

Virtual Artist-in-Residence Opportunity

Background:

Baycrest@Home and CABHI (The Centre for Brain Health Innovation) are collaboratively hosting a 4 month *virtual* artist-in-residence program (vAiR). We have 3 positions open for artists from different disciplines who are interested in working at the cross section of art, health, and dementia. This is a **virtually based** residency meaning that the majority of work will be conducted through Zoom, or other digital platforms.

The resident artists should be interested in engagement with a diverse community that includes older adults at varying stages of aging, as well as students, health professionals, researchers, and innovators co-designing and refining solutions for aging and brain health. The focus of the residency is to advance critical discourse and knowledge sharing around impact of the arts and creative engagement on aging and dementia. Through the residency the artist will also explore best practices in virtual arts engagement including using the arts to create space for creative expression, and the role of the arts in creating a sense of community through a virtual platform.

Residency Goals:

- a. To deepen understanding around issues of art, health and dementia as well as their interconnections and implications.
- b. To build collaborations with artists that inform the understanding of the lived experience of older adults with dementia and our approaches to practice that can be informed by the arts.
- c. To encourage active community participation in arts engagement, and practices in enhancing communication and self-expression through the arts in a virtual space.

Expectation of work:

This is a co-sponsored residency between Baycrest@Home and CABHI. The artist will spend time with stakeholders in both areas and be supervised by a point person in both areas.

Baycrest@Home Residency Experience: While working with the Baycrest@Home team the artist will be asked to spend time facilitating 2 weekly live interactive groups with clients and caregivers. Each group would run 45-60 minutes. The groups would be developed with support from the Manager of Culture, Arts and Health services and run over the duration of the residency. The artist will also be expected to develop some digital artifact that can continue to live on the Baycrest@Home website which is reflective of the residency experience. The artifact may be co-created out of the group sessions with clients. The artist will have use of a production studio space if they wish, and the support of a Media Production and Content Management Specialist.

CABHI Residency Experience: While working with the CABHI team the artist will be asked to spend time working with CABHI's virtual community. This community of innovation collaborators co-create meaningful experiences with aging adults so that they can form connections and share/exchange stories with others to raise awareness about their lived experiences to inform solution development. The artist will run weekly interactive sessions of 45min-60 min focused on fostering rich dialogue and authentic storytelling. The groups would be developed with support from the Executive Director, Health Innovations and run over the duration of the residency. The artist will also be expected to depict these stories digitally so that they can continue to be shared on the LEAP website and to explore other creative vehicles for digital storytelling that allow for stories to unfold and/or be added to over a designated period of time. The artist will have the support of CABHI's tech team.

Artist Learning:

The artist can leverage a number of resources to enrich their own process and residency experience

- Librarian to assist with any research and accessing of literature
- Digital Content manager
- Production studio space and production assistant
- Participate in creative ideation sessions with a variety of interdisciplinary subject matter experts
- Access to artists, designers, directors/producers in CABHI's national and international network
- Marketing, communications, graphic artist specialists

The Baycrest@Home residency will culminate in a virtual exhibition/showcase of the experience and work created. The CABHI residency will culminate in the activation of arts-based vehicles for ongoing storytelling.

Payment:

The artist will receive a stipend of \$3,500.00 (CAN) for the period of the residency which would run over 16 weeks.

Qualifications:

Artists will have ideas about the work they want to engage in during a residency. Ultimately, the specific objectives should be mutually agreed upon so that all parties get the most out of it. There is recognition that the artist-in-residence will be inspired by their personal creative work as well as meeting the needs of the people taking part in the residency. Artists will have support from both Baycrest@Home and CABHI teams to integrate and provide context around the population.

We're looking for a practicing artists with an aptitude for working in community settings and a proactive, collaborative approach that will engage a wide range of older adults and community stakeholders.

The successful candidate will have:

- Proven artistic ability demonstrated by professional experience
- Experience in facilitation of arts experiences to community groups including program design

- An openness and interest in the challenge of adapting to working in a virtual environment
- Sensitivity to the special considerations of an aging population and a realistic awareness of the diverse needs and challenges that this will represent.

Sponsors:

Baycrest@Home is a digitally based health services program focused on caring for older adults with dementia living in the community and the people that care for them. Our program supports a holistic vision of health and wellbeing that embraces spirituality, innovation and the arts. We believe that tapping into creative potential whether storytelling, writing, art, music, intergenerational projects or theatre improves physical and emotional health, increases feelings of confidence and self-esteem, enriches relationships, and strengthens morale.

CABHI (The Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation) is a solution accelerator that engages with external partners, and a diverse group of healthcare and non-healthcare disciplines to explore the aging experience incubating breakthrough ideas for future commercialization and system-wide dissemination. CABHI's virtual community called LEAP invites the participation of communities of older adults and caregivers in Canada, the United States and internationally. LEAP's community welcomes everyone – all backgrounds, all ages, all levels of digital literacy and ability. Patterned after a real-life community centre, LEAP's virtual rooms are designed to be creative, engaging spaces. A reception area, a learning hub, a storytelling room, an innovation lab and a marketplace offer a range of activities and events, workshops, design challenges, and story circles where rich dialogue, debate and reflection can occur.

For more information, see baycrestathome.ca and cabhi.com.

HOW TO APPLY:

Deadline: Application closes on May 13, 2021

Who can apply: We are seeking artists from across a variety of practice disciplines who are interested in working with an older adult population and exploring the role of the arts on health and wellbeing. We encourage applications from storytellers, digital artists, musicians, visual artists, dancers, writers, mixed media artists and others. Artists are asked to submit:

- 1) A statement of interest (500 words max) and in particular a plan of the kind of work thought to be undertaken during the residency.

Please include information about the work that you do, previous residencies, and/or academic or professional training. Please describe how you might engage specific populations (older adults, those with physical and/or cognitive deficits) in your practice.

- 2) A curriculum vitae in standard form
- 3) The names of two (2) references and an explanation of their ability to comment on your work in relation to this particular opportunity.
- 4) Please submit (5-10) images/videos/written material of previously produced work. We ask that you submit jpeg files titled as follows: *(Your last name)_(Title of piece)_image1.jpg*

Please direct your application to:

Melissa Tafler, Manager Culture, Arts and Health Services

Baycrest@Home

mtafler@baycrest.org

Please use the subject line "vAiR application"

Submissions must not exceed 10 MB total size

Successful candidates will be invited to an interview