

# NEW CONNECTIONS

A Resource Guide to the Arts in Toronto  
for Newcomer Artists



Ballet Folklórico Mexico by Brendan Albert

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## About Us

Neighbourhood Arts Network is a free membership network that connects people with arts opportunities and events happening across Toronto. We support and celebrate artists that contribute to making our neighbourhoods more creative and exciting. Our membership consists of different types of artists, arts organizations and community workers who believe that art enriches the lives of all Torontonians.

## What does Neighbourhood Arts Network do for newcomers?

Newcomer artists may be faced with many challenges beyond learning a new language and other aspects of settlement. This guide hopes to help you learn more about the Toronto art scene, where to go to see different types of art, how and where to meet other artists in the city, and find creative work, residency and funding opportunities.

We support newcomer artists by learning about their needs as both newcomers and professional artists and offering structured programming and opportunities for connection that can benefit their professional growth as artists.

## How does Neighbourhood Arts Network help artists in Toronto?

We celebrate and support artists in Toronto by:

- Facilitating learning opportunities, workshops and training events with in partnership with other local arts organizations and community partners throughout Toronto
- Creating and compiling online resources that support artists further developing their professional practice
- Highlighting their work and upcoming events on our website, social media pages and monthly newsletter
- Regularly sharing external calls for applications, work opportunities in the arts sector, funding opportunities and residency opportunities on our website and newsletter
- Delivering financial awards designed specifically for newcomer artists (including our RBC Arts Access Fund and RBC Space Award) that recognize artistic achievements and community contributions of artists and arts organizations enriching Toronto through the arts
- Hold key discussions crucial for the evolution of Toronto's community engaged arts sector

## How can this guide help me connect with Toronto arts?

This guide is created to help connect newcomer artists of various art practices to the resources necessary for making a living as a professional artist in Toronto, from dance to film, to visual arts and music.

This guide will also introduce some opportunities to get involved in Toronto's great arts and culture sector, such as events and festivals.

Please note this is a working document. Due to funding, population changes, and general innovation, organizations and funding opportunities are constantly evolving. If we missed something, or have included something that is no longer relevant, please let us know!

In this guide, you will find:

- Toronto Arts Organizations
- Arts Festivals
- Dance
- Film
- Literary
- Music
- Theatre
- Visual Arts
- Ontario Arts Organizations
- National Arts Organizations
- Funding Opportunities for Artists
- Community Spaces
- Art Supplies
- Event Listings
- Artist Mentorship opportunities
- Additional Artist Resources

## Enjoy getting to know Toronto's exciting arts scene!

Questions about this document?

Contact Eva Hellreich, Outreach and Events Coordinator at [Eva@torontoarts.org](mailto:Eva@torontoarts.org)

\*'Newcomer' refers to people who were born outside of Canada and have recently permanently relocated to Canada as immigrants and/or refugees.

## **Local Art Service Organizations (LASO's)**

There are 6 [Local Art Service Organizations](#) (LASO's) in Toronto. LASO's are initiatives of the City of Toronto. They are dedicated to serving specific communities across the city, with a focus on community engaged arts.

### **Arts Etobicoke**

[www.artsetobicoke.com](http://www.artsetobicoke.com)

Supports established & aspiring artists of all ages and backgrounds with a broad variety of activities and services, including arts education, advocacy, community space and more.

### **East End Arts**

<http://eastendarts.ca/>

Local Arts Service Organization (LASO) mandated to serve the east end of Toronto, specifically city wards 29, 30, 31 and 32. Its mission is to create and promote diverse, accessible arts activities through initiatives that strengthen and unite communities in East Toronto.

### **Lakeshore Arts**

[www.lakeshorearts.ca](http://www.lakeshorearts.ca)

Lakeshore Arts is committed to improving the availability of arts, cultural and heritage activities within the Lakeshore west neighbourhood.

### **North York Arts**

[www.northyorkarts.org](http://www.northyorkarts.org)

North York Arts (NYA) was formally incubated by the Toronto Arts Foundation (TAF). Designed to address the needs and interests of artists, arts organizations and residents, North York Arts is working in collaboration with North York City Councilors, the City's Culture Division and TAF's Neighbourhood Arts Network to foster arts programming and engagement in North York. North York Arts will offer marketing and promotion services, networking and community development workshops, programming, and administrative support to the North York arts community.

### **Scarborough Arts**

<http://scarborougharts.com/>

Scarborough Arts develops, delivers and promotes arts programming and cultural initiatives in collaboration and partnership with the community. Services typically provided by a LASO include marketing, promotion, information services, networking, professional development, programming, and provision of administrative support.

### **Urban Arts**

<http://www.urbanartstoronto.org/>

Urban Arts Toronto is a youth centre that offers arts programs in the Weston-Mount Denis community. They offer programming in a variety of creative disciplines, and have a dance studio, a functional community kitchen, a recording studio, host CultureShock (an annual multi-day summer festival) and work out of two locations.

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## **Additional Non-Profit Arts Organizations**

### **Art Starts**

<http://www.artstarts.net>

Art Starts inspires and cultivates social change by bringing professional artists and Toronto residents together to create community-building art projects in all artistic disciplines.

### **Airsa Art and Thought**

<http://airsa.org/>

Airsa is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing newcomers with professional development in the arts sector operating *on traditional Indigenous territories in Canada*. Through peer mentorship, access to studio space and public events, Airsa's programming offers training to newcomers from all artistic disciplines and traditions. Airsa means 'Rainbow' in the ancient Persian Language, reflecting the belief that cultural pluralism and a diversity of perspectives enriches our quality of life.

### **Art Heart**

<https://artheart.ca/>

Art Heart is a not-for-profit arts organization that builds self-esteem and self-reliance for children, youth, adults, families and seniors in the Regent Park Community by providing free community visual arts education, programs, materials and nourishment in an open, safe, warm, supportive environment.

## **Artscape**

<http://www.torontoartscape.org>

Artscape is a not-for-profit urban development organization that makes space for creativity and transforms communities. They also house some live-work spaces for artists, and event space available for rent.

## **ArtReach Toronto**

<https://artreach.org>

ArtReach is an organization designed to support community-based arts initiatives that engage youth from underserved populations who have experienced exclusion in Toronto.

## **Jumblies Theatre**

<http://www.jumbliestheatre.org>

Jumblies is a Toronto-based organization with a national and international reach that engages in collaborations between professional artists and diverse people and communities, and mentors and supports others to do so. Jumblies expands where art happens, who gets to be part of it, what form it takes and which stories it tells. This imperative has led us outside of specialized art places, and to place *participation* and *radical inclusion* at the core of their projects.

## **LACAP (Latin American Canadian Art Projects)**

<http://lacap.ca>

LACAP is a Toronto-based, not-for-profit arts organization dedicated to the implementation of art projects, which promote Latin American art in Canada with an emphasis on artistic excellence, critically engaged artistic practices, and hemispheric networks of exchange.

## **Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT)**

<https://lift.ca/>

The Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT) is an artist-run charitable organization dedicated to facilitating excellence in the moving image through media arts education and production resources. LIFT exists to provide support and encouragement for independent filmmakers and artists through affordable access to production, post-production and exhibition equipment; professional and creative development; workshops and courses; commissioning and exhibitions; artist-residencies; and a variety of other services.

### **Neighbourhood Arts Network**

[www.neighbourhoodartsnetwork.org](http://www.neighbourhoodartsnetwork.org)

An initiative of Toronto Arts Foundation, Neighbourhood Arts Network is a Toronto-wide network with over 1500 members, including artists, arts organizations, cultural workers and community agencies working throughout the City of Toronto. They offer free capacity building workshops; annual awards for newcomer professional artists and community engaged artists; an online resource called the 'Learning Room'; a monthly newsletter that spotlights members and highlights paid opportunities for artists in Toronto, and offer a free membership that includes a profile in their member directory, priority access to workshops, and other member benefits.

### **Nia Centre for the Arts**

[www.niacentre.org](http://www.niacentre.org)

Founded in 2009, Nia Centre for the Arts is a charitable organization that showcases and promotes arts from the African-Diaspora. Nia offers programs in music, photography, literature, the visual arts, theatre and interdisciplinary arts.

### **Muse Arts**

<http://musearts.ca/>

Working with community partners, Muse creates spaces for Emerging Artists from equity seeking groups to showcase their work, to access opportunities for professional development and to engage communities meaningfully and actively in hands-on, high quality arts education integrated to issues of Social Justice.

### **Mural Routes**

<https://muralroutes.ca/>

Mural Routes is the only member-based not-for-profit arts service organization in Canada dedicated to the creation, development and promotion of public wall art. Their vision is to inspire the creation of extraordinary public wall art that serves as a catalyst for community building.

### **Native Women in the Arts (NWIA)**

<http://www.nwia.ca/>

Native Women in the Arts is a not-for-profit organization for First Nations, Inuit and Métis women who share the common interest of art, culture, community and the advancement of Indigenous peoples through unique artistic programming, community development projects, and offering exceptional development opportunities to emerging artists.

### **Neilson Park Creative Centre (NPCC)**

[www.neilsonparkcreativecentre.com](http://www.neilsonparkcreativecentre.com)

Neilson Park Creative Centre was established in 1992 to provide a permanent home for Resident Groups, artists, creators, makers, supporters – wherever within that span individuals feel most at home. With four dedicated studio spaces, two galleries and administrative/support spaces, NPCC continues to respond to the needs of its members and supporters on the western edge of Toronto.

### **Paralia Newcomer Arts Network**

<http://paralianewcomerarts.com>

Paralia Newcomer Arts Network is a collective that supports and promotes newcomer artists in Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area, as well as provides resources and information on current opportunities. They exist to stimulate conversation and discussion surrounding current trends and opportunities in local arts communities, sharing resources and offering support for newcomer artists by providing individuals with the tools and support needed to establish their presence in arts communities.

### **RISE Edutainment**

<https://www.riseedutainment.com>

Reaching Intelligent Souls Everywhere (RISE) is a youth-led movement that has been providing opportunities and spaces for youth to develop artistically/professionally, personally, socially, and spiritually. They create safe and inclusive spaces that foster self-expression and healing through the performance arts and storytelling.

### **Tangled Art + Disability**

<https://tangledarts.org>

Tangled Art + Disability is boldly redefining how the world experiences art and those who create it. They are a not for profit art + disability organization dedicated to connecting professional and emerging artists, the arts community and a diverse public through creative passion and artistic excellence. Their mandate is to support Deaf, Mad and disability-identified artists, to cultivate Deaf, Mad and disability arts in Canada, and to enhance access to the arts for artists and audiences of all abilities.

### **Toronto Arts Foundation**

<https://torontoartsfoundation.org>

Toronto Arts Foundation has a clear vision for Toronto: a vibrant and creative city where every neighbourhood is enriched by the transformative benefits of the arts. Through programming and initiatives, they're focused on bringing the arts to communities throughout the city. They do this, not only because every individual

deserves to enjoy the many benefits of the arts, but because engaged and inclusive communities build strong cities.

### **Toronto Media Arts Centre (TMAC)**

<https://www.tomediaarts.org>

TMAC is a new permanent home for Toronto's media arts organizations, and an accessible public space for art, creation and collaboration in the Queen West Triangle. TMAC integrates creation, production, presentation, education, conservation and dissemination practices and with a focus on community building and inclusivity. With year-round arts and cultural programming, open lab studios, equipment libraries, co-working and social areas, TMAC provides the tools, space and freedom to play with art, media and new technologies—including film, animation, video games, audio and sound, video, robotics, electronics and more.

### **VTAPE**

<http://www.vtape.org/>

Vtape is Canada's leading artist-run, not-for-profit distributor of video art. Featuring more than 1000 artists and 5000 titles, Vtape's diverse collection includes works from the early 1970's to the present.

### **Workman Arts**

<https://workmanarts.com>

Workman Arts is a multidisciplinary arts organization that promotes a greater understanding of mental health and addiction issues through creation and presentation. They support artists living with mental health and addiction issues through peer-to-peer arts education, public presentations and partnerships with the broader arts community.

### **Xpace Cultural Centre**

<https://www.xpace.info>

Xpace Cultural Centre is a not-for-profit artist-run centre dedicated to providing emerging and student artists, designers, curators and writers with opportunities to showcase their work in a professional setting. Xpace is supported by the OCAD Student Union.

## **FESTIVALS**

### **Birkdale Arts Festival**

<https://www.birkdalearts.com>

Birkdale Arts Festival is an annual celebration of arts and community in Scarborough. The Festival is held in the beautiful Birkdale Ravine, close to the intersection of Midland and Ellesmere. Entrance to the festival is located behind the Birkdale Community Centre.

### **Harbourfront Centre**

<http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com>

Harbourfront Centre has always been a bold and innovative force in Canada's cultural scene, introducing audiences to brilliant new artists and art forms from around the world. Their diverse and dynamic winter and summer festival programming bring an eclectic selection of sights, sounds and flavors to their 10-acre site.

### **Nuit Blanche**

<https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/festivals-events/nuitblanche>

Nuit Blanche is Toronto's free all-night contemporary art event that runs across the city from sunset to sunrise. The theme changes annually.

### **Manifesto**

<http://www.mnfsto.com>

Manifesto is a non-profit, youth-powered platform that puts local artists on the map and unites, inspires and empowers young people through arts & culture.

### **Muse Arts: Happening Multicultural Festival**

<http://musearts.ca>

Happening Multicultural Festival is an annual three-day multidisciplinary festival that will engage more than 60 artists/performers who have self-identified as people of diverse communities, immigrants, newcomers and refugees. The festival features traditional and contemporary music, dance, visual arts, story-telling, poetry, crafts and food.

### **Paprika Festival**

<http://paprikafestival.com>

Paprika Festival is a youth-led professional performing arts organization. We run year round professional training and mentorship programs that culminate in a performing arts festival of new work by young artists. Paprika has grown from a Festival of five

short plays to a Festival with year-round programming featuring a diversity of productions, playwrights-in-residence, a resident company, a creators' unit, a youth advisory board, a cabaret series, ongoing mentorship, monthly training days and a vibrant connection to the professional arts community.

### **Persian Festival**

<http://www.tirgan.ca>

Tirgan refers to an ancient festival traditionally held in the month of July (the month of 'Tir' in Persian Calendar), inspiring what is currently the world's largest celebration of Iranian arts and culture, taking place biennially at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto.

### **Regent Park Film Festival**

[regentparkfilmfestival.com](http://regentparkfilmfestival.com)

Regent Park Film Festival is Toronto's longest running free community film festival. They are dedicated to showcasing local and international independent works relevant to people from all walks of life, with a focus on inviting those from low income and public housing communities. The films presented break stereotypes and show that no one place or person has just one story.

### **Reelworld Film Festival**

[www.reelworld.ca](http://www.reelworld.ca)

Reelworld is a film festival which spotlights and honours racially diverse, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) Canadian talent. They prioritize film selections and awards to include Canadian films that explore current and pressing social issues. The Festival features industry panels, pitch sessions, networking receptions, a student program, and live music performances and showcases narrative features, documentaries, shorts, music videos, episodic content and VR/360 films that tell important stories, spark meaningful dialogue and inspire social change.

### **Queen West Art Crawl**

[www.queenwestartcrawl.com](http://www.queenwestartcrawl.com)

The Queen West Art Crawl (QWAC) is a charitable organization that features a three-day weekend long festival of creativity and community. It's designed to celebrate and promote the art, culture and diversity of Queen West in Toronto.

### **Reelworld Film Festival**

[www.reelworld.ca](http://www.reelworld.ca)

Reelworld Film Festival showcases Canadian narrative features, documentaries, shorts, music videos, animation, episodic content and VR/360 films that spark conversation and fuel social impact. Reelworld is a juried festival and presents awards and prizes to Canadian Filmmakers. They also offer professional development opportunities.

### **Riverdale Art Walk**

<https://riverdaleartwalk.ca>

Riverdale Art Walk is a two-day, public fine art exhibition showcasing established and emerging artists in retail spaces and Jimmie Simpson Park in Toronto's flourishing Queen East arts district. The first outdoor art show of Toronto's season, participating artists are selected through an anonymous jury process, allowing for an opportunity to participate in one of the most affordable show in the outdoor art festival circuit.

### **Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)**

[www.tiff.net](http://www.tiff.net)

TIFF is dedicated to presenting the best of international and Canadian cinema and creating transformational experiences for film lovers and creators of all ages and backgrounds. As Canada's premiere home of cinema, TIFF offers screenings, lectures, discussions, festivals, workshops, events, professional development and opportunities to meet, hear and learn from filmmakers from Canada and around the world.

### **Toronto Outdoor Art Fair**

<https://torontooutdoor.art>

Over 360 emerging and established contemporary visual artists and makers, working in an array of disciplines, come together to showcase and sell their work directly to the public. The artist is always present at Toronto Outdoor Art Fair. 115,000 art lovers and collectors flock to Toronto every year to discover new works and new talents for free in a vibrant and welcoming environment. Collectively, visitors spend over 2 million dollars\* on buying art, contributing to the economic prosperity of our participating artists and the cultural vibrancy of Toronto.

### **Vector Festival**

<http://vectorfestival.org>

Vector Festival is a participatory and community-oriented initiative dedicated to showcasing experimental media art practice. Presenting works across a dynamic range of exhibitions, screenings, performances, lectures, and workshops, Vector Festival acts as a critical bridge between emergent digital platforms and new media art practice.

## DANCE

### Coco Collective

<http://www.misscocomurray.com>

Coco Collective serves as a multidisciplinary group of intergenerational artists who specialize in African and Caribbean arts. Coco Collective socially responds to serve priority groups, specifically addressing a lack of culturally relevant programming in specific neighbourhoods and regions. This group consists of professional artists of color who teach diverse artistic practices.

### Dance Ontario

[www.danceontario.ca](http://www.danceontario.ca)

Dance Ontario has developed into a dynamic cross-section of all areas of the dance sector from internationally renowned companies to local dance clubs, technicians and agents. Dance Ontario is key to Ontario's dance milieu and central to the diverse sector's communications and networking, providing management training, advice and industry information.

### Dance Umbrella of Ontario (DUO)

<http://danceumbrella.net>

The Dance Umbrella of Ontario (DUO) is a non-membership, client-based organization that provides quality management and administrative support to professional dance artists in Ontario and actively works to facilitate their success. DUO fosters a healthy dance community by promoting communication and interaction between and among dance artists, dance organizations, dance presenters, funders and the public.

### Dancer Transition Resource Centre

[www.dtrc.ca](http://www.dtrc.ca)

Dancer Transition Resource Centre (DTRC) is a national, charitable organization dedicated to helping dancers make necessary transitions into, within, and from professional performing careers. They also operate as a resource center for the dance community and the general public, and support activities that improve the socioeconomic conditions of artists across the country.

## FILM

### **Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA)**

[www.actra.ca](http://www.actra.ca)

ACTRA (Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists) is the union of more than 22,000 professional performers working in English-language recorded media in Canada including TV, film, radio and digital media.

### **Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre**

[www.cfmdc.org](http://www.cfmdc.org)

Canada's foremost non-commercial distributor and resource for independently produced film, representing approximately 550 filmmakers worldwide and 2600 film titles, including some of Canada's most original and well-respected works of art.

### **Canadian Film Centre**

[www.cfccreates.com](http://www.cfccreates.com)

The Canadian Film Centre (CFC) is a charitable organization whose mission is to invest in and inspire the next generation of world-class Canadian content creators and entrepreneurs in the screen-based entertainment industry. A significant economic and cultural driver in Canada and beyond, CFC delivers a range of multi-disciplinary programs and initiatives in film, television, music, screen acting, and digital media, which provides industry collaborations, strategic partnerships, and business and marketplace opportunities for talent and participants.

### **ImagineNATIVE**

[www.imagenative.com](http://www.imagenative.com)

imagineNATIVE is the world's largest presenter of Indigenous screen content. The organisation is recognised locally, nationally, and internationally for excellence and innovation in programming and as the global centre for Indigenous media arts. imagineNATIVE (legal entity: The Centre for Aboriginal Media) is a registered charity committed to creating a greater understanding of Indigenous peoples and cultures through the presentation of contemporary Indigenous-made media art including film, video, audio and digital media.

### **JAYU**

[www.jayu.ca](http://www.jayu.ca)

JAYU is a registered Canadian charity and a leader in the space where the arts and human rights intersect. Guided by a dedicated team of staff, artists, educators and our Board of Directors, their year-round programming includes an annual Human Rights

Film Festival, iAM arts and social justice training program, The Hum Podcast, their Human Rights Screening Series, and some awards.

### **Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT)**

[www.lift.ca](http://www.lift.ca)

The Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT) is an artist-run charitable organization dedicated to facilitating excellence in the moving image through media arts education and production resources. LIFT exists to provide support and encouragement for independent filmmakers and artists through affordable access to production, post-production and exhibition equipment; professional and creative development; workshops and courses; commissioning and exhibitions; artist-residencies, and a variety of other services.

### **Women in Film and Television Toronto (WIFT)**

[www.wift.com](http://www.wift.com)

WIFT-T is a member-based organization of women and men working in screen-based media that supports the development and advancement of women in the industry. Membership in WIFT-T enables women to be capable, confident, connected and successful in their careers in screen-based media.

### **Writers' Guild of Canada**

[www.writersguildofcanada.com](http://www.writersguildofcanada.com)

The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) represents more than 2,000 professional English-language screenwriters in Canada.

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## **LITERARY**

### **League of Canadian Poets**

[www.poets.ca](http://www.poets.ca)

The League of Canadian Poets is the professional organization for established and emerging Canadian poets. Founded in 1966 to nurture the advancement of poetry in Canada, and the promotion of the interests of poets, it now comprises some 700 members. The League serves the poetry community and promotes a high level of professional achievement through events, networking, projects, publications, mentoring and awards.

### **Toronto Writers Collective**

<http://torontowriterscollective.ca>

The Toronto Writers Collective was founded in 2012 to encourage voice and illuminate undiscovered strength in Toronto's most vulnerable communities. The Toronto Writers Collective provides free creative writing workshops to those deprived of voice in our society. Writing with others in an atmosphere of dignity and respect, participants discover the value of their own stories.

### **Word on the Street**

[www.thewordonthestreet.ca](http://www.thewordonthestreet.ca)

Each year, Word on the Street provides 20 literacy organizations with free exhibition space in the Marketplace. Make sure to visit Literacy Lane this year to visit with the many different and wonderful literacy organizations that Toronto is home to, and learn how you can support their work.

### **Writers' Union**

[www.writersunion.ca](http://www.writersunion.ca)

The Writers' Union of Canada is the national organization of professional writers of books.

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## **MUSIC**

### **Canadian Independent Recording Artists Association (CIRAA)**

[www.ciraa.ca](http://www.ciraa.ca)

The Canadian Independent Recording Artists' Association (CIRAA) is Canada's only national non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to Canadian independent recording artists. With over 4,000 members across Canada, their mandate is focused on advocacy, education and member services.

### **Canadian League of Composers**

<http://composition.org>

The Canadian League of Composers (CLC) serves the interests of Canada's art music composers. Through advocacy, communication and partnerships, the CLC upholds and nurtures a favorable artistic, social, political and economic environment for its members and their work.

### **Canadian Music Centre**

<http://www.musiccentre.ca>

The Canadian Music Centre holds Canada's largest collection of Canadian concert music. The Centre makes available on loan over 20,000 scores and works of Canadian contemporary composers through its lending library. The Centre also offers an on-demand publishing service, music repertoire consultations, and is easily accessible through five regional centers across Canada, as well as through its website.

### **Folk Music Ontario Arts Council**

[www.folkmusicontario.ca](http://www.folkmusicontario.ca)

Folk Music Ontario supports the growth and development of folk music in Ontario by supporting the growth and development of presenters and performers.

### **Orchestras Canada**

<http://orchestrascanada.org>

Orchestras Canada is a national organization that contributes to the work of Canadian orchestras through programs and services in both official languages. Their website includes a job board, information about networking and learning opportunities and other resources.

### **Small World Music**

<http://smallworldmusic.com>

Small World is a celebration of cultural diversity expressed by one of the most potent tools available – music. A charitable organization, its vision is based on sharing cultural experience and ultimately, building bridges between cultures. It is about discovery and ‘opening ears’. In this role, the company has presented close to 400 events since 1997. It has hosted many Canadian debuts by international performers; has given a platform to dozens of developing Canadian artists of diverse backgrounds; and has established an international reputation for presenting innovative, risk-taking programming that uniquely represents Canada and Toronto, providing a space for cross-cultural bridge-building, education and understanding.

### **Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN)**

[www.socan.ca](http://www.socan.ca)

SOCAN is a not-for-profit organization that represents the Canadian performing rights of millions of Canadian and international music creators and publishers.

## **Songwriters Association of Canada**

[www.songwriters.ca](http://www.songwriters.ca)

The Songwriters Association of Canada exists to nurture, develop and protect the creative, business, and legal interests of music creators in Canada and around the world.

## **Toronto Musicians' Association**

[www.torontomusicians.org](http://www.torontomusicians.org)

The Toronto Musicians' Association, Local 149 of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM) is the Professional Association for musicians in the greater Toronto Area. A member driven association of 3,500 members, the Toronto Musicians' Association represents professional musicians in all facets of music in the greater Toronto area.

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## **THEATRE**

### **Canadian Actors' Equity Association**

[www.caea.com](http://www.caea.com)

Canadian Actors' Equity Association represents professional artists including performers (actors, singers, dancers), directors, choreographers, fight directors and stage managers, engaged in theatre, opera and dance in English Canada. Equity supports the creative efforts of its members by seeking to improve their working conditions and opportunities.

### **Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance**

[www.ipaa.ca](http://www.ipaa.ca)

Connect Indigenous performing artists, opportunities, communities through a collective voice, generosity, and inclusion.

### **Playwrights Guild of Canada**

[www.playwrightsguild.ca](http://www.playwrightsguild.ca)

Playwrights Guild of Canada is a registered national arts service association mandated to advance the creative rights and interests of professional Canadian playwrights, promote Canadian plays nationally and internationally, and foster an active, evolving community of writers for the stage.

## **Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT)**

[www.pact.ca](http://www.pact.ca)

PACT is the collective voice of professional Canadian theatres, a leader in the national performing arts community, and a devoted advocate for the value of live performance. Since 1979 PACT has focused on providing a community where theatre practitioners (both artistic and administrative) can come together to discuss important issues of the day and work together to create innovative solutions.

## **Generator**

<http://generatorto.com>

Generator is a mentoring, teaching, and innovation incubator that expands the skills, tools, and competencies of independent artists, producers and leaders. From intensive programs to workshops, Generator is transforming the role of the artist producer one artist at a time.

## **Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA)**

[www.tapa.ca](http://www.tapa.ca)

TAPA is the voice of theatre, dance and opera in Toronto. It exists to nurture an environment in which theatre, dance and opera may flourish and play a leadership role in the vitality of the City of Toronto.

## **Theatre Ontario**

[www.theatreontario.org](http://www.theatreontario.org)

Theatre Ontario is a not-for-profit association of professional, community, and educational theatre organizations and artists offering programs and online resources.

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## **VISUAL ARTS**

### **Artists' Network**

<http://www.artistsnetwork.ca>

Artists' Network is a not-for-profit arts organization based in downtown Toronto with a membership base of over 175 artists. It organizes the Riverdale Art Walk, operates Hangman Gallery and co-ordinates the Little Art Show.

### **Association of Francophone Visual Arts Groups (AGAVF)**

[www.agavf.ca](http://www.agavf.ca)

AGAVF is a national arts service organization that represents visual arts groups active in Francophone communities outside the province of Quebec.

### **Canada Arts Connect**

<http://CanadaArtsConnect.com>

This website offers resources for artists across Canada including job listings, information about auditions and calls for submissions.

### **Canadian Museums Association**

[www.museums.ca](http://www.museums.ca)

The Canadian Museums Association (CMA) is the national organization for the advancement of the Canadian museum sector, representing Canadian museum professionals both within Canada and internationally. The CMA works for the recognition, growth, and stability of the sector.

### **Emerging Artist Professional Network**

<http://www.eapnetwork.ca>

An online career resource and community network of over 3,000 arts administrators, managers and artists who are at the start of their careers and looking for opportunities to gain valuable access to online mentors and insight into the possible directions in which to forward their careers.

### **Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography**

<https://gallery44.org>

Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography is a charitable, non-profit, artist-run centre committed to supporting multi-faceted approaches to photography and lens-based media. Through exhibitions, public engagement, education programs and production facilities, their objective is to explore the artistic, cultural, historical, social and political implications of the image in the ever-expanding visual world.

### **Independent Media Arts Alliance**

[www.imaa.ca](http://www.imaa.ca)

The Independent Media Arts Alliance is a non-profit national arts service organization that promotes and advances the interests of a vibrant media arts community. Representing over 80 independent film, video, and new media production, distribution, and exhibition organizations in all parts of Canada, the IMAA serves over 12,000 independent media artists and cultural workers.

### **Ontario Crafts Council**

[www.craft.on.ca](http://www.craft.on.ca)

As a dynamic, member-based, not-for-profit arts service organization, the OCC exists to grow recognition and appreciation of craft and craftspeople by building a strong, talented, distinct craft community.

### **Ontario Association of Art Galleries (OAAG)**

<http://oaag.org>

OAAG's membership consists of over 200 art museums, public art galleries, artist-run centers, visual arts organizations, professional colleagues, and friends across Ontario.

### **Ontario Museums Association**

[www.museumsontario.ca](http://www.museumsontario.ca)

The Ontario Museum Association is the leading cultural organization ensuring a relevant and sustainable museum sector in the province for the benefit of Ontario residents and our global community.

### **Royal Canadian Academy of Arts**

[www.rca-arc.ca](http://www.rca-arc.ca)

The Royal Canadian Academy is composed of over 700 established professionals working across Canada in 20 visual arts disciplines; from painting and sculpture to architecture, design, fine craft, photography and filmmaking. Members are elected to the Academy in mid-career by a jury of their peers.

### **StART: Street Art Toronto**

[www.toronto.ca/streetart](http://www.toronto.ca/streetart)

StreetARToronto (StART) is a suite of innovative programs designed specifically for streets and public spaces. Initiated in 2012 as an integral part of the City's [Graffiti Management Plan](#), StART has been successful in reducing graffiti vandalism and replacing it with vibrant, colourful, community-engaged street art. StART programs encourage active transportation (walking and cycling), make our streets more beautiful and safe, showcase local artists, mentor emerging talent, reduce overall infrastructure maintenance costs and more.

### **The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition**

<http://torontooutdoorart.org>

Toronto's first, largest, and longest running outdoor art fair – providing fresh art, fresh faces, in the fresh air since 1961. Attracting an audience of over 100,000 people annually, and showcasing the work of over 350 artists, the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition prides itself on creating an environment which gives artists the chance to interact directly with the public in an informal setting, working to remove some barriers to access, and dispelling the formality of a traditional gallery or art fair experience.

### **Visual Arts Alliance**

[www.visualartsalliance.org](http://www.visualartsalliance.org)

Visual Arts Alliance (VAA), founded in 1981, is a non-profit, educational organization for serious practitioners of the visual arts and other interested members of the general public. At Visual Arts Alliance monthly meetings, guest speakers and workshops are presented to give a broader understanding of the many aspects of the art world. Not only are new techniques demonstrated, but an effort is made to help members with the business side of their craft.

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## **PROVINCE-WIDE ARTS ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario**

<https://sites.google.com/site/cppamo/>

Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario (CPAMO) is a movement of Aboriginal and Settler/immigrant artists working with presenters to empower the performing arts communities of Ontario through workshops, events and research.

### **Crafts Ontario**

<http://www.craftontario.com>

Formerly the Ontario Crafts Council, Craft Ontario is a not-for-profit service organization that works to have craft recognized as a valuable part of life. They promote and celebrate professional craft through providing member opportunities, and advocate for craft practice by educating and empowering diverse audiences.

### **Festival and Events Ontario (FEO)**

[www.festivalsandeventsontario.ca](http://www.festivalsandeventsontario.ca)

FEO has been representing the festivals and events industry in Ontario for over 25 years, making sure communities continue to produce unique, quality festivals in all corners of the province. Providing education, professional development and networking while fostering a community of passionate people invested in the festival and event industry, FEO works hard to deliver membership benefits that help support the growth of the industry.

### **FUSION: Ontario Clay and Glass Association**

[www.clayandglass.on.ca](http://www.clayandglass.on.ca)

Ontario Clay and Glass Association encourage and promote excellence and quality in clay and glass, provide opportunities for fellowship and a sense of community involvement, provide continuing education resources for members and people interested in clay and glass and to reach out, demonstrating tolerance, caring, and acceptance for the diverse aspects of expression in clay and glass.

### **Ontario Association of Art Galleries**

<http://oaag.org>

OAAG serves and represents Ontario's public art galleries as valued, essential, cultural and educational resources.

### **WorkInCulture**

<http://www.workinculture.ca>

WorkInCulture connects, creates, and curates training and tools that help arts and culture

professionals develop the business skills to match their creative talents, by

- Connecting employers and job seekers through the popular online Job Board;
- Connecting and collaborating with other arts and culture organizations to deliver
- professional development and business training to the creative community;
- Creating original thought provoking research, designed in conjunction with other leaders
- in the sector covering topics that are important to the community, and
- Curating information including research, links, tips, and resources.

## **FUNDING FOR ARTISTS**

### **ArtReach Toronto**

[www.artreachtoronto.ca](http://www.artreachtoronto.ca)

ArtReach Toronto is a program designed to support arts initiatives that engage youth who have experienced exclusion in under-served areas of Toronto.

### **Business for the Arts**

[www.businessforthearts.org](http://www.businessforthearts.org)

Business for the Arts aims to strengthen arts and culture in Canada by connecting arts organizations to business patrons and volunteers.

### **Canada Council for the Arts**

[www.canadacouncil.ca](http://www.canadacouncil.ca)

The Canada Council for the Arts provides grants and services to professional Canadian artists and arts organizations in: dance, inter-arts, media arts, music, theatre, visual arts, writing and publishing.

### **CUE Art Projects**

<https://cueartprojects.ca>

CUE is a radical arts initiative dedicated to supporting new generation artists who live and work on the margins. They recognize that throughout history, some of the most important artwork was, and still is, created by artists who practice outside of conventional frameworks: underrepresented artists who, by choice or circumstance, do not participate in capitalist culture nor share in its privileges. There are bright lights shining from the cracks and corners.

### **FACTOR**

[www.factor.ca](http://www.factor.ca)

FACTOR is dedicated to providing assistance toward the growth and development of the Canadian music industry. Support is provided to Canadian recording artists, songwriters, managers, labels, publishers, event producers and distributors through various programs. Whether an artist is looking to record a demo, full length sound recording, market and promote an already existing album or showcase and tour domestically and internationally.

## **Metcalf Foundation**

[www.metcalffoundation.com](http://www.metcalffoundation.com)

The goal of the George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation is to enhance the effectiveness of people and organizations working together to help Canadians imagine and build a just, healthy, and creative society.

## **Ontario Music Fund**

[www.ontariocreates.ca/music/the\\_ontario\\_music\\_fund.htm](http://www.ontariocreates.ca/music/the_ontario_music_fund.htm)

The Ontario Music Fund (OMF), administered by the Ontario Music Office (OMO), is aimed at strengthening and stimulating growth in Ontario's music companies and supporting this growing sector. The Fund is designed to drive activity and investment and to support Ontario's music companies and organizations in expanding their economic and cultural footprints within Canada and around the world.

## **Ontario Arts Council (OAC)**

[www.arts.on.ca](http://www.arts.on.ca)

OAC offers more than fifty funding programs for Ontario-based artists and arts organizations, with funds from the Ontario government. Grants provide assistance for a specific activity, support for a period of time, or for ongoing operations. OAC also offers awards, prizes and scholarships from private funds managed by the Ontario Arts Foundation. OAC's Access and Career Development program supports Ontario-based Aboriginal arts professionals and racialized arts professionals. The programs fund professional development and skill-building opportunities that advance the applicants artistic work and careers.

## **Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (OCAF)**

[www.ocaf.on.ca](http://www.ocaf.on.ca)

OCAF was established in 1999. It has three aims:

1. To increase cultural tourism by providing investments to assist Ontario organizations to develop, promote and present one- off or first time events, or a significant expansion of existing activity, which are designed to attract new tourists and visitors to cultural events;
2. Increase the earned revenue capability of the applicant organization; and
3. Support events that foster economic growth and contribute to job creation.

## **Ontario Media Development Corporation**

[www.omdc.on.ca](http://www.omdc.on.ca)

OMDC is an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport is the central catalyst for the province's cultural media cluster including book publishing, film and television, interactive digital media, magazine publishing and music industries.

## **Platform A**

[www.platformatoronto.com](http://www.platformatoronto.com)

Platform A is a collective of arts organization comprised of Art Starts, Jumblies Theatre, Sketch: Working Arts for Street and Homeless Youth, and Vibe Arts. The four organizations work in different areas of the city and have distinct engagement practices. The aim of the Platform A initiative is to fuse the strengths and experiences of the four organizations to support a shared vision of seeding sustainable, high-quality community arts practice, and providing increased opportunities and access to the arts for youth and communities.

## **stART: Street Art Toronto**

[www.toronto.ca/streetart](http://www.toronto.ca/streetart)

stART provides funding for street/ public art projects, partnership projects, diversion, and education programs.

## **Toronto Arts Council (TAC)**

<http://www.torontoartscouncil.org>

Toronto Arts Council is the City of Toronto's largest funding body. They provide grants to artists and arts organizations that contribute to the cultural life of the City of Toronto. TAC is committed to artistic excellence, innovation, and accessibility, and supports a wide spectrum of artistic endeavor and a range of activity that makes the City of Toronto one of the leading cultural centers in Canada.

## **Toronto Arts Foundation (TAF)**

[www.torontoartsfoundation.org](http://www.torontoartsfoundation.org)

Toronto Arts Foundation is a charitable organization that encourages artistic excellence and access to the arts throughout the city through private sector investment. Toronto Arts Foundation's vision Creative City: Block by Block is to connect every neighbourhood in Toronto with the transformative social and economic benefits of the arts.

## **Writers Union of Canada**

[www.writersunion.ca](http://www.writersunion.ca)

The Writers Union of Canada is the national organization of professional writers of books. They were founded 40 years ago to work with governments, publishers, booksellers, and readers to improve the conditions of Canadian writers.

## **Ontario Trillium Foundation**

<https://otf.ca>

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. OTF awarded \$108 million to 629 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario. For over 30 years, their core business has been to invest in community-based initiatives that help build healthy and vibrant communities throughout Ontario. OTF awarded \$108 million to 626 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario.

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## **COMMUNITY SPACES**

### **401 RICHMOND**

[www.401richmond.net](http://www.401richmond.net)

401 Richmond is a restored, heritage-designated, industrial building in downtown Toronto that is home to over 140 artists, cultural producers, microenterprises, galleries, festivals, and shops. The building is a thriving arts hub that is open to the public.

### **918 Bathurst**

<http://918Bathurst.com>

918 Bathurst st is a 8,000+ square foot, not-for-profit arts center and special events venue located in the Annex. They are home to Muse Arts and has a functional kitchen. Please note this space is not physically accessible due to stairs entering the building and leading to the washrooms.

### **AKIN Collective**

[www.akincollective.blogspot.ca](http://www.akincollective.blogspot.ca)

AKIN Collective is an art studio and shared workspace, with various studios in Parkdale and Bloordale Village. They have developed an affordable space that maintains a friendly and inspiring atmosphere suitable for creative endeavors. AKIN builds community through monthly art critiques and open studio events that offer

creatives the opportunity to share their projects, network, receive useful feedback and expand the scope of their practice.

### **Arts Build**

[www.artsbuildontario.ca/learning/making-spaces-for-art](http://www.artsbuildontario.ca/learning/making-spaces-for-art)

With so many facilities-related projects happening throughout the province, ArtsBuild wanted to be able to highlight the accomplishments of arts organizations in Ontario. Making Spaces for Art is a series of case studies, each telling a story of a facility in Ontario. Whether the story features a new build, a future project or an innovative renovation, this series is a look into the sustainable future of many arts organizations.

### **Dance Studio Rentals in Toronto**

[www.danceontario.ca](http://www.danceontario.ca)

Dance Ontario maintains listings of dance studios for rent in Toronto.

### **Ralph Thornton Community Centre**

[www.ralphthornton.org](http://www.ralphthornton.org)

The Ralph Thornton auditorium, program space and meeting space are available for use by the community.

### **Riverdale Hub**

[www.riverdalehub.ca](http://www.riverdalehub.ca)

Riverdale Hub is an innovative and affordable green work environment for progressive organizations and individuals.

### **Toronto Public Library**

[www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca)

The Toronto Public Library offers venues to Toronto-based artists and cultural groups wishing to be part of Culture Day. Their spaces are also available for rent for special events at non-profit rates (when applicable).

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## **ART SUPPLIES**

### **Curry's**

<https://www.currys.com/default.htm>

Curry's is a chain art supply store with locations in Toronto, Markham and Mississauga.

### **Downtown Camera**

<https://downtowncamera.com>

Downtown Camera is an independent one-stop camera supply store. They sell cameras, camera equipment and accessories, film and offer both colour and black and white film processing done at their in-house photo finishing lab. As a complete customer service store, we have knowledgeable and friendly sales staff that will provide you with the best advice on your equipment needs and continue to offer the same quality advice after you make your purchase. Should you decide to upgrade your equipment we can offer to buy or trade and sell to others looking for goods from our extensive pre-owned department.

### **DeSerres**

<http://www.deserres.ca>

DeSerres is an art supply store with three locations in Toronto.

### **Gwartzman's**

[www.gwartzmans.com](http://www.gwartzmans.com)

Gwartzman's is an art supply store in downtown Toronto.

### **Stevenson**

[www.dlstevenson.ca](http://www.dlstevenson.ca)

Stevenson offers professional quality paints for sale at a factory outlet store in Scarborough, as well as available for purchase through a catalogue.

### **Sculpture Supply Canada**

[www.sculpturesupply.com](http://www.sculpturesupply.com)

Sculpture Supply Canada sells tools, materials, equipment and technical support in Etobicoke.

### **Woolfitt's**

[www.woolfitts.com](http://www.woolfitts.com)

Woolfitt's is an art supply store located in downtown Toronto.

## EVENT LISTINGS

### **Akimbo**

<https://akimbo.ca>

Akimbo is a Toronto-based company that promotes contemporary visual art, video, new media and film locally, nationally and internationally via the internet, mobile and social. Established in November 1999, Akimbo has built a large and dedicated subscriber and reader base of Canadian and international visual arts professionals along with a client base of hundreds of the country's most important galleries, museums, art institutions, and media, film and video festivals.

### **Canadian Network for Arts and Learning (CNAL)**

<https://www.eduarts.ca/>

Over the past decade, CNAL, in combination with a dedicated network of like-minded organizations and individuals across Canada, continues to raise awareness, and building a network and brand, expanding membership to include artists, artist-educators, teachers, arts organizations, researchers, universities and advocates across the nation. CNAL has hosted profile building national conferences, launched relevant research studies, gathered valuable resources and made these easily accessible to the public. CNAL has successfully provided a nexus where Canada's arts and learning community connects with the ultimate goal of cultivating a more creative, innovative and prosperous Canada. Currently CNAL is constructing a digital map that will represent arts and learning across Canada.

### **Neighbourhood Arts Network**

<http://www.neighbourhoodartsnetwork.org/events>

Toronto Arts Online is a free, searchable, events mapping and listing database of Toronto arts events. Members are able to add to the community calendar to promote an event. Looking for something to do? Tailor your search to suit your creative interests using the search function!

### **NOW Magazine**

<http://nowmag.ca>

NOW is a free alternative weekly newspaper, the focuses on lifestyle, art and culture. The publication can be picked up in cafes, variety stores, clothing outlets, restaurants, alternative movie venues and in its green and red newspaper boxes. NOW is published every Thursday.

## **MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Art Starts: Artist Mentorship**

<https://artstartsto.com/mentorship-hub>

Art Starts provides customized mentorships for professional, youth, emerging, and newcomer artists through exhibits, performances, residences and professional development opportunities.

### **Coco Collective**

[www.misscocomurray.com/cococollective.html](http://www.misscocomurray.com/cococollective.html)

Are you a dancer who identifies as African, Caribbean or Black and reside in the Greater Toronto area? Miss Coco returns as lead mentor of this one-of-a-kind dance mentorship program for aspiring artists (18 to 25 years) seeking careers using cultural dance styles. Miss Coco Murray provides guidance to mentees who are navigating the dance landscape. The program includes movement vocabulary across the African and Caribbean diaspora, critical dialogue, trips, assignments, guest presentations and a performance opportunity.

### **Career Edge Organization**

[www.careeredge.ca](http://www.careeredge.ca)

Career Edge Organization connects employers to qualified talent through three unique programs. They facilitate the creation of meaningful work experiences to achieve business objectives and launch careers.

### **LIFT: Newcomer Filmmentor Program**

<https://lift.ca/community/call-applications-lift-newcomer-filmmentor-2019>

In 2019, LIFT relaunched their Newcomer Film mentor which supported participating artists with the development of their film projects. The goal of these self-directed mentorships was not to have a complete work by the end but to ensure that artists gain the confidence, connections and tools for thriving careers in their new home. The Filmmentor program provides the space and framework to indulge in creative exploration and education.

### **Sketch: Mentorship Program**

[www.sketch.ca/programs/mentorship](http://www.sketch.ca/programs/mentorship)

Sketch helps you design and develop arts and social change projects at SKETCH and in the Greater Toronto Area through mentorship that provides:

- One-on-one mentorship in community arts project development and management;
- Help writing grants to fund your project;
- Guidance on managing your project's budget and expenses;
- Support promoting and market your project and its events, and
- Assistance with evaluating and reporting on your project.

### **Toronto Arts Council: Newcomer & Refugee Artist Mentorship Program**

<https://torontoartscouncil.org/newcomer>

Toronto Arts Council's Newcomer and Refugee Artist Mentorship program was created to:

- Provide support for newcomer and refugee artists to develop their artistic practice;
- Support the integration and inclusion of newcomer and refugee artists to Toronto;
- Provides \$5000 to the newcomer recipient and \$5000 to their mentor;
- Supports the working mentor/mentee relationship as required.

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## **LEGAL RESOURCES**

### **Artist Legal Advice Services (ALAS)**

[www.alasontario.ca](http://www.alasontario.ca)

ALAS provides free summary legal advice to artists living in Ontario, Canada. For almost three decades, ALAS has been helping artists, actors, musicians, dancers, writers, and filmmakers address their legal problems. They typically assist with issues relating to contracts, defamation, copyright, trademarks and royalties or other payments. By appointment only.

### **CARFAC**

<https://www.carfac.ca/about/>

Canadian Artists' Representation/Le Front des artistes canadiens (CARFAC) is incorporated federally as a non-profit corporation that is the national voice of Canada's professional visual artists. Their mandate is to promote the visual arts in Canada, to promote a socio-economic climate that is conducive to the production of visual arts in Canada, and to conduct research and engage in public education for these purposes.

### **Cultural Human Resources Council**

<http://www.culturalhrc.ca>

CHRC brings together representatives of arts disciplines and cultural industries in the cultural sector to address the training and career development needs of employers and cultural workers including artists, technical staff, managers and all others engaged professionally in the sector. CHRC is supported by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). The organization's website includes a job board and information about careers in various artistic disciplines.