



# ARTIST AS CHANGEMAKER

## 2025-2026: BIOS

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“ How might we activate and empower Black Calgarians to build systems of support for and with one another that address local gaps in opportunity, education and representation?



## Adrienne Williams

Adrienne Williams is a multidisciplinary artist, working with themes of urban culture and the individual. Her paintings, installations and video works explore her Caribbean ancestry, while often highlighting ideas of pop culture and culture clash. Williams completed her BFA in Drawing at the Alberta University of the Arts in 2007. She has shown her work in Calgary, Edmonton, Italy and Spain.

**Website:** <https://www.adriannewilliams.com/>

**Community Partner**



*United African  
Diaspora*

“ How might we support immigrant youth at risk in building belonging, self-expression, and positive identity through creative practice?



## Edward Campbell

Born and raised in Panama City, Panama, Edward Campbell developed his interest in all the arts through his mother. During his high school years, a love for dance and design flourished, pursuing both careers simultaneously as a B-boy and a graphic designer. He attended The University of Panama and completed his bachelor's degree in their Graphic Design program. In 2003 he founded and was a member of the Panamanian dance group Fullstyle Family. It is of the oldest breaking groups in Panama and continues to represent Central America's Hip Hop Culture. Prior to moving to Calgary in 2014, Edward shared workshops in Panama, Costa Rica, and the United States. Since moving to Calgary, he has joined the crews People's Militia and Next of Kin. He has kept busy teaching hip hop, house, breaking, salsa and merengue in many different studios around Alberta. Edward aims to be a bridge for new dancers to understand, respect and participate in the positive benefits of these dances. As a brand designer, Edward has created a clothing brand, Adesse Threads, garments for lovers of music, mindset, design, and hip hop culture.

**Website:** <https://www.behance.net/EdwardCampbell>

Community Partner



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*How might we use storytelling to inspire the public to take action on climate issues?*



## Natasha Jensen

Natasha Faye Jensen is an interdisciplinary artist from Moh'kins'tsis (Calgary), located in the Treaty 7 territory of Southern Alberta, Canada. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) from the Alberta University of the Arts (formerly known as the Alberta College of Art and Design) in 2013, and she completed her Master of Arts (MA) in Contemporary Art Practice at the Edinburgh College of Art in 2020. Natasha has participated in both solo and group exhibitions, as well as festivals in Canada, the United States, Finland, and the United Kingdom.

**Website:** <https://www.natashafayejensen.com/>

Community Partner



“ How might we frame stories of hope and struggle among mothers and families facing postpartum challenges, so that their unseen journeys become catalysts for empathy, policy, and healing?



## Samuel Obadero

Samuel Obadero (he/him) is a Nigerian-Canadian multidisciplinary artist based in Calgary/Mohkíinstsis. Founder of Motif Photography and Motif Media Agency, Sam has spent 20+ years crafting portraits and narratives that elevate under-represented communities. An award-winning photographer and arts-administrator, he mentors emerging Black creatives, produces socially engaged exhibitions, and explores the coming together of art, grief and resilience through film and performance.

Website: <https://motifphotography.ca/>

Community Partner



“ How might we use creative practice to create the conditions for Queer racialized youth to author, share, and be held by their own narratives?



## Shandie Ta

Shandie is a Vietnamese-Canadian social innovator whose practice is grounded in dance and performance. She is a community programmer, producer, and creator of connections and space activation. In the national Kiki Ballroom community, Shandie is known as Princess Sen Gvasalia. She co-founded VogueYYC in 2018—a group of like-minded individuals dedicated to growing and nurturing Calgary's Kiki Ballroom scene. Popular categories such as Performance (Voguing), Runway, Face, and Realness are now being practiced and presented by more people who identify within this culture in Calgary. This brings more conversation to the evolving dialogue about the challenges and celebrations facing gay and trans IBPOC in the community. As a movement based creative, Shandie's curiosities lie in how the body can be a conduit of inner and external social impact.

Community Partner



“ How might we increase the self-esteem, confidence, and sense of community of immigrant youth and adults using dedicated spaces for playful arts-practices?



## Sara-Maya Kaba



Sara-Maya Kaba is a poet, spoken word artist, dancer, and aspiring visual artist. She uses movement, creative writing, and visual storytelling to explore themes such as mental health, identity, memory, and South Asian womanhood. Her work includes performance, teaching, and arts-based projects with youth. She is currently experimenting with alcohol ink as new ways of working with emotion, color, and creativity.

Her arts background includes writing and directing *Severing Roots*, a spoken word performance with six Muslim women artists on Islamophobia, and performing in *Passages*, a large-scale dance production exploring Muslim diasporic stories in Canada. She led a Bollywood and Indian classical summer dance series at the Kingston School of Dance, facilitates storytelling-through-movement workshops for various youth organizations, and is a teaching artist for the Jube School housed at SAIT.

Sara-Maya is a Pathy Foundation Fellowship alum, having designed and led an arts-based mental health literacy program that reached over 500 participants across Pakistan. She is the co-founder of *The Fourth Space*, a nonprofit that uses art, play, and story to build connection and mental health literacy across communities, and currently works part-time as a guest educator with the Calgary Board of Education.

**Website:** <https://saramayakaba.wixsite.com/artist-portfolio>

**Community Partner**



“ How might we design in-person literary spaces that foster connection and community?



## Sue-Shane Tsomondo

Sue-Shane Tsomondo is a writer, arts administrator and occasional writing instructor based in Mohkinstsis. Born and raised in Zimbabwe, Sue-Shane's writing is a lifelong exploration of diasporan guilt and blackness. She has previously performed for Woolfs' Voices and Single Onion. In 2019, Sue-Shane founded a literary arts platform, Sue's Stokvel, to highlight the work of racialized writers across the globe. Between 2020 and 2021, Sue-Shane received the University of Calgary Women's Resource Centre Alumni Award and appeared on the cover of the Calgary Journal for her work on Sue's Stokvel. While writing and providing social commentary continues to be at the forefront of her artistic practice, Sue-Shane also wears the hat of an arts administrator, most recently as the executive director of an artist-run-centre.

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/suetsomondo/>

**Community Partner**



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*How might we use drama and storytelling to build family resilience and mutual understanding when navigating life challenges?*

## Tiffany Lai



Tiffany Lai is a drama educator and a registered social worker in both Hong Kong and Alberta, Canada. She graduated with distinction from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with a Master of Fine Arts in Drama, majoring in Drama and Theatre Education. Her thesis focused on utilizing Drama in Education pedagogy to enhance the Chinese character recognition and writing skills of students with dyslexia. She was a Drama Education Subject Teacher in Hong Kong secondary school.

Tiffany has received multiple accolades, including the Estella Wong Drama Education Scholarship, the HKSAR Government Talent Development Scholarship, the Reaching Out Award, and the Bravo! Hong Kong Youth Theatre Award. She was also twice sponsored by the Lee Hysan Foundation to undertake short-term drama training in the UK.

**Website:** <https://www.chaca.ca/tiffany-lai>

Community Partner

