

# MEDIA RELEASE



*For Immediate Release*

## Arts Commons Announces 2022-23 TD Incubator Season's Fellows and Curators for the TD Amplify Cabaret Series - Sargeant X Comrade

**May 26, 2022, CALGARY** – After its highly celebrated inaugural year, the TD Incubator program takes on a new artistic vision for the upcoming season with Calgary lo-fi soul music heavyweights, vocalist Yolanda Sargeant and producer Evgeniy "Comrade" Bykovets aka Sargeant x Comrade.

Each season of the program is guided by the leadership of the program Fellows. The first season of TD Incubator saw interdisciplinary phenoms Jae Sterling and Contra take up the mantle, providing artistic guidance for four cabaret performances and multiple exhibitions in the media galleries of Arts Commons exploring themes of artistic emergence from the pandemic: racial tension, cultural belonging, and rebirth. Inspired by the seemingly infinite potential of the human imagination, 2022-23 Fellows and genre-hopping musicians Yolanda Sargeant and Evgeniy Bykovets are excited to challenge the upcoming season's participants with the theme of "low-fi future."

*"It is a fun theme for artists to explore new possibilities and project their vision of the future," says Yolanda Sargeant. "New ideas are born within the imagination before they manifest themselves in real life. With this theme, we are creating new possibilities and exploring what it means to be human."*

*"Being the TD incubator for the 2022-2023 year we will be able to combine forces with other artists within our community of all disciplines to explore innovation through diving into the realms of the past, present, and future. Our project will highlight the contributions of those in the past as well as those who are currently within this realm to inspire artists for the future," adds Evgeniy Bykovets. "We are most looking forward to working with innovative minds to create new ideas and explore the future together."*

Built to support creatives working across artistic disciplines and those historically underrepresented in the downtown Calgary cultural scene, the TD Incubator program aims to accelerate the careers of 20-35 QTBIPOC interdisciplinary artists each season who reflect the diversity and vibrancy of Calgary. The participants of the program are engaged for an entire season and are provided with professional development, networking, and performance and exhibition opportunities to showcase their work while demonstrating how it is in conversation with the world around them.

"When we conceived of TD Incubator, we knew the ripples would be far reaching, and what we witnessed weren't ripples – they were waves that blended, expanded and crashed ashore in ways that only those working at the edges of their practice are capable of," says Josh Dalledonne. "After the success of our inaugural season, Sargeant x Comrade were a natural choice; these artists needed a new genre to define not only their sound, but how they approach the creative practice – I'm honoured they would trust us to join them on this intergalactic journey."

Artists are increasingly moving between and blending artistic forms, genres, and industries to better reflect, create connections, and make sense of the complex world around us. Arts Commons, with the support of TD Bank Group, is uniquely positioned to support them through Arts Commons' multidisciplinary programming, including visual and media arts galleries well as performance series like TD Amplify Cabarets. The 2022-23 season will build on the work established by the inaugural cohort to continue to support and grow Calgary's thriving interdisciplinary arts scene.

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*"TD is thrilled to continue to support Arts Commons and the vibrant artistic community in Calgary," says Robert Ghazal, senior vice president for branch banking in the Prairie Region. "Through the TD Ready Commitment, we are working to amplify underrepresented and diverse voices across the arts and culture landscape and create opportunities to share fresh and needed perspectives on the world around us, while helping emerging artists flourish."*

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For media inquiries, high resolution images, or more information contact:

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**Arts Commons** is the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada located in the heart of downtown Calgary. For over 35 years, it has been a key contributor to the social, economic, cultural, and intellectual life and well-being of Calgarians. It is home to six resident companies, including Alberta Theatre Projects, Arts Commons Presents, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Downstage, One Yellow Rabbit, and Theatre Calgary. It houses six gallery spaces, five theatres, and the Jack Singer Concert Hall, and promotes local, national, international, emerging and established artists with a focus on inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and equity.

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