

CALLING ALL INDIGENOUS ARTISTS TO BE PART OF THE **37TH WEESAGEECHAK BEGINS TO DANCE!**

About Weesageechak Begins to Dance 37

Weesageechak Begins to Dance is a two-week festival of new works and works-in-development by Indigenous artists across Turtle Island and beyond. Each year, Native Earth Performing Arts selects theatre, dance, opera, multidisciplinary, and more recently, digital works reflecting Indigenous performing arts to receive dramaturgical support, rehearsal time, and a public sharing of the work in process during the two-week festival.

Weesageechak Begins to Dance 37 will be from **November 18 to December 1, 2024**, presenting both in-person works at our Aki Studio along with select digital content on our online and digital channels over the course of the festival.

Every *Weesageechak Begins to Dance* artist is paired with a Mentor, who takes on a directorial and dramaturgical capacity to best support the development of their project through workshop and/or presentation processes. *Weesageechak Begins to Dance* artists will also receive an Artist Fee for their participation in the festival.

We're trying something different this year for artists that feel they could benefit from *Weesageechak Begins to Dance 37*, who may not feel ready for presentation or who might want to develop their project without the pressure of presentation. This year, artists interested in submitting projects for *Weesageechak Begins to Dance 37* can choose between **Presentation** or **Workshop**.

Presentation artists/projects will receive **three 4-hour rehearsals, one 2 to 4-hour tech rehearsal** (depending on the technical needs of your project), **and one presentation of up to 60 minutes**.

Workshop artists/projects will receive **two 4-hour workshop days**. Please note that for *Weesageechak Begins to Dance 37*, only **two projects** will be considered for Workshop.

***Weesageechak Begins to Dance 37* Submission Call**

Submissions for *Weesageechak Begins to Dance 37* are now open; please apply by **Friday, April 19, 2024!** Dynamic and multidisciplinary art forms are highly encouraged, and we are continuing to welcome submissions for digital offerings for our online and digital channels across the festival dates. Eligible works include (but are not limited to) theatre, dance, opera, musical, standup comedy, burlesque, cabaret, music or spoken word sets, and radio plays. We also encourage national and international Indigenous performance artists of all disciplines, and at any stage in their career, to apply! Please note that for a submission to be eligible, the primary artist (or artists) must identify as Indigenous. *

**Native Earth Performing Arts uses the term Indigenous to encompass the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit of Turtle Island (North America). We also include Indigenous peoples from other regions including South America, Australia, New Zealand, and Greenland.*

***Weesageechak Begins to Dance 37* Submission Form**

Please use this as a guide in preparing your submission.

Submissions are open to Individual Artists and/or Collectives. Please note that if you are applying as a Collective, at least 50% of the Collective must be made up of Indigenous artists.

Key dates for *Weesageechak Begins to Dance 37*

Submission deadline: Friday, April 19, 2024, at 11:59 PM (EST)

Rehearsal dates: November 4 – 17, 2024

Festival dates: November 18 – December 1, 2024

The *Weesageechak Begins to Dance 37* Submission Form will ask you for:

- The contact information of the Main Applicant
- Your Project Proposal
 - Are you applying as an Individual Artist or as a Collective?
 - Tell us about yourself (or your Collective) and your artistic work/practice/history/et cetera in **250 words or less**. You will also be asked to submit your Artistic Resume/CV.
 - The title of your Project, and a description of your Project in **500 words or less**.
 - The current development stage of your Project, including history and/or production plans, as applicable, in **500 words or less**.
 - Have you received any grants or commissions in support of your Project?
 - **You must submit at least one piece of Artistic Support Material**
 - Please limit writing samples to a **maximum of 10 pages**. For non-written Artistic Support Materials (i.e. Youtube or Vimeo links, Soundcloud links, a portfolio website or online photo gallery, etc.), you will be asked to provide a link with indicated time markers. Please note that we will only be reviewing **5 minutes** of non-written Artistic Support Materials.
- Your Project in *Weesageechak Begins to Dance 37*

- Are you submitting to be considered for Presentation or Workshop? Please note that only two projects will be considered for Workshop.
- How can *Weesageechak Begins to Dance 37* best support you and your Project? Tell us the development goals for your Project in **250 words or less**. (*It's okay if you don't know how to entirely articulate this yet!*)
- The estimated runtime of your Project.
- The anticipated number of performers needed (including the reading of Stage Directions).
- Do you have any known scheduling conflicts/commitments between **November 4 and December 1, 2024**?

Link to *Weesageechak Begins to Dance 37* Submission Form: <https://forms.gle/hdR3HR9SKeiz2vnQ9>

If you have any questions regarding *Weesageechak Begins to Dance 37* and/or this Submission Form, do not hesitate to reach out to our Artistic Director, **Joelle Peters** (joelle@nativeearth.ca) and/or our Associate Producer, **Yago Mesquita** (yago@nativeearth.ca).

If you require an alternative method for your submission, please contact Joelle Peters (joelle@nativeearth.ca).

About Native Earth Performing Arts

Who We Are

Native Earth Performing Arts is Canada's oldest professional Indigenous performing arts company. Currently, in our 41st year, we are dedicated to developing, producing, and presenting professional artistic expressions of the Indigenous experience in Canada.

Through stage productions (theatre, dance, and multi-disciplinary art), new script development, apprenticeships, and internships, Native Earth seeks to fulfill a community of artistic visions. It is a vision that is inclusive and reflective of the artistic directions of members of the Indigenous community who actively participate in the arts.

Our Mandate and Mission

We believe in ***Courage, Generosity, Tolerance, Strength of Character, Patience, Humility, Wisdom.***

In service of our mandate and mission, the company strives to operate according to 7 traditional principles which inform decisions in all undertakings. It is our belief that these tenets not only honour Indigenous values but are universal to all cultures in various manifestations. We acknowledge that these are subjective values, and that each individual has an interpretation of them.