



# OHSOTO'KINO

## MUSIC INCUBATOR

### 2026 INFORMATION PACKAGE

Thank you for your interest in OHSOTO'KINO Music Incubator! We hope the following information will answer any questions you may have about the program.

If you need any clarification or have questions, please reach out to us at [programs@nmc.ca](mailto:programs@nmc.ca).



OHSOTO'KINO Music Incubator artist Brettlyn Rose performing at the 2024 showcase. Photo by Jaxi Barton.

## WHAT IS OHSOTO'KINO?

**OHSOTO'KINO** is a Blackfoot phrase which means 'to recognize a voice of.' This title acknowledges the Blackfoot people and the territory on which National Music Centre resides. NMC's **National Indigenous Programming Advisory Committee** leads the direction of the program designed to forge stronger bridges of understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Launched in 2022, OHSOTO'KINO focuses on three elements:

- Artist development through the **Music Incubator** program.
- Creation of new music in NMC's recording studios via the **Recording Bursary** program.
- Exhibitions via the annually updated **Speak Up!** gallery.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT  
OHSOTO'KINO**



2024 Music Incubator artists at work in the NMC Studios. Photo by CTV.



Grace Clark during a 2024 Music Incubator photo session. Photo by CTV.

## WHAT IS THE OHSOTO’KINO MUSIC INCUBATOR?

The **OHSOTO’KINO Music Incubator** is a five-day artist development intensive for Indigenous artists in Canada. Each year, six Indigenous artists will converge at Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre, to learn new skills, connect with music industry experts from across the country, and to hone their craft and professional chops.

The program includes career guidance and mentorship from Indigenous music industry leaders, sessions on professional development topics, and songwriting and performance workshops.

The program will take place from **Monday, September 14 to Friday, September 18, 2026**. This in-person program will be delivered in **Calgary, Alberta/Moh’kins’tsis**, located in Treaty 7 territory/Métis Nation of Alberta District 6.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

To apply for 2026 OHSOTO’KINO Music Incubator, please fill out the [application form](#). The current application period closes at **midnight on May 17, 2026 (MDT)**. If you have questions regarding the application, please email [programs@nmc.ca](mailto:programs@nmc.ca).

**APPLY NOW AT  
STUDIOBELL.CA  
/OHSOTOKINO**



2024 OHSOTO’KINO Music Incubator artist Grace Clark performs at the 2024 showcase. Photo by Jaxi Barton.



2025 Music Incubator artist Lacey Hill performs. Photo by Jaxi Barton.



2025 Music Incubator artist Trent Agecutay performs. Photo by Jaxi Barton.

## WHAT DO I GET?

As an artist participating in the OHSOTO'KINO Music Incubator program, you will be given:

- Participation in a five-day artist development program, which includes:
  - Networking opportunities with other artists and music industry professionals
  - Workshops and group discussions on various business and artist topics
  - Vocal and performance coaching
  - 1-on-1 mentorship
  - Live performance at artist showcase
  - Video interview content capture to be published on [NMC Amplify](#)
- Accommodation at a hotel within walking distance of NMC for the duration of the program.
- Travel stipends to assist with transportation and meals.

*Please Note: Special considerations of increased travel assistance will be given for artists travelling from remote communities.*

## WATCH OHSOTO'KINO VIDEOS ON AMPLIFY



2025 OHSOTO'KINO Music Incubator artist Damase Elis in the NMC Studios.



2022 OHSOTO'KINO Music Incubator participants. Photo by Brett Cassidy.



2025 Music Incubator artist Brandi Vezina performs. Photo by Jaxi Barton.

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Canadian artists within First Nations, Inuit, and Métis community of all genres, backgrounds, and skill levels are encouraged to apply.

### Artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Those who are within First Nations, Inuit, and Métis community.
- Those who have demonstrated excellence and a commitment to music.
- Those involved in projects with artistic merit that show promise and originality
- Potential impact of the project on the artist's career

NMC's [National Indigenous Programming Advisory Committee](#) will convene to review applicant submissions and select successful participants. Up to six individuals will be selected to participate in the program.

**NATIONAL  
INDIGENOUS  
PROGRAMMING  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**



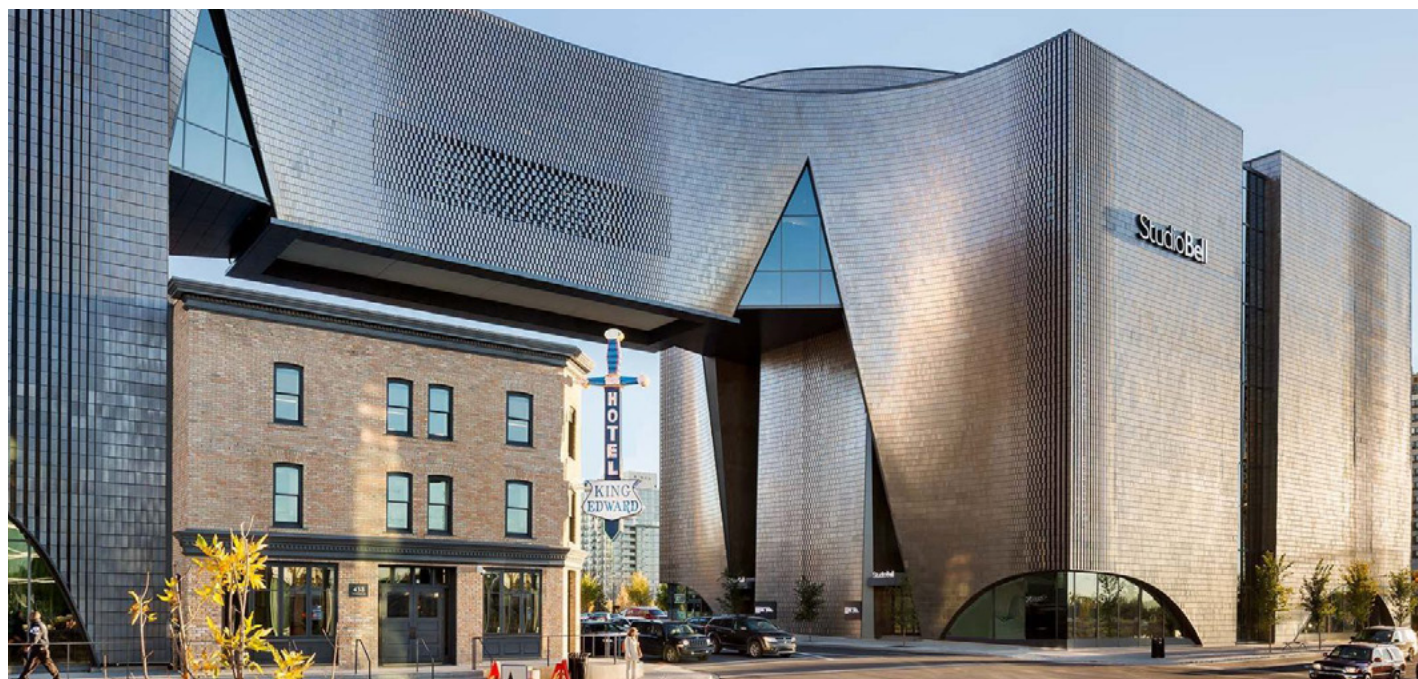
2025 OHSOTO'KINO Music Incubator artists with NMC Indigenous Program Advisory Committee Chair, David McLeod. Photo by Jaxi Barton.

## ABOUT NATIONAL MUSIC CENTRE AND STUDIO BELL

The National Music Centre (NMC) has a mission to amplify the love, sharing, and understanding of music. It is preserving and celebrating Canada's music story inside its home at Studio Bell in the heart of the East Village in Moh'kins'tsis (Calgary) on Treaty 7 territory. NMC is the home to four Canadian music halls of fame, including the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame, the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame, and Quebec's ADISQ Hall of Fame. Featuring musical instruments, artifacts, recording equipment, and memorabilia, the NMC Collection spans over 450 years of music history and innovation. A registered charity with programs that include exhibitions, artist development, performance, and education, NMC is inspiring a new generation of music lovers.

Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre, is situated at the confluence of Bow and Elbow Rivers in Moh'kins'tsis and the traditional Treaty 7 territory. This includes the Blackfoot Confederacy, the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations, the Tsuut'ina First Nations, and the Stoney Nakoda. City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, District 6.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT NMC AT STUDIOBELL.CA](https://studiobell.ca)



Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre in Calgary. Photo by Jeremy Bittermann.

## APPLY FOR THE 2026 OHSOTO'KINO MUSIC INCUBATOR PROGRAM AT [STUDIOBELL.CA/OHSOTOKINO](https://studiobell.ca/ohsotokino)

*OHSOTO'KINO is proudly supported by TD. Original OHSOTO'KINO brand design by Leticia Spence.*



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NATIONAL MUSIC CENTRE'S OPERATING PARTNERS

