

Institutional Presentation - The Banff Centre

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Abstract

The Banff Centre adds to Canada's and the world's cultural repertoire by commissioning, supporting, and producing new creative works. We develop multidimensional artists for the international stage in an artistically rich learning environment. Arts programs at the Centre expand the work and perspective of artists and practitioners in Canada and internationally. By fostering interdisciplinarity, experimentation and engagement with technology, for the production and dissemination of original work, The Banff Centre supports artists at the forefront of contemporary culture. Moving forward, the Centre will disseminate the art and ideas developed in Banff using new initiatives in digital, web, radio, and broadcast media.

Keywords

Residencies, Exhibitions, Digital Media, Culture, Banff, Canada

Institution Profile

Founded in 1933, The Banff Centre is a public Arts and Culture Institution located in Banff National Park. With thousands of artists, leaders, and researchers participating in our programs annually, we are the largest arts and creativity incubator in the world. The Banff Centre has become a key contributor to Canadian culture, influencing the careers of tens of thousands of artists over the past eight decades. The Institution draws participants from Alberta, across Canada and around the world to multidisciplinary programs that support the creation, production and presentation of work in Indigenous arts, digital media, audio, video, writing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics, photography, opera, music, theatre and dance.

All of our programs have a dynamic and innovative approach, with a flexible learning and creative development environment unlike typical academic structures. The Banff Centre also conducts applied research and fosters innovation in a variety of program areas, both independently and in partnership with other institutions and the private sector.

There are many types of programs offered at The Banff Centre – from residencies to workshops, summits, and practicum learning programs. Arts programs are at the core of The Banff Centre. Programming supports the commissioning and creation of new work by individual artists and arts collectives, and provides resources for individual artis-

tic exploration, collaboration, and applied research. Training and professional development is offered at the post-graduate level across all of the art forms supported. Work is showcased in public performance, events, and exhibitions throughout the year, and disseminated beyond Banff through the Banff Centre Press and Content Capture Unit. The Centre also partners with national and international arts institutions to bring art incubated in Banff to galleries, stages and concert halls around the world.

Visual + Digital Art residency programs at The Banff Centre offer opportunities for artists to engage with world-renowned faculty and peers, and gain new insights into the development of their work. Access to extensive facilities in photography, sculpture, printmaking, papermaking, ceramics, fibre, painting, digital media, video and audio is available. These programs are designed for professional artists with an exhibition record who have had formal training in visual arts, or equivalent experience and recognition from their peers; as well as cultural researchers in curatorial and critical studies.

In a setting that creates community and collaboration, program participants are respected for their important role as artists. Aside from the activities of their program, artists can participate in the larger community of the Centre, mingling with artists in all disciplines; attending world-class concerts, performances, readings, exhibitions, and other events; in the inspiring setting of Banff National Park.

Types of Programs

Residencies can be structured and a fixed length, or self-directed and a variable length. Artists may explore their medium in collaboration with other residency participants and leading faculty artists in the field, work with discipline specific studio facilitators for technical or conceptual guidance, or they may work independently in the development of a specific project.

Workshops are short, intensive programs that delve into a specific topic, skill, or discipline. Usually ranging from a few days to a week long, they offer the full experience of The Banff Centre including access to facilities and faculty. Workshops may include group sessions, master classes, one-on-one mentoring, critiques, guest speakers, and other activities.

Our Practicum learning program offers a training and mentorship opportunity that is ideal for emerging artists,

technical practitioners, and arts administrators. Participants work with an experienced mentor in the field to develop knowledge and skills for a specific career in the arts. The practicum program is usually several months to a year in length and offers participants fully scholarshipped tuition, a stipend living allowance, and subsidized housing.

Technology Specific Programming

With support from the Canada Council for the Arts the Banff Centre held a 3-day summit from the 27th to the 30th of November 2014. Convergence was designed to bring together artists and technology experts to explore how different art forms intersect with emerging technologies.

Art and technology play a major part of The Banff Centre's continued dedication to supporting the contemporary needs of artists. Banff Centre is also leading the way for interdisciplinary artistic practice not only in Canada but internationally. With Convergence, we created an opportunity where we could exhibit the work of artists who operate in the frontiers of the arts, where disciplines and technologies are evolving. There were two main components to the Summit: Convergence Speakers Series and Convergence exhibitions and performances. These events allowed The Banff Centre to lead a conversation about future possibilities for interdisciplinary practice and to look at where technology can help bridge the transition between disciplines.

We also hosted Convergence Lab, an interdisciplinary residency in creative technologies. Fully supported by The Banff Centre, this was an opportunity for artists to put the ideas explored in the summit into practice, by creating a collaborative technology-driven work of art that harnessed interdisciplinary expertise.

Media and Production

Fundamental to Media & Production at The Banff Centre is the belief that the creative sector flourishes through collaboration, and that the links and tensions across art, technology, and applied research have a critical role to play in describing and viewing contemporary cultures, and shaping the future. Media & Production extends collaborative, creative and technical expertise in media and interactive production to artists and other Banff Centre participants within a professional, well-equipped environment. Media & Production leads and supports all Banff Centre programs, including a variety of artist residencies, and programs across the Banff Centre that intersect with technology. As a multi-disciplinary department Media & Production responds to The Banff Centre's strategic priority of providing seamless engagement across and between disciplines.