



SONGWRITER-IN-RESIDENCE & PRODUCER-IN-RESIDENCE 2027 APPLICATION GUIDELINES



KIAC

North Klondyke
Highway Music
Society



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Yukon

RESIDENCIES AVAILABLE: Songwriter in Residence (1); Producer in Residence (1)

RESIDENCY DATES: All of January 2027

LOCATION: [Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Territory](#) - [Dawson City, Yukon](#)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 21, 2026 (11:59pm Mountain Time)

NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION: November 9, 2026

APPLICATION FORM: [Click here](#)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Since 2006, the Dawson City Music Festival has proudly operated an annual Songwriter in Residence program in partnership with the Klondike Institute of Art & Culture (KIAC), North Klondyke Highway Music Society, and Parks Canada. Each January, the program brings a songwriter to Dawson City for a month-long stay. The artist receives studio and living space at the centrally located and historic Macaulay House. Like [KIAC's Artist in Residence Program](#), DCMF's Songwriter in Residence Program aims to present an inspirational environment for creation, research, and community engagement.

DCMF opened [Goldensides Studio](#) in the spring of 2025. In 2026 we expanded our residency program to include a Producer in Residence in addition to the SIR. The two residencies will take place concurrently. Both artists will have full access to Goldensides.

[Past DCMF residents](#) have been shortlisted for the Polaris Music Prize, received Juno Awards, and performed at some of Canada's premier venues such as Massey Hall and the National Arts Centre.

ELIGIBILITY

This program is open to Canadian songwriters and audio engineers/producers aged 19+ with a professional practice. The program is open to artists at any stage in their career (established, mid-career, or emerging). Equal consideration will be given to all musical genres and the program is not limited to traditional lyric-based songcraft.

The residencies are designed to support two people (a songwriter and a producer). Applicants with children/dependents are encouraged to contact DCMF in advance of applying to discuss the possibility of accommodating your family's needs.

*100% of travel costs are only guaranteed within Canada. Travel allowances for international applicants will be discussed upon acceptance into the program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Songwriters and Producers must apply for the residency separately; however, pairs of artists with a pre-existing working relationship or a desire to collaborate may apply to be residents together. Solo applicants are also encouraged. If selected, solo applicants will be matched with an artist working in the opposite discipline. The two residencies are concurrent.

Applications must be submitted through the online form available [HERE](#). Please ensure the form is complete prior to submitting. The deadline for applications is October 21, 2026 at 11:59pm Mountain Time. Applications will only be considered if received through the online application form. Should DCMF require further information you will be contacted - please do not email links, videos, attachments, etc.

SELECTION PROCESS

A Selection Committee, made up of DCMF Board Members and members of the local music community, will assess applications based on the following criteria:

- Suitability of proposed self-directed work to the program and its facilities
- Originality and suitability of the presented outreach activity to the organization and community
- Demonstrated professional practice
- Artistic work that resonates with our selection committee

The selected artist will be notified no later than November 9, 2026.

WHAT IS PROVIDED TO RESIDENTS

DCMF provides the following for each resident during the program:

- Fully equipped housing accommodations and basic studio space in the historic Macaulay House (private bedrooms, shared kitchen, bathroom and living room);
- Access to DCMF equipment and facilities, including our newly opened Goldensides Studio. Goldensides is a 24-channel, professional digital recording studio located a ten minute walk from the residence.
- Gear and resources from the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture, which include video and sound equipment, art supplies, printing facilities, darkroom and a performance space;
- \$1000 honorarium;
- Travel to and from Dawson City (within Canada) and ground transportation in the Yukon.

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM OUR RESIDENTS

Residency participants are expected to:

- Spend the month of January in Dawson City and actively work on their craft during that time;
- **Songwriters:** Perform one public concert and facilitate one public outreach activity such as a talk, presentation, or workshop to promote interaction, engagement, and/or professional development within the community;
- **Producers:** Support a local recording project (parameters to be mutually agreed upon) and facilitate one public outreach activity such as a talk, presentation, or workshop to promote interaction, engagement, and/or professional development within the community;
- Be approachable, participatory, considerate, and culturally respectful;
- Be willing to exchange, share ideas and knowledge, and learn from and with our community;
- Abide by DCMF's Code of Conduct.

The residencies are self-guided and not outcome-based. The artist will structure their time based on their unique artistic goals, with consideration for the required public performance and outreach activity.

GOALS

- To provide professional songwriters and producers with unrestricted time and space to research and develop existing and/or new material, techniques, or interests.
- To introduce artists to the North in a meaningful and respectful way.
- To provide our community with a live concert and community engagement activities hosted by a professional artist.
- To provide opportunities for collaboration between visiting artists and Yukon songwriters and musicians.
- To provide Dawson City with exposure and access to a wide range of contemporary music.
- To promote interaction, engagement, and foster an appreciation for the arts.

RESIDENCY DATES

The residency will be for the month of January 2027. Exact dates will be agreed upon - the selected residents must be available for the full month of January.

FEES

There is no residency fee or application fee. DCMF will pay each resident a \$1,000 CAD fee as an honorarium upon completion of the residency.

TRAVEL

DCMF will provide return airfare to Dawson City from anywhere in Canada. Mileage may be considered if travel by car is feasible. DCMF will coordinate and book travel. Travel allowances for international applicants will be discussed upon acceptance into the program.

PERFORMANCE (SONGWRITER)

The Songwriter in Residence is required to perform one public concert during their residency. This generally takes place in the ballroom at the Klondike Institute of Art & Culture. The performance date shall be confirmed and arranged in advance with DCMF. The duration of the performance shall be approximately 60mins.

Additional Performances

The artist may secure other public performances in Dawson City during their residency but any such engagements must be approved by DCMF in advance. Performance or outreach engagements in other Yukon communities may also be possible.

RECORDING PROJECT (PRODUCERS)

The Producer in Residence is required to assist with a local recording project during their time in Dawson. Once selected, the parameters of this project will be clearly defined and mutually agreed upon. It could take the form of mentoring a local engineer during a session or taking the lead on producing a song for a local band. The scope of work and hours will be clearly defined so that it is achievable and does not detract from the Producer in Residence's primary aim: to work on their own craft.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Each resident will also engage in a community outreach project. Outreach activities are most commonly presented as workshops or talks, but can include other formats such as instructional songwriting sessions, music industry discussions, recording workshops, drop-in experimental sessions, or unique initiatives with youth or elders. These projects often provide training, mentorship, or professional development opportunities for local musicians but can also be designed for the general public or specific community groups.

The style, content, method of delivery, and desired outcomes are at the discretion of the artists. DCMF will advise and work with the artist to facilitate the outreach project and ensure it is feasible and appropriate for our community.

EMPLOYMENT

The artist is expected to arrive financially prepared to spend the bulk of the residency working on their craft. We recognize that music is not the sole source of income for many artists, and therefore, other employment (remote or otherwise) is permitted. If working in addition to participating in the residency, the artist must be available for all scheduled DCMF engagements and have flexibility in their schedule.

The residency provides unrestricted time and space to research, develop, and produce ongoing and/or new material, or work on related activities. DCMF requires and trusts that the resident will take full advantage of this time.

FACILITIES

The Macaulay House, constructed in 1901, is home to the residency program. This two-story furnished home is part of the Klondike National Historic Sites Complex and is centrally located at Princess Street and 7th Avenue. There are two individual studio spaces (desk and chair provided) and two bedrooms to choose from, as well as a living room, bathroom, fully equipped kitchen, and laundry facilities.

Selected artists will share the Macaulay house for the duration of their residency. Each artist will get their own private bedroom, and will share the bathroom, kitchen and other common areas. Artists who have applied individually will be paired with another artist of the alternate discipline (songwriter will be paired with a producer and vice versa).

The house is over 100 years old. It has been serving as an artist residence for over 20 years and hundreds of artists have passed through during that time. It is comfortable, clean and warm; it's a quirky and beloved gathering place for the community. There will be a maintenance person on call to respond to any issues that you may have with the house.

There is also lore in the community that Macaulay House is haunted. If that is true, it is haunted by a benevolent ghost. Hundreds of visitors have stayed there over the years without incident. That said, you will hear stories from local residents and we don't want to disguise this aspect of the residency. It is an old house with radiant heat and ravens on the roof. There are sometimes strange noises. If this freaks you out, then this residency may not be for you. Again - Macaulay House is well loved and hundreds of artists have had amazing experiences at the residence.

The house has high-speed wireless internet. The package is basic - any extra usage costs will be billed to the resident. Unlimited high-speed wireless is available at the DCMF facilities.

Pets are not permitted (service animals are an exception). Smoking is not permitted inside.

Artists will also have access to DCMF's Goldensides recording studio, a fully equipped, professional 24-channel digital recording studio. The studio is available 24/7 and is located a short walk from Macaulay House. A full inventory of the studio's gear is available upon request.

Residents will also have access to resources at the Klondike Institute of Art & Culture, including video and sound equipment, art supplies, printing facilities, darkroom, and performance space as available.

NOTE - alternative accommodations are not available. We encourage you to address any concerns in advance of application. Should residents not be satisfied with the accommodations provided it will be their responsibility to find alternative arrangements should they wish to remain in Dawson. DCMF is not responsible for any additional costs.

ACCESSIBILITY

The house is situated on a dirt road. A small ditch and uneven, rocky ground lead to a step up to a boardwalk, leading to six steps up to the front door. The door has a one-inch wooden lip on the bottom of the door frame. Inside, there is a small entryway/mudroom with a door entering the main house. The laundry, kitchen, living room and one studio are located on the main floor. The second floor, up a flight of stairs, hosts two bedrooms, a washroom (step-over tub with showerhead) and a second studio space.

Dawson City is made up of dirt roads and elevated, uneven wooden boardwalks (with no curb cuts) exacerbated by snow banks and ice in the winter. In January, there is limited daylight so the artist can expect to be in the dark when outside, except for a few afternoon hours.

There is no public transit or taxis in Dawson. Many residents walk throughout the winter despite the colder temperatures as the townsite is small and amenities are close. DCMF will provide transportation to and from the airport for the artist. Please get in touch with us if you require further accessibility-related descriptions or photographs.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN DAWSON CITY

Dawson City is a unique, small, and isolated northern town located within the traditional and contemporary territory of the [Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in](#), a self-governing First Nation who have lived along the Yukon River since time immemorial. Situated at the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon rivers, Dawson City is 230 km south of the Arctic Circle. It is 536km northwest of Whitehorse – approximately 6.5 hours driving, or one hour by air.

Dawson is a diverse and active community with many opportunities for program participants. In January, temperatures can range from -10 to -50 Celsius, and daylight averages approximately five hours each day. Because Dawson City is located in a valley, direct sunlight is rare. Skiing, snowmobiling, curling, hockey, and taking in the northern lights are popular wintertime activities. The [City of Dawson](#) is a great resource for info on recreational programs, and the [Klondike Visitors Association](#) keeps tabs on local events and other activities.

Tombstone Territorial Park, a 2,200 km² area of unique wilderness, is a ninety minute drive from Dawson up the Dempster Highway. It is stunning year-round, filled with rugged peaks, permafrost landforms, and wildlife. The area's Hän name, Ddhäl Ch'èl Cha Nän, means "ragged mountain land." The park is a legacy of the [Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in](#) Final Agreement.

Dawson City is known for its vibrant arts and cultural scene, including [Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre](#), [Yukon School of Visual Arts](#), [ODD Gallery](#), and the [Klondike Institute of Arts and Culture](#) (KIAC), in addition to the Dawson City Music Festival. KIAC provides extensive arts education and programming, hosting workshops, concerts, performances, classes, and festivals throughout the year. In addition, local bars host live music, open mic, and karaoke nights.

Residents should be aware of the location and isolation of Dawson City. The cost of living is higher than in many parts of Canada. Some products, supplies, and services are unavailable or challenging to find. Dawson City has various shops, including two grocery stores, a hardware store, a well-stocked gas station/convenience store, a bookstore, a pharmacy, a Canada Post office, and more. One bank is available, CIBC, with 24 hour bank machine access.

The remote location of Dawson City means that at times, the community may occasionally be without internet service - this is not a regular, anticipated occurrence but service has been interrupted for up to 16 hours in the recent past. The loss of cellphone and landline phone services is less likely but can occur. These services require restoration outside of Dawson if outages do occur, so unfortunately a loss of service for several hours is normal. Power outages do occur but are usually resolved very quickly by local technicians and services. Expect the unexpected.

Do not let January in the north scare you – previous residents have immersed themselves in the community and have found it an enriching, once-in-a-lifetime experience! In addition to valuable, unrestricted time to create, artists have also found their outreach activities to be unique and rewarding. Outreach has included mentoring aspiring songwriters, collaborating with local musicians, hosting experimental noise sessions, leading workshops at the local public school, and working closely with elders in the community. Dawson City is a welcoming town where it's easy to get involved - artists have enjoyed learning the ropes at the CFYT community radio station, volunteering for local events, and exploring this scenic area of the North we call home.

CODE OF CONDUCT

DCMF is committed to fostering a harassment-free environment and cultural experience where people are treated with respect and dignity. The Code of Conduct is one part of our ongoing work and commitment to creating safer cultural spaces. DCMF operates on the principle of respect for all artists, audience members, employees, organizers, participants, vendors, volunteers, and the communities within Dawson, including the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon territory as a whole. The Festival, our year-round activities, and the organization as a whole are a celebration of art, community, friendship and caring. We strive to infuse those values into all that we do.

All program participants are expected to abide by our Code of Conduct, which is to be signed upon acceptance into the program.

We value freedom of expression, creativity, spirited celebrations, and a relaxed environment but not at the expense of others' rights to feel safe and free from harm, and not at the cost of professionalism, care and respect. DCMF does not tolerate ableism, ageism, cultural appropriation, racism, or discrimination; assault or violence; fatphobia, gender discrimination, homophobia, sexism, sexual harassment or transphobia; unsolicited and inappropriate sexual attention or touching; or any other behaviour or language that may perpetuate violence, oppression or discrimination. No one should feel uncomfortable or unsafe by your actions or opinions.