

**Expression of Interest Deadline: Friday, April 24, 2026 at 5pm**

**Arts Mentor In Residence (Summer 2026)**

**July 6 to August 29 (8 weeks)**

**[Cedarbrae Branch, 545 Markham Road, Toronto, ON M1H 2A1](#)**

**Focus: Art & Entrepreneurship; Visual Arts Mentorship; Equity-deserving groups**

Toronto Public Library (TPL) invites applicants with extensive experience in the areas of visual arts mentorship and entrepreneurship to fill the role of TPL's 2026 Arts Mentor in Residence (ArtIR)

The ArtIR will serve as an industry expert and areas of focus may include, but not limited to, of visual arts mentorship, entrepreneurship and serving the needs of equity seeking groups. The ArtIR will lead engaging in-person programs, hands-on workshops and offer consultations. The ArtIR program is an eight-week residency July 6 through August 29 which will involve reviewing submitted arts based business ideas, artist statements and portfolios and meeting one-on-one with community members at the Cedarbrae branch.

The ArtIR supports the library's strategic priorities of:

- Social Connection, civic engagement and democracy: We will embed opportunities for social connection, civic dialogue and critical thinking in everything we do so that residents have the skills to sustain a healthy democracy
- Learning and growth: We will expand learning opportunities for all ages to develop multiple literacies and personal and professional skills so that residents can thrive, build economic resilience, and adapt to new technologies, such as AI.

- Awareness and availability: We will increase awareness and availability of library services, so that residents in every neighbourhood have equitable access to services that meet their changing needs.

While planning this residency, The ArtIR should use an equity lens to support inclusion of equity-deserving groups<sup>1</sup> and/or vulnerable populations. Toronto Public Library (TPL) invites applicants with experience working with equity-deserving groups to fill the role of TPL's 2026 Arts Mentor in Residence.

<sup>1</sup> Equity-deserving groups include, but may not be limited to: Black communities, racialized groups, women, 2SLGBTQ+ communities, persons with disabilities, immigrants, refugees and undocumented individuals, persons with low income, and vulnerable seniors. TPL is committed to reach, engage and reflect equity-deserving groups. TPL's Equity Statement can be found online at <https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/terms-of-use/library-policies/equity-statement.jsp>.

### **Qualifications:**

- A proven record of starting and successfully developing a small-to medium sized arts based business in Canada and/or proven record of established artistic practice for at least 5 years
- A minimum of 2 years of experience in inspiring and mentoring aspiring artists, including artists from equity-deserving groups and/or vulnerable populations.
- Experience as a community activator with a proven track record in community engagement and raising awareness in professional area of expertise
- Familiarity with reviewing and evaluating arts based business proposals, artist statements and portfolios, grant applications and maintaining a portfolio
- Experience and expertise in installing and hosting an exhibition or event
- Maintaining a website and/or using social media for arts based business purposes
- Experience with delivering programs and workshops to audiences of varying knowledge and skill levels

- Excellent communication skills in coaching, teaching and public speaking
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Experience working with the general public and program delivery in public settings
- An understanding of public libraries' role in supporting universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, experience, information and ideas in a welcoming and supportive environment.

**The ArtIR will have the following core responsibilities:**

- Create and deliver programs and workshops, along with support materials, related to their area of expertise
- Meet with library users and community groups through appointments to consult on visual arts mentorship, entrepreneurial work in arts industry
- Outreach to equity deserving groups and vulnerable populations
- Work closely with branch staff to plan and implement programs and one on one consultations

**Target Audience:**

The ArtIR collaborates with Toronto Public Library to create and offer programs and events to the public. The ArtIR is targeted at those who are looking to build knowledge, skills and mentorship through the arts and business expertise of the Arts Mentor in Residence.

**Requirements of the Residency:**

- A 8-week residency; 14 hours a week; flexible work schedule (112 hours total)
- Attend an orientation and planning session in advance of the residency (time spend at this orientation is in advance of the scheduled 8-week residency). The hours spent at the orientation are part of the total 112 hours.

- Consultation sessions to take place in-person at host branch location; the ArtIR will deliver any virtual request, for accessibility reasons, from the branch location.
- Minimum of 8 programs (workshops or lectures) during residency – Structure and format (e.g. length) to be discussed with library staff

**Remuneration:** \$8,000 for residency

**Location and dates:** The ArtIR will be at [Cedarbrae Branch](#) from July 6 to August 29, 2026. There may also be an opportunity to work with the surrounding neighbourhood branches of the host location to deliver programs.

The library will provide program space, supporting program materials and the support of library staff in program promotion, scheduling meetings and planning programs.

**Deadline to apply is: Friday April 24 at 5pm**

**It is important that all interested parties download their own copy of the Expression of Interest (EOI) documentation from:**

<https://torontopubliclibrary.bonfirehub.ca/opportunities/104243>

**In order to ensure receipt of further information pertaining to the EOI. TPL is not responsible for the distribution of information to those who obtain the EOI documentation through a third party.**

**Any submission response that fails to provide the requested documentation or that does not, in the view of the Library, contain sufficient information to permit a thorough evaluation may be rejected and not considered for evaluation.**

**To apply, submit the following documents through the Arts Mentor in Residence page on:** <https://torontopubliclibrary.bonfirehub.ca/opportunities/104243>

**Curriculum Vitae** – Include a summary of how you meet the qualifications listed above, which should include, but may not be limited to: relevant education, related work with community organizations, workshop/teaching experience, recently published papers/lectures, and links to website and social media presence.

**Program Proposals** – Outline your idea for at least 2 programs (e.g. workshop, lecture, meetup, etc.). A maximum of 3 pages.

**Reference** – A minimum of 2 relevant reference letters.

**Note:** The successful candidate will need to complete an **In Residence Contract Agreement** with Toronto Public Library.

Requirements include:

- Successful candidate must complete a Vulnerable Sector Check. The cost for the VSC is paid for by TPL.
- Residents must have or obtain required liability insurance for the duration of the residency, at the resident's own expense.
- Candidates selected for interview will be provided with a template copy of the agreement with TPL.

TPL invites applications from all qualified individuals. TPL is committed to employment equity and diversity in the workplace and welcomes applications from visible minorities, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity.

Upon request, accommodation will be provided for persons with disabilities through all stages of the recruitment and selection process.

### **Evaluation of Applicants:**

The following is an overview of the categories and weighting for the rated criteria of the EOI by which applicants will be evaluated.

	EVALUATION CRITERIA	SCORE
<b>Main Evaluation</b>		<b>50</b>
	<b>Work Experience</b> Professional expertise in the area of Art & Entrepreneurship; Visual Arts Mentorship; Equity-deserving groups	<b>15</b>
	<b>Education Experience</b> Educational levels considered in field of study: PhD, Master's, Bachelor, Technician / College	<b>15</b>
	<b>Program Proposals (2)</b> Two (2) program proposals submitted as part of application package. Assessment of programs based on quality and creativity.	<b>20</b>
<b>Interview Evaluation</b>		<b>50</b>
	<b>Professional Experience</b> Starting and developing more than one successful small to medium sized business in Canada and/or proven track record of established artistic practice for at least 5 years	<b>15</b>
	<b>Mentorship Experience</b> Experience developing Toronto's small business community by mentoring and inspiring new entrepreneurs with perhaps little or no business experience	<b>10</b>
	<b>Area of Expertise</b> Expert knowledge of evaluating business ideas, strong expertise with grant writing process, applying for grants, developing portfolio & arts	<b>10</b>

	statement and working with equity deserving groups	
	<b>Teaching and Coaching Experience</b> Experience with coaching, teaching and knowledge of how to engage audiences of varying knowledge and interest levels.	<b>10</b>
	<b>Community Engagement</b> Demonstrated commitment to supporting Toronto’s creative and entrepreneurial communities. Experience educating and inspiring developers and learners of all ages and skill levels.	<b>5</b>
	<b>Social Media Experience</b> Experience with social media in business and arts setting. Knowledge of social media strategy for arts based business.	<b>5</b>
	<b>Programming and Presentation</b> Creative/innovative approaches to engaging the audience with clear goals and objectives and strong ties to TPL’s Strategic Plan.	<b>10</b>
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>		<b>115</b>

To learn more about TPL’s ArtIR visit:

<https://tpl.ca/programs-and-classes/featured/arts-mentor-in-residence-program/>