

# Small World Music Incubator

## Program guidelines

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### What is this program?

The **Small World Music Incubator** is a program designed to support professional musicians from diverse backgrounds in the Greater Toronto Area, particularly those from immigrant, newcomer, and underrepresented communities. It provides participants with professional development, mentorship, networking opportunities, and resources to help them build sustainable careers in the music industry.

The program offers:

- **Access to a supportive community** in the music industry
  - **Hands-on Workshops** on music business, marketing, grant writing, and industry best practices.
  - **One-on-One Mentorship** with experienced music professionals
  - **Showcase Performances** where participants can present their work to new audiences in events organized by Small World or through partnership deals
  - **Networking Opportunities** to connect with industry professionals, fellow musicians, and potential collaborators
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### Program Schedule & Commitment Requirements

#### When does the program take place?

The Small World Music Incubator runs for five months, with the 2025 edition starting in early August and concluding in mid-December. The selected cohort is expected to participate in at least 75% of the program to be able to graduate and be considered for performance opportunities beyond the program.

#### Commitment Overview

Participants must be available for the program's three key components:

- **Orientation:** A mandatory two-day in-person introduction to the program at Small World Centre.
- **Retreat:** A mandatory three-day retreat experience outside Toronto.
- **Weekly Sessions:**
  - **Saturdays (in-person):** 11 AM – 5 PM, with some exceptions (to be communicated upon selection).
  - **Mondays (online):** Evening sessions on selected dates.

#### Key Dates

- **Orientation:** August 9 - 10
  - **Retreat:** August 15 - 17
  - **Saturday In-Person Sessions:** Starting August 23, 2025 (specific dates and exceptions will be shared upon acceptance)
  - **Monday online sessions:** 4 sessions starting Sept 8, 2025 (specific dates and exceptions will be shared upon acceptance)
  - **Graduation:** December
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## Who is this program for?

This program is open to musicians and artists with a strong foundation in their craft, dedicated to advance their career into Canada's music landscape.

### Applicants must be:

Professional musicians and artists who are actively pursuing music as part of their artistic career.

- Either newcomers, refugees, or other equity-deserving artists.
- Canadian citizens, permanent residents (or have received an invitation to apply), or approved refugee claimants (i.e. Protected Persons)
- Based in the Greater Toronto Area or able to travel to Toronto for in-person sessions
- Available for weekly in-person and online sessions over approximately five months (August - December)
- Over 19 years old

### \* Who is considered a professional musician:

A professional musician is someone who has developed expertise in their craft, actively engages with an audience, and presents their work with the intention of building a career. While financial compensation is a common marker of professionalism, there are other important factors that define a professional artist, their commitment to their craft, their creative growth, and the way they share their work with others.

### \* Who are the equity-deserving communities?

"Equity-deserving communities", include but are not limited to: IBPOC (Indigenous, Black, People of Colour), 2SLGBTQIA+, and people with disabilities (physical, mental, sensory, psychiatric, learning).

### \* Who is considered a newcomer?

An immigrant or refugee who has lived in Canada for less than 7 years; a refugee is a person who was forced to leave their home country and is now located in Canada.

## How do I apply?

You can find the application form on our website <https://smallworldmusic.com/incubator/>

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## How is my application assessed?

Applications to the Incubator Program are reviewed through a multi-step selection process to ensure fairness, transparency, and alignment with program objectives.

- After the application deadline, all submissions undergo an internal review to verify eligibility based on funding requirements, including immigration status and equity considerations.
- Eligible applications are then forwarded to a jury panel of industry professionals and artists, who assess the submissions using program criteria.

## How do I find out the application results?

Selected applicants will be contacted via email and phone between June 16 - 20, 2025 to confirm participation and review contract details. A buffer period (June 23 - 30) allows for final confirmations and any last-minute cancellations. The final confirmed participant list will be completed by June 30.

Selected applicants will receive a Letter of Understanding that will detail the terms and conditions of the program and commitment requirements. It must be signed and returned to the program coordinators.

## More questions?

Contact Program Coordinators

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