

## Applications Open for the IMAGINE Arts Incubator at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2026

Kingston, ON ... The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts at Queen's University is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the **2026-2027 IMAGINE Arts Incubator program**. The program supports performing artists in developing original and innovative work through dedicated space, technical support, and artist honoraria at The Isabel.

"The IMAGINE Arts Incubator program was created to give artists the time, space, resources, and support they need to take creative risks and bring new ideas to life," says **Gordon E. Smith, Director** of The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts. "The Isabel is uniquely equipped to support artists at different stages of the creative process, whether they are developing new work, collaborating across disciplines, experimenting with new approaches, or connecting their work with communities. We are excited to once again welcome artists into The Isabel and support the development of ambitious, innovative projects."

### What's Included

Selected artists receive:

- Venue rental
- Artist honoraria
- Production staffing, including one planning meeting with production staff
- Technical production support, which may include multi-camera video and multi-track audio recording, recording studio-style multi-track recording sessions, or live-off-the-floor video and audio capture

### Program Criteria

The IMAGINE Arts Incubator supports projects with a music component that focus on one or more of the following areas:

- Original, inspiring, and innovative work
- High-quality projects that push the boundaries of the art form and practice
- Works that embrace collaboration and exchange between artistic disciplines and cultures
- Socially engaged works that address pressing issues of our time and inspire understanding, dialogue, and action
- Creative placemaking initiatives that use the power of arts, culture, and creativity to support community change, growth, transformation, wellness, and cohesion

## **Who Can Apply**

Performing artists working in all musical genres are eligible to apply. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older as of the application deadline and be Canadian citizens and/or permanent residents of Canada.

## **Key Dates**

- Applications open Monday, September 14, 2026.
- Applications close Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.
- Successful applicants will be announced Friday, December 18, 2026.

Interested artists can visit The Isabel's website and complete the application through GetAcceptd. For questions, please contact The Isabel team at [isabelcompetition@queensu.ca](mailto:isabelcompetition@queensu.ca).

The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts thanks Bader Philanthropies Inc. for their generous support of the IMAGINE Arts Incubator program and their belief in artists and creativity.

## **About the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts**

Located at Queen's University, the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts is a vibrant hub for artistic presentation, development, and community engagement. Through programs such as the IMAGINE Arts Incubator, The Isabel cultivates creativity, innovation, and inclusive cultural practice in Kingston and beyond.

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For further information, please contact Alyssa de Hoop, Senior Marketing Officer, Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts at [isabelmarketing@queensu.ca](mailto:isabelmarketing@queensu.ca).