

Program Overview | 2024-25

Looking to build a new space? The Creative Spaces Mentoring Network is all about supporting your creative space goals.

The Creative Spaces Mentoring Network (CSMN) is provided to leaders in Ontario's arts and cultural sectors. Arts professionals who are responsible for some or all aspects of their creative spaces, who plan on acquiring creative space, and/or who manage capital-related issues are encouraged to apply.

Mentees will have the opportunity to access one-to-one learning with an experienced Mentor who will provide knowledge and expertise to support the Mentee's project. The program focuses on strengthening business and management skills needed to successfully oversee, renew and develop creative spaces across Ontario.

Through CSMN, ArtsBuild Ontario (ABO) matches cultural leaders with experienced Mentors from the arts, heritage, or other relevant sectors. Once mentoring teams are confirmed, they will meet at the Kick-Off Webinar and afterwards begin meeting. Mentors and Mentees will meet for up to three hours monthly over 12 months to focus on developing skills and knowledge related to the Mentee's priority areas. Such focus areas include, but are not limited to:

- Creating accessible spaces
- Property management and or leasing
- Community relationships, strategic partnerships, and community engagement strategies
- Marketing, digital literacy, communications and promotions
- Human resources
- Asset management
- Finances, fundraising and capital campaigns
- Municipal and government relations

Participants and their organizations can benefit in many ways from this program. Participants will gain:

- Improved business strategies
- Management and leadership skills
- Confidence
- Decision-making skills
- Communication strategies
- Networking opportunities and contacts

ABO will train and support the mentoring teams so that they get the most out of the program by developing and providing:

- A Kick-Off Webinar, Mid-Program Webinar, and a Wrap-Up Webinar
- Mentoring support
- Networking opportunities

Who is eligible to apply?

Staff from Ontario-based arts organizations, non-profit organizations, and individual artists who manage or are interested in managing an arts facility are eligible to apply for the program. If interested, please review the [FAQ sheet](#).

How to apply

1. Complete the [Application Form](#).
2. Provide a letter of support for your Mentee application (eg. from someone you work or volunteer within your community).
3. Record a 1-2 minute video on your smartphone or web camera telling us:
 - about you and your organization
 - your facilities plans and/or projects
 - how this opportunity would benefit you

Email your video with your application. You can also upload the video to Google Drive or Dropbox, and send us the link.

4. Submit the application online and email the letter of support and video file or link to Tatiana Doucette, Program Manager at programs@artsbuildontario.ca by **Friday, December 8th, 2023**.

Fee

If selected as a Mentee, the fee to participate in the program is \$175 + HST. If you are selected, ArtsBuild Ontario will work diligently to match you with a suitable Mentor based on the skills outlined in your application. We will contact applicants to arrange meetings with prospective Mentors in January 2024 when the Mentor-Mentee matching process is underway. Once you have been matched with a Mentor, ArtsBuild Ontario will provide details on how to submit the \$175 + HST program fee.

Interested in becoming a Mentor?

If you have been part of a capital project or have knowledge to share in relation to cultural facilities, the Creative Spaces Mentoring Network provides an opportunity for you to support fellow arts managers and foster strong arts and heritage sectors.

If you are interested in becoming a Mentor, please complete this [Mentor Application Form](#). If you have any questions, please contact Tatiana Doucette, Program Manager, at programs@artsbuildontario.ca or 519-880-3670 ext. 102.

Important Dates

Deadline for Mentee Applications	Friday, December 8th, 2023
Mentee Application Selection	January- February 2024
Program Begins	Friday, March 1st, 2024
First Training Webinar	Wednesday, March 13th, 2024
Mid Point Webinar	Wednesday, June 26th, 2024
Wrap-Up Webinar	Wednesday, January 15th, 2025
Program Ends	Friday, February 28th, 2025

If you have any other inquiries related to the Creative Spaces Mentoring Network please contact **Tatiana Doucette, Program Manager at 519-880-3670 ext. 102 or programs@artsbuildontario.ca.**