

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Luminato Festival Toronto Welcomes New Cohort of Artists in Residence

Residency deepens commitment to local artists by expanding
to a 6-month paid program

Toronto, Canada – Luminato Festival Toronto (Luminato) is pleased to announce the 2022 cohort of 5 local artists in its Artists in Residence (AIR) program.

Luminato's AIR program is a residency for Toronto-based mid-to-senior career artists, working in any genre or medium, who are prepared to expand their professional network, share their knowledge with other artists, and develop their personal practices in ways that reflect Luminato's mandate for visionary large-scale works. A committee of arts community leaders and Luminato team members selected 5 provocative local artists from over 85 applications.

Biographies of the new artists in residence follow, and biographies of previous AIR cohorts can be found [here](#).

At Luminato, we believe that creating space for artistic practices away from the pressures of the gig-economy is essential to the healthy and dynamic growth of individuals, communities, and cities. Led by Associate Artistic Director, Dian Marie Bridge, Luminato has expanded the 2022 residency into a 6-month paid program in support of this belief. The residency focuses on intentional relationship building between artists and their communities. It is structured around group workshops, dinners, walks, informal conversations, and other strategies which cultivate relationships and expand networking opportunities. The 5 resident artists are encouraged to deepen affiliations with other artists working in different mediums while continuing to develop their own projects.

"The AIR program is designed to support and enhance each participant's individual project, evaluate the artist's role and responsibility in society, and to propel them into the next phase of their work. The program focuses on connecting artists to Luminato's resources, international networks and, most importantly, to each other," says Luminato Associate Artistic Director, Dian Marie Bridge.

The inaugural AIR cohort convened in July 2020 as a direct response to industry-wide calls for arts organizations to examine their practices in relation to access, equity, and inclusion. The 2020 summer AIR program hosted 10 Black GTHA-based artists led by Dian Marie Bridge. The 2020 fall AIR cohort welcomed 10 Indigenous artists under the facilitation of Luminato

Curatorial Associate, Denise Bolduc. This year's program welcomes 5 artists from a diversity of communities and artistic practices.

"The pandemic has underscored how and where arts and culture organizations must step up to address the inequities and exclusions within the sector," says Luminato CEO, Celia Smith. "It has also demonstrated that we need the creative vision of artists to help us build our collective future. AIR is one of the ways we're investing in local artists from diverse perspectives and practices who are actively shaping the future of arts and culture in our city."

For more information about the AIR program and the Artists please visit:
<https://luminatofestival.com/Our-Programming/Artists-in-Residence>

Luminato's Artists in Residence Program is Generously Supported by



About Luminato Festival Toronto

Luminato Festival Toronto is an international arts festival dedicated to performance, media and visual arts, and programming that cuts across traditional art form boundaries. Luminato works closely with Canadian artists to support the development and creation of distinctive new work, as well as presenting artists from around the world. For more information, visit luminatofestival.com or follow us @Luminato (T), @LuminatoFestival (FB/IG)

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To connect with AIR artists or Luminato, please contact

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AIR 2022 SELECTION COMMITTEE

Dian Marie Bridge, Associate Artistic Director, *Luminato Festival Toronto*

Natasha Courage Bacchus, Olympian, performer, 2020 AIR participant

Sally Frater, Curator, Executive Director, *Oakville Galleries*

Nadine Villasin Feldman, Director of Programming, *Myseum of Toronto*

Ashley McKenzie Barns, Curator, Creative Director, Design Lead

Kafi Pierre, Producer (AIR), *Luminato Festival Toronto*

Sarah Barrable-Tishauer, Partnership and Events Manager, *Luminato Festival Toronto*

Tamar Ilana Cohen Adams, Social Media Coordinator, *Luminato Festival Toronto*

Cassandra Popescu, Digital Content Manager, *Luminato Festival Toronto*

AIR 2022 ARTISTS

ADEYEMI ADEGBESAN

Multi-disciplinary Visual Artist

yungyemi.com



Adeyemi Adegbesan is a Toronto-based multi-disciplinary artist whose practice aims to examine the intersectionality of Black identity. Reflecting on Blackness through pre-colonial, colonial, present day and future timelines, across regions, religions, varying levels of income and political lines, Adegbesan examines the dichotomy of the richness of Black experiences within the imposed societal homogeneity of 'Blackness'. Through his work Adegbesan pulls from these varying elements to create Afro-futuristic portraits that embody the history and future of Black culture.

Photo of Adeyemi Adegbesan by Jodianne Beckford

ANSLEY SIMPSON

Musician, Artist, Writer

ansleysimpson.com



Ansley Simpson is a Michi Saagiig Nishnaabe musician, artist, writer and member of Alderville First Nation known for poetic lyrics, deeply moving vocal-only performances, and dream-like arrangements. The Tkaronto-based songwriter garnered two Indigenous Music Nominations and won Best New Artist in 2018 for their debut album *Breakwall*. In 2021, their collaborative work on Leanne Betasamosake Simpson's album *Theory of Ice* landed a coveted place on the shortlist for the Polaris Prize. Ansley's a natural performer that holds audiences spellbound with storytelling embedded both in and out of their songs. Their songwriting process was featured in an episode of APTN's Indigenous music series *Amplify* for their single *Firewater* and their original score enlivened the powerful message throughout Tanya Talaga's award-winning documentary *Spirit to Soar*. Ansley's highly anticipated sophomore album, *She Fell from the Sky*, is a journey through Indigenous reclamation coming out winter 2022 on their label Gizhiwe (GIH-jzee-way).

Photo of Ansley Simpson By Jeff Bierk

CANDICE DIXON

Costume Designer

sugacayne.com



Since 2011, Candice Dixon has been designing and producing costumes for Caribbean carnivals globally. Her approach builds on traditional craftsmanship rooted in Caribbean culture combined with advanced digital fabrication methods. In 2016, she was awarded the "Access and Career Development" grant through the Ontario Arts Council, where she traveled to Trinidad to mentor under some of the most revered Caribbean carnival costume designers. Since 2017, her company SugaCayne has been incubated by the Design Fabrication Zone at X University (Ryerson). As design lead, SugaCayne have produced three projects bringing the craft of carnival arts to X University and OCAD students. These costume projects were the first in the world to incorporate 3D-printing and laser-cut technologies into carnival arts. The designs have been published by media outlets like Breakfast Television, CP24,

NOW Magazine and others, and have been exhibited in the Design Exchange Museum, the Royal Ontario Museum, and Toronto City Hall.

LISA PIJUAN-NOMURA

Storyteller, Visual Artist



Lisa Pijuan-Nomura (she/they) is a queer multidisciplinary artist living and working in Hamilton, Ontario. For the past 25 years she has been creating performance pieces using movement, sound, and story together with collage. She has travelled her one woman shows sharing stories of survival, ancestry, history, and food. After moving to Hamilton in 2012, she has co-founded The Hamilton 7 Professional Storytelling Collective and Mighty Brave Youth Arts. In 2022 she hopes to begin a new body of work combining large 6'x6' collages that explore aging, coming out older, women in history, and pop culture. Combining each art

piece with story, sound, and movement will culminate in an immersive art experience for the artist.

VIV MOORE

Dancer

vivmoore.com



Born in England, Viv has danced, choreographed, and acted, both collaboratively and as a solo artist since 1979 (Australia, England, Sweden, Canada). She has studied Dance, Acting, Clown, Bouffon, Butoh, and Stage Combat. Selected credits include: Co-founded Remote Control with Dave Wilson (1979); Fujiwara Dance, Sashar Zarif, Allison Cummings (Dance); Theatre Rusticle (Actor); Damien (Actor, A&E TV); Theatre Direct (Choreography); outside eye/Movement Coach - dance and theatre productions; community dance - London, England and Canada (RNIB, CNIB, deaf & partial hearing, multi-abilities, psychiatric survivors); Past

National Coordinator of Fight Directors, Canada; Dance/Movement Professor, Humber College; curator/festival presenter (60x60), Nuit Blanche (Dance Ontario, Distillery); Artistic Director Body Percussion Festival; Received: Harold (1998-99); Paula Citron 1999 FIDA Award (Bogie Woman) and several Dora nominations. Solo performance Worcestershire Saucy inspired by eclectic mix of Theatre, Dance, Music Hall, English Clog and Step Dance, Stage Combat and Butoh; Chalmers Arts Fellowship research (2012) - English Step (Kent); Bullwhip, Knife, Tomahawk, Archery (L.A.); Butoh (Vienna).

Photo of Viv Moore by Francesa Chudnoff