

BIPOC Artist Residency 2024 Grant Report

Visual Arts Mississauga (VAM)

Program Overview

Visual Arts Mississauga's (VAM) **BIPOC Artist Residency 2024** provided a transformative opportunity for **2 emerging artists** and **2 established artists** from Mississauga to participate in a **4-month residency** focused on art-making, collaboration, and mentorship. The residency was generously funded by the **Hazel McCallion Foundation**, which covered artist fees, production costs, and artist workshop fees. The program culminated in a public exhibition, providing the artists with a platform to share their work and engage with the Mississauga community.

For the first time this year, the BIPOC residents were invited to host workshops at the **Art in the Park Festival**. This new initiative allowed the artists to promote their upcoming final exhibition and share their creative practices with a wider audience. These workshops helped to foster community engagement while providing a unique space for the artists to interact directly with the public.

Residency Impact and Opportunities

The **2024 BIPOC Artist Residency** was designed to provide **paid opportunities** for all participants, allowing them to focus on their artistic practices without financial constraints. By offering access to essential studio space, mentorship, and exhibition opportunities, the residency empowered artists to advance their careers and contribute to the growing artistic community in Mississauga.

Key outcomes of the residency included:

Increased Visibility for BIPOC Artists: This year's residency program showcased the work of both emerging and established artists, amplifying their voices and providing them with opportunities to engage the local community.

Mentorship and Collaboration: Emerging artists had the opportunity to work alongside established artists, creating a space for mentorship and collaborative learning. This exchange of knowledge enriched the professional development of all participants.

Public Engagement and Workshops: For the first time, the residency included workshops at the **Art in the Park Festival**. These workshops allowed the artists to engage with a broader audience and promote their work in a meaningful way.

Paid Creative Opportunities: The residency provided the artists with dedicated time to create new work, supported by stipends and resources, enabling them to explore their practices without the pressure of financial limitations.

Final Exhibition and Artist Talk

The residency culminated in a **final exhibition** at VAM, where the four artists presented the work they had developed during the residency. The exhibition's **opening reception** provided a chance for the public to interact directly with the artists and learn about their creative processes. The exhibition received **over 70 visitors** at the opening reception and **more than 200 in-person visits** over the duration of the show.

The engagement with the public was overwhelmingly positive, and the talks offered deep insight into the diverse artistic practices and cultural perspectives represented by the artists.

Artist Reflections

Here are some anonymous reflections from the residency participants, offering insight into their experiences and the impact the program had on their artistic development:

“This was definitely a new stepping stone for me as an artist. It was an experience I will never forget. It taught me so much about putting exhibitions together and understanding what the behind-the-scenes process looks like. I was able to literally create whatever I wanted, and it was a beautiful experience of turning nothing into something. Most importantly, I learned a lot about myself, and I am now much more confident in my ability to create something I have never seen before.”

“The VAM BIPOC Residency gave me a snippet of what it would be like to work as a full-time artist. It allowed me to connect with other art collectives and further myself as an artist! I was also very grateful as I’m still learning to complete deadlines and timelines without the pressure of school, and I felt that VAM was very understanding and considerate.”

These reflections demonstrate the significant impact the residency had on the artists, giving them the tools, confidence, and experience to move forward in their careers.

Community and Cultural Engagement

The **2024 BIPOC Artist Residency** contributed to the cultural landscape of Mississauga by fostering direct engagement between the artists and the local community. Through workshops at the **Art in the Park Festival** and the **final exhibition**, the artists were able to showcase their work, engage in creative dialogue, and connect with community members from a wide range of backgrounds.

The residency also played a crucial role in supporting BIPOC artists in Mississauga, offering paid opportunities, mentorship, and exhibition platforms. The connections made between emerging and established artists through the residency have had a lasting impact, strengthening the local arts community and creating a space for future collaborations.

The **BIPOC Artist Residency 2024** remains a vital initiative, providing essential resources and visibility for underrepresented artists, and ensuring that Mississauga continues to be a hub for diverse artistic expression.

Promotional Material



THE FINAL EXHIBITION

THE ART OF BEING

SEPT 16 - SEPT 29, 2024

OPENING RECEPTION
SEPT 20TH. 7:00-9:00PM

Serena Sutherland
Kim Cheung
Gabriel George
Sarah Taylor

A 4-MONTH PRODUCTION BY THE PRISMATIC BIPOC RESIDENCY



VISUAL ARTS
MISSISSAUGA
at RIVERWOOD



HAZEL MCCALLION FOUNDATION
For the Arts, Culture and Heritage

Final Exhibition Recap



Final Exhibition installation in White Studio



Residents with our Events & Exhibitions Coordinator



Gabriel George (mentor) in front of his installation, Tether of Extraction



Serena Sutherland (Mentor) with her installation, The Chair That Grows with You



Kim Cheung with her installation, By a String



Sarah Liyao Taylor (mentee) with her artwork, A Passing Memory