

**Create
Your
Future**



**Alberta
University
of the
Arts**

Find your place in the world

Now, more than ever, the world needs change – from passionate minds who dare to dream and think beyond the status quo.

At Alberta University of the Arts located in Calgary, Alberta, you'll explore your creative potential, hone your skills and push boundaries. Pursuing purpose and excellence will make you a catalyst for change, transforming your ideas into tangible realities and reimagining the world.

For almost 100 years, AUArts has played an important role in Canada's visual culture. We are the only art, craft and design university in Alberta and the Prairies and one of four in Canada. Come through our doors to be inspired by others – and discover the incredible potential within you.

Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts) is situated on the ancestral land of the Siksikaitsitapi – Blackfoot Confederacy which includes the Siksika, Kainai, Piikani Nations and the shared territories of the Tsuut'ina Nation as well as the Iyârhe Nakoda-Stoney which includes Bearspaw, Chiniki, Good Stoney Nations and also the home of the Métis Nation of District 5 and 6. The City of Calgary has long been called Moh'kins'tsis by the Siksikaitsitapi, Guts'ists'i by the Tsuut'ina, and Wich'ispa by the Nakoda.

Find us at [AUArts.ca](https://www.auarts.ca)

**Why
AUArts?**



Choose your own adventure

Welcome to AUArts! As a student, you can pursue a curriculum that lets you follow your passions. Apply to the Bachelor of Fine Arts or the Bachelor of Design program. AUArts also offers a multitude of course offerings and a Master of Fine Arts degree.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

In this degree, you'll specialize in Studio Art and focus on one or two program areas – where do your interests and talents lie? Drawing and Glass, or perhaps Media Arts and Sculpture? AUArts offers 10 areas of focus within the BFA – choose from Ceramics, Drawing, Fibre, Glass, Jewellery and Metals, Media Arts, Object Design and Fabrication, Painting, Print Media or Sculpture.

Bachelor of Design (BDes)

When you enter the BDes program, you'll major in either Photography or Visual Communications Design. The Visual Communications Design specialization offers two streams: Advertising and Graphic Design, or Character Design and Illustration.

Master of Fine Arts (MFA) See page 23.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



BFA or BDes?

Can't decide between a Bachelor of Fine Arts or Bachelor of Design? To help answer this question, think about what excites you and where you see your creative journey taking you.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

Do you enjoy diving deep into artistic exploration and expressing your unique vision? The BFA degree offers a variety of concentrations and nurtures your creativity, self-expression and conceptual thinking.

You'll work on personal projects, immerse yourself in intensive studio practice and engage in critiques and exhibitions. If your dream is to become a professional artist or arts educator or pursue further studies in the arts, the BFA path will give you the tools and environment to flourish.

Bachelor of Design (BDes)

Want to use your creative skills to solve real-world problems and design functional, aesthetically pleasing solutions? The BDes degree at AUArts is focused on practical design applications in areas like graphic design, illustration, character design and photography. This program prepares you for diverse careers in industries such as advertising, product design and digital media.

The curriculum emphasizes technical proficiency, user-centred design and market-driven solutions, giving you the skills to excel in the competitive design industry.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Bachelor of Fine Arts

AUArts' acclaimed BFA program is one of the most prestigious studio-based fine arts programs in Canada. You'll specialize in Studio Art, then choose one or two concentrations.

Concentrations

- Ceramics
- Drawing
- Fibre
- Glass
- Jewellery and Metals
- Media Arts
- Object Design and Fabrication
- Painting
- Print Media
- Sculpture

Year 1

Your first year in the BFA program exposes you to an exciting range of studio and critical studies courses. Through these courses, you'll build a strong foundational knowledge of art, craft and design.

- 2 drawing courses
- 4 studio courses of your choice (see concentrations)
- 2 writing courses
- 2 art history courses

Course examples:

- Drawing the Human Figure
-
- Ceramics Wheel Throwing
-
- Papermaking
-
- Hot Glass
-
- Metalsmithing
-
- Sound and Video in Studio Practice
-
- Global Perspectives in Painting
-
- Introduction to Silkscreen
-
- Performance and the Object
-
- 3D Modeling and Computer Aided Design



BFA Careers include:

Ceramics: Ceramics artist / Production potter / Gallery administrator / Art instructor

Drawing: Professional artist / Medical illustrator / Tattoo artist / Arts administrator / Curator

Fibre: Textile artist / Fabric designer / Costume designer / Textile purchaser

Glass: Glass blower / Curator / Glass designer / Production artist

Jewellery and Metals: Jeweller / Metalsmith / Stylist / Accessory designer / Jewellery purchaser

Media Arts: Performance installation artist / Video producer / Multimedia artist / Experience designer

Object Design and Fabrication: Graphic design / Product design / Special effects / Interior design / Architecture / Industrial design

Painting: Fine artist / Muralist / Art dealer / University professor

Print Media: Printmaker / Press operator / Layout artist / Book illustrator

Sculpture: Furniture designer / Sculptor / 3D prop designer / Custom manufacturer

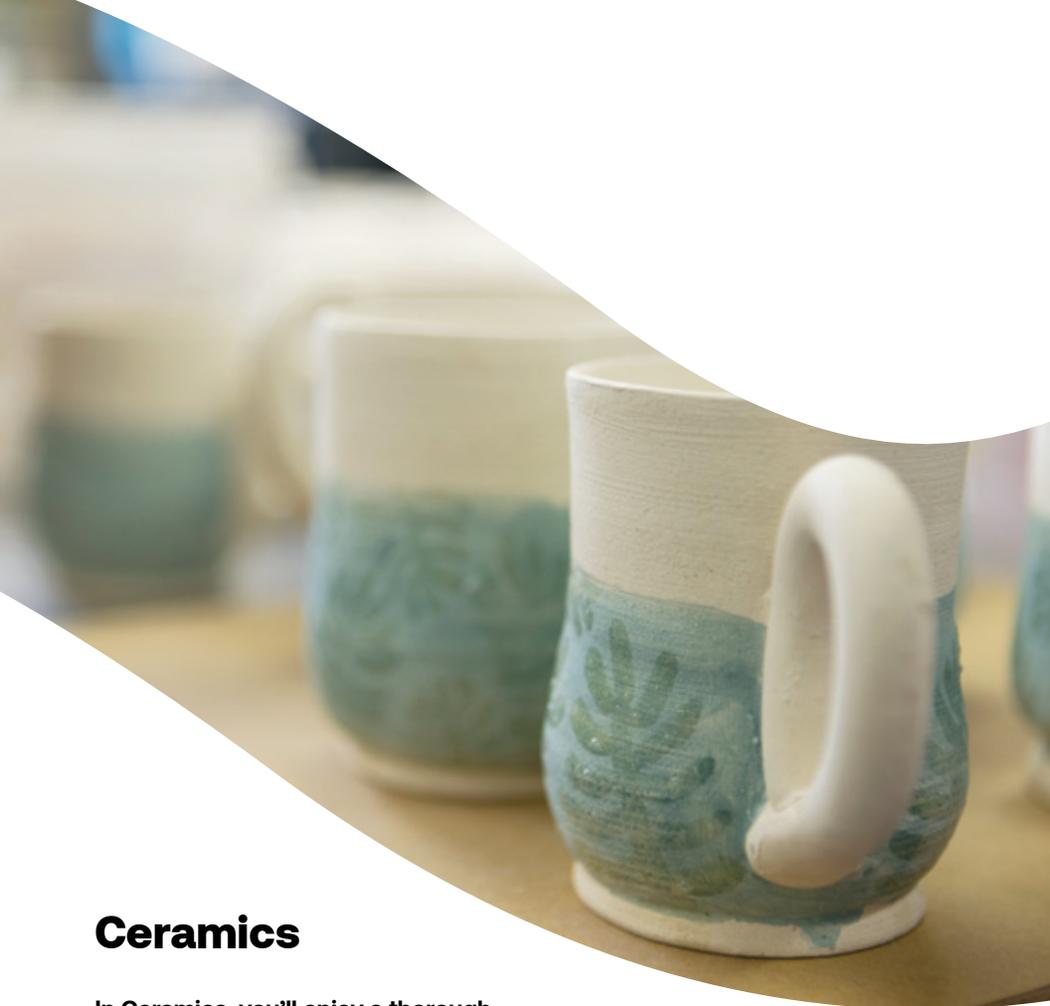


Additional concentrations and minors available:

- Animation
- Comics
- Illustration
- Photography

Learn more at AUArts.ca





Ceramics

In Ceramics, you'll enjoy a thorough immersion in the theoretical and practical discipline and develop a diverse approach to making vessel, sculptural and experimental ceramics.

Explore the role of function, sculptural approaches, emerging technologies, historical precedents and contemporary practice within a comprehensive, studio-based program of study. You'll develop an understanding of the materials through courses focused on particular methods of making. These include working on the wheel, using various hand-building techniques, mold making and casting.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Drawing

Drawing is dynamic and open in its research, critique and intensive studio and post-studio exploration, tailored to each student's unique voice.

Explore various media and forms using interdisciplinary concepts and approaches as you develop and express your creative identity and philosophy.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Fibre

Fibre provides intensive studio-based material research opportunities via discipline-specific and experimental, cross-disciplinary approaches.

You might focus on surface design, mixed media and/or weaving in producing original creative work. Gain an understanding of your work and its position relative to other disciplines, historical precedent and contemporary material culture.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Lucas Andersen, Too Hot

Glass

Alberta University of the Arts offers the only glass-focused program in western Canada.

Combine analytical thinking skills relevant to contemporary glass practice with an understanding of material and technical processes to express your own relationship to contemporary art and culture, the international glass movement and craft ideals as you develop a sustained, innovative studio glass practice.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Jewellery and Metals

Jewellery and Metals offers a multi-disciplinary concentration that balances creative problem-solving, technical proficiency and entrepreneurship skills with context, currency, history and criticality.

Hone your design and drawing abilities and your critical thinking and research skills as you learn gemstone setting, casting, chasing, tool making, molding, anodizing and techniques for one-of-a-kind production work.

Learn more at AUArts.ca

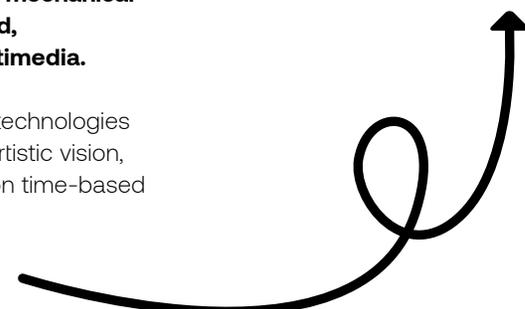


Media Arts

Media Arts explores expression through devices and technologies such as sensors, circuits, mechanical devices, video, film, sound, performance art and multimedia.

As you learn to use these technologies to serve your developing artistic vision, you can choose to focus on time-based art or interactivity.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



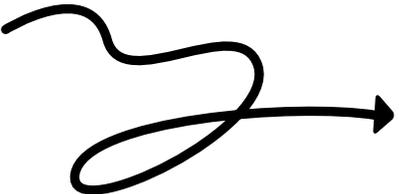


Object Design & Fabrication

Object Design and Fabrication (OBDF) goes beyond delivering proficiencies in digital fabrication technologies.

In addition to the core OBDF courses, electives from other programs deepen student learning concerning object design and fabrication history, theory and context, invention literacy and fabrication methodologies.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Painting

Students in Painting understand historical and contemporary painting practices and get familiar with various techniques, skills and processes to make informed choices relevant to individual studio art practice.

By exploring various media, materials and modes of critical inquiry, you'll develop an understanding of critical language and vocabulary relevant to artistic research.

Learn more at AUArts.ca

William Armstrong, *Convergence*



Print Media

While printmaking's origins lie in etching, silkscreen, lithography and woodblock, you'll experiment with various media, including photography, digital technology, artist's books, print portfolios and multimedia while learning communal studio practices.

Gain strong critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills using wide-ranging and in-depth research, producing work that synthesizes concept, technique and craft.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Sculpture

Sculpture students use a range of critical and contextual perspectives to initiate and complete a self-directed personal body of work and identify and comprehend the histories, theories and practices that comprise the discipline of sculpture.

Explore artistic practices ranging from traditional figure modeling to contemporary installation and performance art, kinetic and interactive objects and digital media.

Learn more at AUArts.ca

Matthew O'Reilly, *Triumph of Arneson* / Photo: Chelisea Yang-Smith



Bachelor of Design

The Bachelor of Design program (BDes) prepares students for successful careers as professionals in the discipline, practice and culture of photography and design.

Alumni from Visual Communication Design and Photography work in a broad range of exciting careers in the entertainment, advertising, new media, publication, editorial, corporate, television, film, fashion, gaming and environmental design industries.

Specializations

- Visual Communications (choose a stream)
 - Stream 1:** Advertising and Graphic Design
 - Stream 2:** Character Design and Illustration
- Photography

Year 1

Your first year in the BDes program will help you build a strong foundational knowledge of art, craft and design. You'll be exposed to an exciting range of studio and critical studies courses.

- 4 foundation courses
- 2 studio courses of your choice
- 2 writing courses
- 2 art history courses

Course examples:

Design Fundamentals
—
Brand Design
—
Advertising
—
Character Design
—
Figure Illustration
—
Applied Photography
—
Photographic Illustration
—
Motion Graphics
—
Animation and Media

BDes

Careers include:

Advertising: Creative direction / Advertising designer / Marketing director / Brand manager

Character Design: Game designer / Concept artist / Graphic novel illustrator

Graphic Design: Creative director / Graphic designer / Type designer / Information designer

Illustration: Editorial illustrator / Children's book illustrator / Product illustrator

Photography: Photo journalist / Photo illustrator / Fashion photographer / Editorial photographer / Fine art photographer

Animation: Digital animator / Stop motion animator / Director / Producer / Studio manager



Additional concentrations and minors available:

- Animation
- Ceramics
- Comics
- Drawing
- Fibre
- Glass
- Illustration
- Jewellery and Metals
- Media Arts
- Object Design and Fabrication
- Painting
- Photography
- Print Media
- Sculpture

Learn more at AUArts.ca





Advertising and Graphic Design

The Visual Communication Design specialization offers two study streams grounded in industry-relevant drawing and visualization skills.

Students in Advertising and Graphic Design learn to understand and engage audiences, research and form creative strategies and craft powerful, influential messages.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Rajvi Mehta, Tipsy Tales

Chantel Giles, The Red Mitten



Character Design and Illustration

The Visual Communication Design specialization offers two study streams grounded in industry-relevant drawing and visualization skills.

Students in Character Design and Illustration depict real and imagined worlds and people through visual storytelling to inform and entertain, learning to develop characters, content, concept art and compelling narratives.

Learn more at AUArts.ca

Photography

Graduates specializing in Photography will be visually literate, culturally aware critical thinkers and creative problem solvers adept at using photographic methods and techniques for advertising, artistic and editorial purposes.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Winner Agbogun, *This is Us*



Master of Fine Art in Craft Media

The MFA in Craft Media centres craft as a medium for conceptual exploration and critical dialogue through embodied material practices. You'll be challenged to approach form, function, labour, skill, modes of production, materiality, modes of communication and other theoretical investigations in a collaborative, cross-disciplinary, studio-based program that creatively evaluates and pushes the boundaries of contemporary craft.

The core of the program is practice-led, independent research. Students may concentrate on a specific discipline: Ceramics, Fibre, Glass or Jewellery and Metals, or augment their primary craft discipline to build an interdisciplinary or hybrid program of study. Students may initiate mentorships with faculty from AUArts' other program areas during their research, such as Print Media, Drawing, Media Arts and Design.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Bobby Yuan Yin, *Emptiness of Wares*



How to get here



Getting there starts by going here

Academic requirements

BFA or BDes applications

Applications open: October 1
Applications due: **February 1**
(May 1 for transfer students).

Please note admissions are competitive.

- Domestic: High school diploma with a grade of 60% in four grade 12 courses, including English.
- International: Equivalent to high school diploma in Alberta, 60% overall.
- English language proficiency is required for all students.

More about academic requirements



Portfolio requirements

BFA, BDes and Artstream

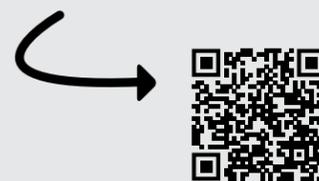
- 12 pieces with a variety of media and subject matter completed within the past two years.
- BFA requires at least one observational drawing.

More about portfolio requirements



Apply here

1. Review application requirements and deadlines.
2. Complete application form and pay fees.
3. Submit portfolio and documents.



Tuition

Alberta University of the Arts' tuition and fees are among the most affordable of Canada's art, craft and design universities. Cost of living is also lower compared to other cities.

See current tuition and fees



Transfer student applications

AUArts accepts transfer students from accredited post-secondary institutions around the world.



Awards and scholarships

Over \$400,000 in scholarships, awards, bursaries, fellowships and prizes.



Contact us

Connect with us!
myfuture@auarts.ca

Book a 1-on-1 or find us at an event





Your creative path

Critical & Creative Studies

The School of Critical and Creative Studies (SCCS) teaches historical, critical and methodological perspectives on studying art, craft and design.

Every degree at AUArts incorporates courses in Critical and Creative Studies. Students will learn historical and contemporary critical contexts to build an informed and critical practice.

Subject areas include

- Art History and Visual Culture
- English Literature and Creative Writing
- Humanities and Cultural Studies
- Material Culture and Social Science
- Professional Practices

**Learn more
at [AUArts.ca](https://auarts.ca)**



Artstream and Pre-College Program

Artstream is a university transition program for adults providing a bridge to art, craft and design applicants with accepted portfolios who do not meet AUArts' academic or English proficiency requirements.

Great for: Adults who want to pursue their creative dreams but don't quite have the marks yet.

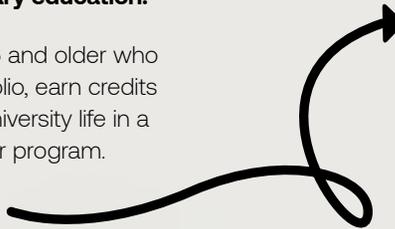
Learn more at AUArts.ca



Pre-College offers valuable experience in the studio, building your portfolio, working with like-minded artists and earning credits toward your post-secondary education.

Great for: Students ages 16 and older who want to build a strong portfolio, earn credits and experience a slice of university life in a four-week intensive summer program.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



International Students

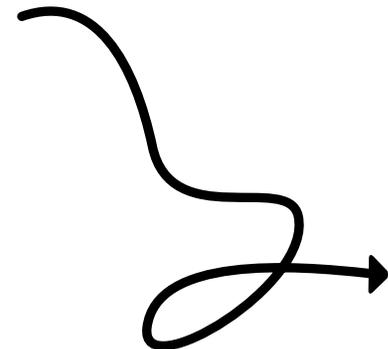
We've welcomed international students from around the globe, including (but not limited to) Australia, China, Colombia, Germany, Hong Kong, Iceland, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, UAE and the United States.

We can help you find the resources you need for immigration, study permits and general academic support. AUArts graduates are also eligible for post-graduate work permits.

International student requirements

- International applicants are evaluated based on the equivalency of an Alberta high school diploma and a minimum of 60% in the final year of study. All final transcripts must be forwarded directly from the applicants' educational institution to AUArts Admissions Office by August 1. Notarized English translations must accompany all transcripts issued in a language other than English.
- English language proficiency
- Portfolio of visual artworks
- Statement of intent

Learn more at AUArts.ca



The Lodgepole Center

Guided by the Elder Council, the Lodgepole Center is an on-campus gathering place where you can access Indigenous cultural resources, ceremony, programs and supports.

It's a dedicated and inclusive space where all members of AUArts can reflect, recharge and renew. The Lodgepole Center has become a popular meeting spot, showcasing the University's commitment to Indigenous culture, teachings, art, craft and design.

The Lodgepole Center works with Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, the Aahwaatkamooksi Peer Mentorship Program, faculty, staff, community organizations, corporate partners and other post-secondary institutions to provide supports, programming, workshops and opportunities at AUArts. The Lodgepole Center also has a student gallery showcasing artworks from Indigenous students at AUArts.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Stephanie One Spot, Planet X22

Continuing Education and Professional Development

Deepen your artistic passion with personal interest courses that hone your technical skills and unleash your creative potential. Our continuing education offerings are for anyone dedicated to self-improvement, professional development and life-long learning.

Micro-credentials – Learn practical, real-world skills and amplify your career at your own pace. Micro-credentials help you gain hands-on, industry-relevant skills that strengthen your resume in ten weeks or less.

Certificates – Elevate your career journey in the creative sector with our industry-focused certificate programs. Enjoy flexible evening and weekend courses while you explore limitless roles and possibilities.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Funding your education

University education is an investment in your future. AUArts expects that its students plan and budget for university expenses (tuition, fees, supplies, living expenses, etc.) using available resources, including personal savings, family and student loan programs as needed.

Student awards

AUArts connects students with over \$400,000 in scholarships, awards, bursaries, fellowships and prizes each year and provides access to community and government award opportunities.

Entrance awards

AUArts offers over \$70,000 in entrance awards each year to eligible new students starting a degree program at AUArts. Entrance scholarships don't require a separate application as long as you apply by February 1.

Student loans

Find information on student loans and other forms of funding on our website.

Learn more at [AUArts.ca](https://www.auarts.ca)



Why AUArts?

At a glance

Nearly a century of history, dedicated to art, craft and design. In 2026, AUArts will be 100!

12+ | **125+**

galleries on campus

gallery openings on campus per year

1:14 average faculty to student ratio

21 | **11**

average student class size

Governor-General's Award-winning faculty and alumni

8% of our student population are international students, travelling from more than 22 different countries

45+ | **5%**

travel and exchange opportunities

of students self-identify as Indigenous

11% of students self-identify as 2SLGBTQIA+

Calgary is ranked the **1st** most liveable city in North America according to *The Economist* (2024) and ranked **#5** in the world!



Life at AUArts

Art, craft and design is everywhere at AUArts

Our world-class gallery spaces infuse the campus with the work of professional artists, craftspersons and designers – provoking thought, inspiring discussion and welcoming the greater community.

Illingworth Kerr Gallery

Visit this world-class exhibition space and flexible platform for critical inquiry and theoretical debate on visual culture. As an interface between AUArts and the broader community, IKG is vital to the city's cultural ecology, hosting local, regional and international artists working in a variety of disciplines.

The big picture

Campus life is also about being a part of something bigger. It's about joining a global conversation about art, craft and design and its impact on the world. With visiting creatives, travel programs for students, and a rich and active research culture, AUArts is a hub of arts and culture events all year round.

Amenities

Along with amazing galleries and world-class studio space, you'll find a library dedicated to art, craft and design, a cafeteria and easy access to and from other parts of the city via public transit (a CTrain station is adjacent to campus). And did we mention we're just a few minutes' walk from Calgary's vibrant neighbourhood Kensington and less than an hour from the mountains?

Housing

We also have access to the neighbouring Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) campus, with a designated student residence floor for our university.

Students' Association

The AUArts Students' Association provides various services and programming, including the public-facing Show + Sale market, a not-for-profit-market led by AUArts students. They host year-round student programming in the Marion Nicoll Gallery and offer multiple student groups, clubs and student supports including health and dental benefits.

**Learn more
at AUArts.ca**





Find your people

Campus services

Whether you want a hand with planning your degree, academic support or just need someone to talk with, we're here to help.

Accessibility services

Academic accommodations/modifications for students with permanent injury, illness or disabilities are available to mitigate barriers to academic success.

For students who self-identify as neurodivergent, Student Services provides support for time management, accessibility tools, coaching and more.

Academic advising and support

Get help choosing the right program and develop a plan to achieve your academic goals. Improve your writing skills, learn better study habits, find a tutor, connect with a study group and more.

Health and wellness

Counselling services are available on campus free of charge. The Students' Association offers health and dental coverage.

International student support

Students have access to a dedicated staff member to support their needs once they have arrived on campus.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Life in Calgary

Calgary offers the best of all worlds – a vibrant, cosmopolitan urban centre, a safe and friendly atmosphere, and outstanding potential for adventure in the natural areas of the nearby Canadian Rockies.

Calgary is the sunniest city in Canada and ranked the 5th most liveable city in the world.

Culturally and artistically diverse, the city enjoys numerous festivals ranging from the well-established to the many new and growing influences in arts, theatre and music. Calgary's Arts Commons and Contemporary Calgary showcase local, national and international artists as part of the dynamic and growing arts scene in Calgary's downtown core.

And if you need a little room to explore, Calgary's 300 km (about 186.41 mi) of urban pathways and ample green space give you lots of freedom to bike, hike, rollerblade or wander. You can also enjoy access to the Bow and Elbow rivers.

96%* of Calgarians believe creativity is an important part of a thriving community

76%* of Calgarians believe Calgary has a thriving creative community

**CreativeCITY: Prosperity through the Creative Economy Community Engagement Summary*



Where will you go?

Our graduates become illustrators, animators, cartoonists, painters, sculptors, art directors, creative directors, graphic designers, art therapists, photographers, art historians, multimedia designers, exhibiting artists, industrial designers, curators, arts managers and more.

Whatever path you choose, you (like our alumni) will become an important contributor to culture, society and international economies.

30%

of our alumni create their own successful businesses

\$1.55

billion is contributed annually to the Canadian economy by creative industries

Fine Art Photographer and Film Visual Effects Manager

William Bartlett
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Media Arts & Digital Technologies



Indigenous Fine Artist and Illustrator

Azby Whitecalf
Bachelor of Design, Visual Communication Design



Miniature Artist

Tom Brown
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Drawing



Non-binary Author, Visual Artist, Queer Historian

Ryan Danny Owen
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Drawing



Ceramics and Fibre Artist

Lael Chmelyk
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Ceramics



Author, Illustrator, Muralist

Kat Simmers
Bachelor of Design, Visual Communication Design



Illustrator and Concept Artist

Micaela Dawn
Bachelor of Design, Visual Communication Design



Photographer

Rocio Graham
Bachelor of Design, Photography



Sculptor and Multimedia Artist

Jeff de Boer
Diploma, Jewellery and Metals



Creators of Murals, Experiences, Artisan Goods

The WKNDRs
Bachelor of Design, Visual Communication Design



Interdisciplinary Artist

Haley Eyre
Bachelor of Design, Photography

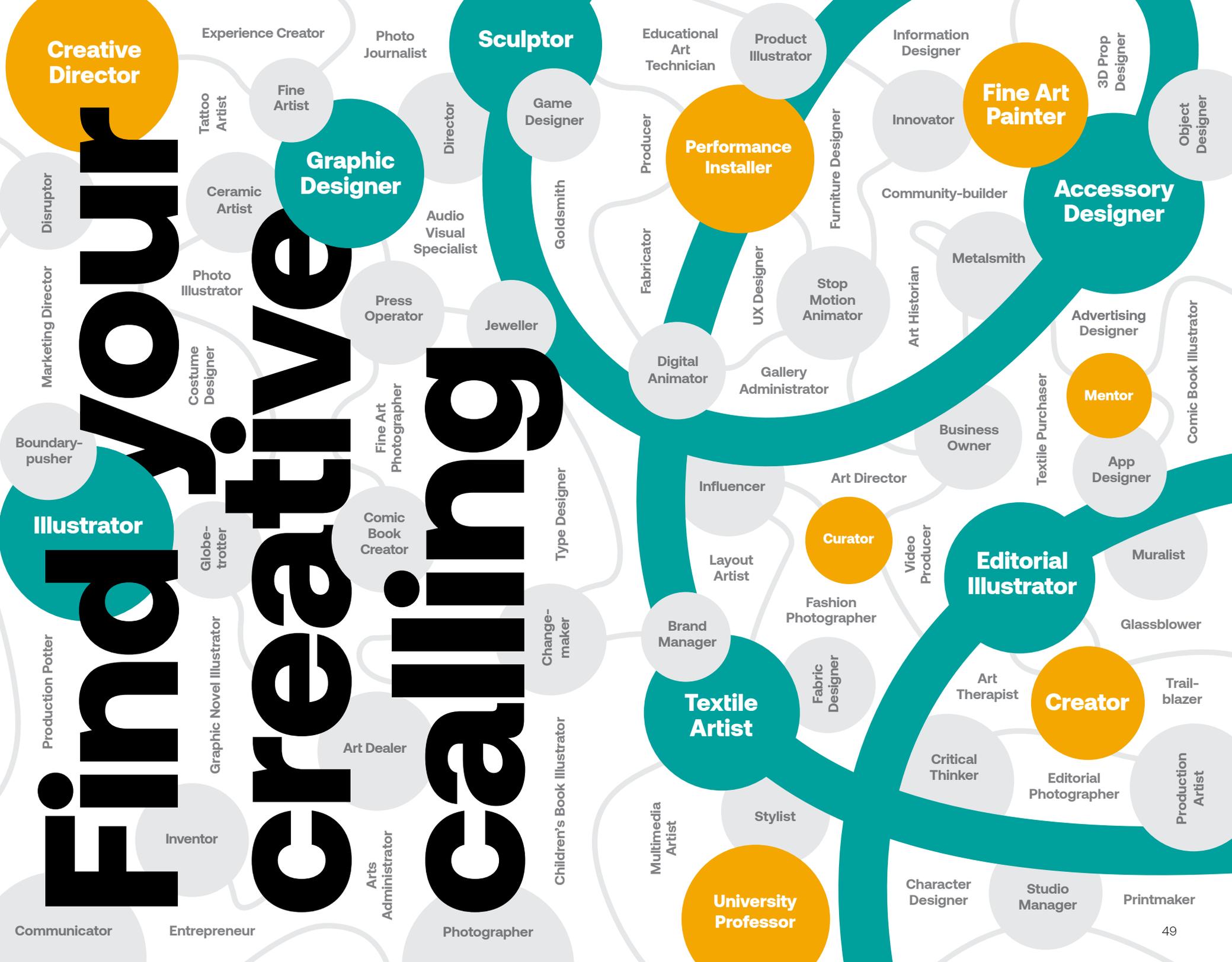


Professional Glassblower

Leah Kudel
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Glass



Find Your Creative Calling





**Find
more
here**



Find us

**Alberta
University
of the
Arts**

1407 14 Avenue NW
Calgary, Alberta T2N 4R3
Canada

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