

MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Arts Commons Announces 2023-24 TD Incubator Participants and TD Amplify Series Lineup, Curated by Calgary's Poet Laureate Wakefield Brewster

October 17, 2023 - CALGARY – The multidisciplinary artist development program that is establishing itself as a foundational part of Calgary's creative community, Arts Commons' TD Incubator, announces its 2023-24 participants this week. Under the artistic leadership of Calgary's Poet Laureate and TD Incubator program alumnus Wakefield Brewster, 40 participants are joining Arts Commons for live performances in the TD Amplify series, exhibitions in the media galleries of Arts Commons, and a year-long schedule of networking events, artist mentorship, and professional development workshops that launched its first session this past weekend. The program welcomes 40 participants including Adetola "a lot of Poetry" Adedipe, Vicki Van Chau, Kaja Irwin, Jiajia Li, Sandra Sutter, and Dizzy Waker. **Click here to see the [full list of 23-24 TD Incubator participants](#).**

After a rigorous curatorial process that began in spring 2023, the TD Incubator participants received their first introduction to the program with the TD Incubator Artist Summit from October 13 – 15 where they engaged in professional development, networking, and heard from panelists including Alberta Theatre Projects artistic director Haysam Kadri, Arts Commons VP of programming Sarah Garton Stanley, and CKUA senior producer Jasmine Vickaryous. They also took part in professional development workshops and met peers across artistic disciplines. Throughout the season, these artists will continue to gather to network with arts leaders, mentors, and celebrate the accomplishments of their peers. They will also engage audiences in TD Amplify, a four-part performance series where artists showcase, collaborate and blend their unique perspectives creating a buffet of styles – something for everyone to enjoy.

The TD Amplify series is a chance for audience members to be among the first to discover local talent, experience where the next wave of Calgary's arts and culture scene is going, and meet the artists themselves in the Engineered Air Theatre lobby at the after party. ***Wakefield Brewster Presents: Adetola "a lot of Poetry" Adedipe, Jiajia Li, Jocelyn Mah & James Watson, and Mandy Morris*** pairs spoken word poetry with dance and music in a cross-genre conversation on **November 17 & 18, 2023**. A Black History Month showcase, ***Wakefield Brewster Presents: M'Kayla Kingnetiman, A.N., Okechukwu Nnamchi and Dizzy Waker*** blends the histories of Black culture while matching seemingly polarized artistic disciplines on **February 9 & 10, 2024**. ***Wakefield Brewster Presents: Noreen Demeria, Kamika Bianca Guerra-Walker, Sandra Sutter, and Fatemah Tara Vahab*** fuses traditional and contemporary Indigenous song together with interdisciplinary performance art in an unconventional mix on **April 26 & 27, 2024**. The final showcase, ***Wakefield Brewster Presents: Jeremy Furlong, John Gerrard, Kaja Irwin, and Chloe Stankowski*** features artists approaching similar themes in totally different ways – comedy, movement, poetry, music and sound experiences, on **June 7 & 8, 2024**. Learn more at artscommons.ca/amplify.

Audiences to Arts Commons can also intersect with TD Incubator artists every time they visit the Broadcast Lab and/or +15 Soundscape - experimental media art spaces that shift every four months. Located on monitors throughout the building in the case of Broadcast Lab, and in the +15 walkway by the Scene Shop overlook, these galleries are free and open to the public.

Each season of TD Incubator is guided by the leadership of the program Fellow(s). The pilot year of the program saw Jae Sterling and Contra take up the mantle, with local R&B duo Sargeant x Comrade leading the cohort through the

MEDIA RELEASE



second year. Arts Commons is thrilled to continue the outstanding artistic leadership of the program with Wakefield Brewster.

"We are beginning to see the true impact of this program as we enter its third year" says Josh Dalledonne, Associate Director of Social Impact. "Wakefield – who was part of our first cohort – is a prime example of the career and artistic velocity some of the artists we've worked with are experiencing. Incubator artists are taking what they gain with us and are applying it to their career and craft in big ways – and this is a success story for Calgary as a city, that's the most exciting part."

"When I look at how people put themselves together, whether it's as a person or a practitioner, you take pieces from all over, through your life and experiences," says Wakefield Brewster, Poet Laureate of Calgary and TD Incubator Fellow. "It's about connection, co-creation, collaboration, and co-curation. Not all artists have to do everything together, but I believe this program will give all of them the opportunity to become better, more complete people and practitioners, because of the other artists. I'm hoping we can all connect with each other on a deeper level to achieve this. I believe that I'm where I am in my career because I worked outside of my poetry community and found new pieces to add to myself, and that's what I hope the TD Incubator artists get out of this year."

Part of Arts Commons Connects, the artist development arm of Arts Commons, TD Incubator has and continues to create essential connections between artists, mentors, administrators, and audiences. Through this work, it is establishing a critical foundation for Calgary artists to expand their practice and access the many resources available to them. Many artists have returned for multiple seasons to continue to support the development of their artistic practice.

Arts Commons Presents wishes to express our sincere appreciation to Naming Partner TD Bank Group as well as our friends at the Canada Council for the Arts.

For media inquiries, high resolution images, or more information contact:
Alex Bonyun, Communications Manager
403-870-2810 abonyun@artscommons.ca

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.

Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada, Arts Commons Presents is one manifestation of this mandate, achieved through the programming and presenting of our in-house series: BD&P World Stage, Classic Albums Live, National Geographic Live, TD Amplify Cabarets, as well as special presentations and our outdoor pop-up series, ArtsXpeditions. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists to perform, exhibit, reach new audiences, and grow on a multitude of levels.

-##-