Expression of Interest

Innovator in Residence (Applied AI Development)

October 1st – December 19th 2026

Toronto Public Library (TPL) invites applicants with education, professional and teaching experience in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) and applied AI development to fill the role of TPL's Fall 2026 Innovator in Residence (IIR) at North York Central Library's Digital Innovation Hub.

Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH) are learning and digital content creation spaces that support people in their development of creative and technology skills, with a focus on digital content creation: photography, imagery and art; audio and music; video, film and animation; 3D design. DIHs provide hands-on access to equipment and software, including Mac and Windows computers, audio and video equipment, 3D printers, and Adobe and other creative design software.

The Innovator in Residence will deliver in-person and online programs, workshops, and one-on-one consultations introducing and teaching the public and staff how to build with AI, with a focus on applied development, prototyping, and responsible practices for creating AI-powered tools, agents, and applications.

AI has known benefits and potential as well as risks and concerns. The IIR will provide an objective and balanced exploration of AI, with a focus on responsible and ethical development of AI through their programming, that is aligned with TPL's Artificial Intelligence Policy and Programming Policy.

The Innovator in Residence will collaborate with the Richview Branch and its Innovator in Residence (AI Literacy and Public Life) to plan and host a community-focused, solutions-oriented hackathon, bringing participants together to identify local challenges and develop AI-powered tools and prototypes, to be presented at the North York Central Library at the close of the residency.

The IIR program supports TPL's Strategic Plan priority of Learning and Growth and supports TPL's strategic objective to expand AI skills program options and increase access to AI software and technologies.

This enhanced residency is part of TPL's AI Upskilling Initiative and is made possible with support from Google.org.

Qualifications:

- Formal education and training in the field of computer science and artificial intelligence.
- Three or more years of professional experience in applied AI development, including building and deploying AI-powered tools, applications, or systems end-to-end.
- Advanced proficiency in Python and C/C++ for AI applications.
- Hands-on knowledge of AI frameworks and libraries (e.g. PyTorch, TensorFlow, Pandas/NumPy, scikit-learn) and AI-assisted development environments (e.g. GitHub Copilot, Cursor, Google AI Studio, Claude Code).
- Experience with teaching and facilitating programs and workshops about complex technical and theoretical topics to a wide variety of audiences and knowledge/skill levels. Coaching, teaching and public speaking experience related to core AI and data science concepts (machine learning algorithms, neural networks, and statistical analysis) is preferred.
- Professional experience working with public sector.
- Experience organizing hackathons or similar community events promoting civic engagement and innovation.
- Strong communication and mentorship skills, with the ability to present and engage complex topics with non-technical audiences.

Requirements and Core Responsibilities:

- A 12-week residency from October 1 to December 19, 2026; approximately 18 hours a week; flexible work schedule.
- Develop and deliver 3 programs a week in the area of applied AI development. Format and content to be discussed with TPL staff.

- Host 1-on-1 consultations for members of the public to provide constructive feedback on their AI-related projects or advise and answer questions about their learning goals, as it relates to the residency subject.
- Host one (1) TPL staff workshop about applied AI development.
- Collaborate with North York Central Library community and Richview Branch's Innovator in Residence to plan and host a community solutions-oriented hackathon. The IIR will use participatory methods to guide the hackathon, promoting wide-ranging perspectives and solutions from across the community.
    - **Please note:** The IIR agrees to allow TPL to use, modify, reproduce, and distribute creations produced during the residency and afterward. These terms will be detailed in a contract agreement between TPL and the Resident.

Target Audience:

The Innovator in Residence (Applied AI Development) program provides a unique and meaningful opportunity for an experienced professional to connect with and to support introductory-level learners looking to build knowledge, skills and confidence through exposure to a new technology or expertise.

TPL envisions the in-person programs being taught using relevant equipment and software available at the Digital Innovation Hub and online programs using approved TPL online platforms (e.g. Zoom) and tools freely available to users and that are compliant with TPL's Artificial Intelligence Policy.

Remuneration:

$16,000 for a total of 224 hours. There will be 1 to 2 orientation sessions outside of the 12-week period outlined that will be a part of the total 224 hours of the residency.

Location:

The residency will primarily take place at North York Central Library (5120 Yonge Street). Some programs may take place online on TPL's Zoom platform.

How to Apply:

Submit the following documents on the Innovator in Residence page on Euna: https://torontopubliclibrary.bonfirehub.ca/opportunities/105435

- **Curriculum Vitae** – Include a summary of how you meet the qualifications listed above, which should include, but may not be limited to, relevant education, work experience, and coaching/teaching experience, and links to website and social media presence.
- **Program Proposal** – Outline your idea for at least 2 programs (e.g. workshop, lecture, panel discussion, meetup, etc.). A maximum of 2 pages.
- **Hackathon Proposal** – Outline your plan to run a community solutions hackathon. Please note: the final plan will be developed as part of the residency and in collaboration with the Richview Branch's Innovator in Residence. A maximum of 2 pages.
- **GitHub Portfolio** – Link to your GitHub profile. A minimum of 5 repositories demonstrating hands-on experience with AI development and building AI-powered tools, applications, agents, or prototypes.
- **Reference letters** – A minimum of 2 relevant references.

Deadline to apply is end of day on Friday, May 15, 2026.

It is important that all interested parties download their own copy of the Expression of Interest (EOI) documentation from https://torontopubliclibrary.bonfirehub.ca 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.

Please 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.
- The Resident must have or obtain required liability insurance for the duration of the residency, at the Resident's own expense.
- Candidates selected for an 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 Persons, 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 criteria of the EOI by which applicants will be evaluated.

EVALUATION CRITERIA	SCORE
Application	
Curriculum Vitae • Meets the qualifications for the Residency.	**30**
Program Proposal • Two (2) program proposals submitted. • Quality and creativity of the program submitted. • Maximum two (2) pages.	**20**
Hackathon Proposal • Plan includes: goals, deliverables, a brief schedule, well-defined mentorship and support structure, clear technical support and troubleshooting plan, and a transparent judging process with clear criteria. • Maximum two (2) pages.	**10**

EVALUATION CRITERIA	SCORE
GitHub Portfolio • GitHub profile includes minimum of five (5) projects demonstrating model development, training, and deployment, with clear documentation and working code.	**10**
Reference Letters • A minimum of two (2) current reference letters. • Quality and relevancy of the references.	**5**
TOTAL APPLICATION SCORE	**75**
Interview	
Professional Experience • Three or more years of professional experience in applied AI development, including building and deploying AI-powered tools, applications, or systems end-to-end. • Experience organizing hackathons or similar community events promoting civic engagement and innovation. • Professional experience working with public sector.	**45**
Education • Formal education and training in the field of computer science and artificial intelligence. • Advanced proficiency in Python and C/C++ for AI applications. • Hands-on knowledge of AI frameworks and libraries (e.g. PyTorch, TensorFlow, Pandas/NumPy, scikit-learn) and AI-assisted development environments (e.g.	**30**

EVALUATION CRITERIA	SCORE
GitHub Copilot, Cursor, Google AI Studio, Claude Code).	
Teaching and Facilitation • Experience with teaching and facilitating programs and workshops about complex technical and theoretical topics to a wide variety of audiences and knowledge/skill levels. Coaching, teaching and public speaking experience related to core AI and data science concepts (machine learning algorithms, neural networks, and statistical analysis) is preferred. • Strong communication and mentorship skills, with the ability to present and engage complex topics with non-technical audiences.	**25**
TOTAL INTERVIEW SCORE	**100**
TOTAL SCORE	**175**

Applicants Interviews:

The Library may shortlist up to three of the highest-ranked applicants based on the total cumulative score achieved through the initial application evaluation, and conduct interviews with them prior to making an award.