

AIRS Program New Artist Application - 2026/2027

If you require assistance navigating or filling out this form please contact Yunuen Perez Vertti at yunuen@airsprogram.org to provide support or alternatives to this form.

AIRS Program: Overview

The Artist in Residence Studio Program (AIRS) is an equity seeking and artist led organization that brings the arts into under-served public elementary schools in Vancouver for children through long-term artist residencies. We work in collaboration with the Vancouver School Board to reclaim space within a school for a working studio where artists design and deliver high quality, community and justice oriented art making experiences for students (ages 6-13) and the school community. Residencies are one day a week for between 5 weeks (mentorship with 3 classes) and 24 weeks (full year with up to 12 classes).

AIRS Program: Artists

AIRS program artists are local professional or emerging artists who have a passion for inspiring and mentoring students and are interested in bringing their art practice into schools. Successful artists are placed with a school and develop a vision for their residency, in consultation with teaching staff, for age appropriate, inquiry-based projects for students and their teachers that is actualized within a studio space. Projects should support the development of perceptual and technical skill development through authentic art making processes and the exploration of ideas, issues or practices that are meaningful and relevant to students and their world. These projects can be conceived as individual or collaborative, permanent or ephemeral, and could encompass a range of visual media depending on the expertise of the artist. Each residency will include a school-based exhibition, installation or performance to showcase student work and engage the whole school community.

AIRS artists should be prepared to work consultatively and collaboratively with teachers and be committed to cultivating an environment of safety for creative expression that honours the diversity of student background, experience and ability and acknowledges the importance of indigenous perspectives. Artists must have prior experience working with children* and be willing to embrace the relational responsibilities and benefits of becoming part of a school community.

AIRS Program: Application process

Each application is considered carefully and reviewed by an independent adjudication committee including an AIRS artist, teacher, principal, equity consultant and Indigenous educator or artist. The selection criteria is outlined below as well as the application questions. Please take the time to answer each question as fully as possible. Note - there is an additional question for those applying for the mentorship and KPU mentorship program. You are not able to save your work or return to the active application form. You may use this guideline to compose your answers on a separate word document and cut and paste these back into the online form when you are ready. If you have any further questions about this application, please contact Yunuen Perez Vertti at yunuen@airsprogram.org.

* Indicates required question

1. Name *

2. Pronouns

3. email *

4. phone# *

5. Website

6. AIRS is committed to socially just representation in our artist selection process that reflects the diversity within our city and schools. To help us address systemic bias that has created barriers in opportunity for historically marginalized groups, please indicate whether you identify with any of the following equity deserving groups:

Check all that apply.

- Black
- Indigenous
- Person of Colour
- LGBTQ2S+
- Person living with disability

7. Please indicate which residency you are applying for. *

Please note: Unless you have prior experience working in schools, it is recommended that you include the AIRS Mentorship Program as one of your options. As we have relatively few full or partial residency positions, the Mentorship residency is sometimes the only available placement. We will not place you in a mentorship residency unless you check this as an option. **You may check more than one.**

Check all that apply.

- Full residency (full year/one day a week for between 18 and 24 weeks from October through May)
- Short term residency (shared or pilot residency between 6 and 12 weeks/one day a week).
- Mentorship Program (mentorship, training and 5 week/one day a week supported residency)

8. **KPU Sponsored AIRS Mentorship**

Kwantlyn Polytechnic University is sponsoring one KPU graduating student or alumni in the AIRS Mentorship residency program. Please indicate whether you are a KPU alumni and would like to be considered for this award.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, I'm a graduate or graduating student from KPU

9. If you indicated a short term residency or mentorship, please indicate when you could commit to a residency one day a week for 6 consecutive weeks within each period during the 2025/6 school year. Check as many as apply. *

Check all that apply.

- Fall 2025 (October-December)
- Winter 2026 (January-March)
- Spring 2026 (April-June)

10. If your application is successful, please confirm that you can attend a **mandatory two-day orientation** in Vancouver (location TBD) on **Friday, September 11, and Saturday, September 12.** *

Please note that all artists will receive an honorarium for attending.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes I can attend
- No, I cannot attend

11. Please provide the names and contact details for two references and your relationship to them.

Artistic Practice and expertise:

Students are inspired by artists who are deeply engaged and passionate about artmaking and can share its relevance to them in the world. We are interested in understanding your artistic practice, the ideas and issues that interest you and drive your creative work, as well as other areas of artistic knowledge and expertise you might have. When possible, we try to maintain a diverse selection of artistic practices.

12. What is your primary artistic practice? *

Check all that apply.

- Visual Arts
- Film/new media
- Theatre/Performance
- Dance/Movement
- Multimedia/ Interdisciplinary
- Other

13. If you checked other, please provide an alternative genre of practice that would better align with your work.

14. Please share any additional media and/or arenas of artistic practice that you could potentially bring to an AIRS residency with students. i.e. printmaking, installation, film, media arts, dance, performance, environmental practices etc. (Max. 50 words) *

SAMPLES

Please upload two samples of your recent work, along with a short description for each sample. We are particularly interested in recent community-engaged projects.

15. Sample 1 *

Files submitted:

16. Short Description for Sample 1 *

17. Sample 2 *

Files submitted:

18. Short Description for Sample 2 *

Education, Training and Experience

19. **Please upload an updated CV** (pdf or doc only) **that includes:** *
1. All relevant education, training programs, and apprenticeships.
 2. All work experience related to teaching and facilitation, including the duration, location, and age group of participants (children, youth, or adults)

Files submitted:

20. **Community Engagement** *

Please share an example of a community engagement residency, workshop or event that you have facilitated or collaborated on. Where and with whom did this take place? Briefly explain the purpose of this experience and what form it took. What was the value of this for you and the community you worked with? (Max 250)

Residency Intention and Approach

21. What draws you to share artmaking processes with elementary students within a school setting at this time? Why are you interested in being a part of AIRS program? (Max. 150 words) *

22. What do you feel is most important for students to learn and experience through the art-making process? (Max 100 words) *

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Reconciliation

AIRS is committed to providing culturally safe and inclusive studio spaces that allow students to be, discover, and express themselves authentically in an environment of non-judgement. AIRS works primarily in underserved public elementary schools with children with diverse cultural, religious and economic backgrounds, identities, experiences and abilities.

23. Please describe your relationship to indigenous culture, including permissions and protocols you will reference in your residency. *
- (Max 150 words)

24. Please share strategies you have or would use to create a safe an inclusive environment for a diverse student community. *
- (Max. 150 words)

Professional skills

As guests within public schools, AiRS artists must be willing to embrace both the relational responsibilities and benefits of becoming part of a school community.

25. We recognize that school is a challenging environment for artists and for many students. *
What skills or experiences do you have that would enable you to bridge the demands and expectations of working in an institutional setting whilst cultivating an alternative learning space and experience for students in the studio?

(Max 150 words)

26. Are you applying for Mentorship *

Mark only one oval.

Yes *Skip to question 27*

No

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM applicants only

The mentorship program provides a unique opportunity for local professional and emerging artists to gain experience in community engaged work within an elementary school context. Mentee artists design and facilitate a 5 one day a week residency with 3 classes of students in an established AIRS school and studio with the support and guidance of an experienced AIRS artist mentor. The mentorship program also includes orientation, studio visits, planning sessions, exhibition opportunity and a post residency interview. The residency portion will take place in either the Winter (Jan/Feb) or Spring (April/May) terms. This program is highly competitive.

27. Why are you interested in the Mentorship Program? Why do you think this program is right for you? (Max 100 words) *

28. What do you hope to learn through a mentorship residency? (Max 50 words) *

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

