



Artist in Residence Information Package (2026)

Deadline for submission: September 4, 2026

Notification of selection: October 2026

Residency period: January – July 2027

No fee to apply

Program budget: \$50,000

About KDays:

KDays, an event owned and managed by Explore Edmonton Corporation, began over 130 years ago as the Edmonton Exhibition. Originally held by the Edmonton Agricultural Society at the original Fort Edmonton site, the exhibition was a celebration of technology and innovation in the late 1800s. People travelled from all over to experience the exhibition and see the latest advances in agriculture, industry, and science.

With rising interest in the Wild West and Alberta's heritage in the 1960s, the exhibition expanded its focus to blend modern innovation with historical tribute. As a nod to the history of the Canadian Gold Rush in Edmonton, the exhibition was renamed "Klondike Days". Through the renaming of the exhibition to the current KDays, the event has always served as a gathering place and celebration of summer for Northern Alberta.

Purpose of Artist in Residence Program:

Since 1879, locals have gathered at the Edmonton Exhibition. What began as a platform for the community to show off their best in agriculture and craft has evolved into a contemporary 10-day celebration of all things Edmonton. Nodding to the fair's original legacy, the Artist in Residence program aims to display the calibre, personality, and range of creativity existing in the local arts community.

[The call encourages artists to consider the themes of:](#)

- Local identity, community, and or storytelling



- The characteristics and opportunities of the physical event site
- Opportunities for audiences to interact or engage with the project and artist(s).

The Artist in Residence final product will be displayed in Klondike Park (see specifications of space below). The artwork is meant to be temporary, available only for the duration of KDays.

Eligibility:

- Individuals and/or artists collectives working in visual art and fine craft mediums who self-identify as emerging or mid-career artists
- Artists who have experience working with large public audiences is an asset
- Artists residing in Alberta
- Applicants from equity-seeking communities are encouraged to apply

Compensation & available resources:

- An artist fee of \$25,000 CAD, and an additional \$25,000 CAD budget for materials, production, and related project costs, to be determined collaboratively during residency
- Applications from collectives will be accepted, however, the overall program budget is fixed at \$50,000 CAD
- Mentorship opportunities with previous Artists in Residence
- Opportunities to connect with KDays staff throughout the year
- Potential access to materials KDays has on site to complete artwork
- KDays volunteers to assist onsite during the event with the artwork (schedule dependent)

Payment schedule:

Please note: payment dates and amounts are subject to change depending on the Artist in Residence and KDays' needs.

Amount	Date
\$10,000 CAD	Upon signing agreement
\$10,000 CAD	May
\$10,000 CAD	June
\$20,000 CAD	July 1



Selection Process:

A jury comprised of representatives from the community and Explore Edmonton will select the Artist in Residence based on the following criteria:

- Inspiring application and artist statement
- Project advances the Artist's professional development
- Has themes of local identity, community, and/or storytelling
- Considers characteristics and opportunities of physical event site (Klondike Park)
- Has opportunities for guests to interest/engage with project and/or artists
- Capacity to deliver

As part of the review process, prospective applicants may be contacted for an exploratory conversation before a final selection is made.

Artist Expectations:

- Liaise and meet with KDays staff throughout residency in a timely manner
- Meet all the deliverables outlined in the schedule below
- Create a minimum of one artwork that relates to the themes and purpose of the Artist in Residence program
- Attend KDays before and during the event for installation, maintenance, and deinstallation of artworks
- Provide a final report on the project and experience as the Artist in Residence
- Act as a resource for the subsequent Artist in Resident(s)
- Sit on the subsequent Artist in Residence Jury

Deliverable Schedule:

Note: the terms below will be specified in the official Artist in Resident contract

Activity	Date Due	Additional Notes
Notification of selection & contract signing	October 2026	
Residency begins	January 2027	



Ongoing project updates	January – July 2027	Artists are required to have regularly scheduled meetings throughout their residency term to further realize their project and provide updates to the internal team
Artist in Residence announcement (to the public)	February 2027	
Confirm setup and build plans	April – May 2027	
Project setup	Week before KDays starts (early July)	
KDays	July 16-25, 2027	Depending on the programming, artists are required to attend KDays for all days
De-assemble	Week after KDays	
Project wrap up meeting with KDays team, final report provided	End of July – early August	
Contract End	End of August	
Jury	TBA	
Mentorship	January – July 2028	Be available within this time period for any questions the subsequent Artist in Resident may have about your experience(s)

Klondike Park map, photos, and technical specifications:

Klondike Park is a 612-foot outdoor space located on 73rd street. It is used throughout the year as a meeting place and holds various programs and activities during KDays, such as the Klondike Train, seating areas, music, the gem mine, Premier's breakfast, and more!

The location is easily accessible for load-in necessities and is barrier free for accessibility needs.



Power and water are available in the space.





Contact:

Have any questions? Contact:

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