job can I still be a resident artist?

Yes. Resident artists often have full- or part-time jobs to support their studio practice. Ultimately, you want to make sure your schedule supports you getting the most out of this residency.

If I have already applied to other artist residencies for 2021 or if I plan on travelling over the next 12 months, can I also apply to this program?

Yes. However, if you think your other residencies or travels would keep you away for extended periods of time or affect your active participation in CreateSpace, you might want to reconsider if this program is the best fit for you.

Accessibility

Could you clarify the accessibility timeline for additional accessibility support for this application process?

Applicants who are Deaf, have a disability, or who need support applying for this opportunity are encouraged to contact Janet Hinkle, STEPS Program Coordinator at janet@stepsinitiative.com or call 416.366.6565 ex. 2 at least two weeks before the submission deadline (January 17, 2021) to allow STEPS to appropriately accommodate your needs and to discuss alternate formats for submitting your application.

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What accessibility supports will be available to the artists-in-residence throughout the program?

- ASL Interpretation
 - Closed Captioning
 - Language Translation
-

Disciplines & Materials

Any material restrictions?

The 2021 CreateSpace Public Art Residency will be run virtually so it will be up to individual artists-in-residence to identify what materials can or cannot be used in their workspace. If you are renting a studio space in your area we recommend checking your studio's health and safety guide for further details. If you're unsure about any materials, please contact Janet Hinkle, STEPS Program Coordinator at janet@stepsinitiative.com or call 416.366.6565 ex. 2.

What types of disciplines are appropriate for this residency?

All artistic disciplines are appropriate for this residency, from 2D media like drawing and painting to installation and sculpture to performance and new technologies.

Application Process

When are applications open?

Applications open on Monday, January 11, 2021.

When are applications closed?

Applications close on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 11:59PM EST.

Are applications open to international residents?

No, unfortunately the 2021 CreateSpace BIPOC Public Art Residency is only open to Canadian-based visual and media artists working in public space, who identify as Black, Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) or racialized.

Those living outside of the Eastern time zone are encouraged to use a [timezone converter](#) to ensure your application is received by the deadline.

What do you consider an “emerging public artist” to be?

To us at STEPS Public Art, the question of whether or not one is considered “emerging” is addressed in terms of an artist's own personal practice, which is unique to each individual. This term does not necessarily reflect one's age or level of recognition they may have achieved outside of their “public art practice.” We ask applicants to self-identify.

I'm a mid-career or established artist, should I still apply?

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Yes! The 2021 CreateSpace BIPOC Public Art Residency is open to early to mid-career Canadian-based visual and media artists working in public space. i.g.: if you already have an established studio practice but have had little to no experience with public art, this opportunity is open to you!

I have applied, now when can I expect to hear back about the status of my application?

Great! Here is what you can expect:

The one-round of selection committee review takes approximately two and a half weeks and begins in February 2021.

January 31, 2021 at 11:59pm EST: Applications close

Week of February 8: Review committee receives and reviews all submitted applications

Week of February 17: Review Committee selects 10 shortlisted artists

Week of February 22: 10 artists are invited to join the program orientation and subsequent programming through to December 30, 2021.

Week of March 1: Public Announcement of CreateSpace artists-in-residence

****Please note that the above timeline is approximate and specific dates are purposely not included to allow for the necessary flexibility and likely adjustments we will have to make in response to COVID-19 pandemic.**

Will I hear if I wasn't selected?

No. Unfortunately, due to a high volume of applications, we will not be able to contact unsuccessful applications. You will receive a confirmation email when your application is received.

Selection Committee & Process

How does the review process work?

Applicants are evaluated by a selection committee composed of practicing public artists and cultural sector leaders. CreateSpace artists-in-residence will be selected based on the quality of their work, commitment to their practice, and the applicant's expressed interest in being part of a national community of practicing artists who look to explore public space.

Who are the members of the selection committee for this residency?

While the list of selection committee members will not be announced prior to the selection of the 2021 CreateSpace artists-in-residence, this 2021 Selection Committee is made up of 6 Canada-based individuals, from corporate arts professionals, leaders of equity-seeking arts organizations, Black, Indigenous or People of Colour-led or focused organizations, and practicing artists with extensive experience with residencies and/or public art.

Have another question that you don't see the answer to here? Let us know.

Thank you and good luck as you continue on your creative journey!