



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Artist in Residence Program — Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time (DePOT)

Theme: Heritage and/in Deindustrialization

Funding: 1-2 position(s) – 2026-27, CAD \$8,000 - \$16,000 (covering artist fee and project cost)

Application deadline: 5 June, 2026.

We are inviting applications for **1-2 one-year Artist in Residence (AiR) fellowship(s)** (July 2026 - June 2027) to support artists whose work speaks to the historical roots and lived experience of deindustrialization. We are interested in proposals that range across the performing, creative and visual arts, and are rooted in deindustrialized areas. This year, the DePOT AiR program is funding projects that speak to the relationships between industrial heritage sites and the working-class areas that often adjoin them.

Individual artists as well as artist collectives are eligible. Recipients are expected to follow the project's ethics guidelines for research-creation and attend the June 2027 conference near Milan or Venice to present their work (travel expenses will be paid by DePOT) to our team of researchers.

Artists who are considering applying to the AiR program are strongly encouraged to contact deindustrialization@concordia.ca (please use "Artist-in-Residence Application" in the subject line) to discuss the suitability of their proposal to the DePOT project.

About the Theme: DePOT's **Heritage and/in Deindustrialization** Initiative examines the unfolding relationship between industrial heritage sites and the working-class areas that often adjoin them, with the goal of understanding how the socio-economic and political impact of recognizing the industrial past affects the present. The transnational flow of industrial heritage ideas will also be considered. Can industrial heritage support those 'left behind' in deindustrialized areas where nothing (or very little) has filled the economic or cultural vacuum? How has the transnational flow of industrial heritage ideas influenced site interpretation, culture-led redevelopment schemes, and official heritage discourse in Western Europe and North America?

Eligibility

- Lead artists should have demonstrated experience in community-engaged work. Candidates with a demonstrated and sustained connection to deindustrialized communities are preferred.
- Proposed projects should have a demonstrated connection to deindustrialized communities, and ideally reflect, reference, or explore aesthetic forms, issues, and concerns that are in some way expressions of those communities' experience with deindustrialization, especially with regards to the them Heritage and/in Deindustrialization.
- Candidates with a demonstrated and sustained connection to deindustrialized communities are preferred.
- Working knowledge of either English or French is required. We encourage submission of applications in English or French but also accept applications in German or Italian.
- Proposals should be grounded in the performing, creative or visual arts; interdisciplinary, multi-disciplinary, or integrated arts approaches are also welcome.
- Recipients of other DePOT funding are not eligible to apply.

How to Apply: To apply, please complete the [DePOT AiR Application Form](#) and send it via email to deindustrialization@concordia.ca with a copy of your CV (maximum 3 pages). Please use "Artist-in-Residence Application" in the subject line.

Deadlines and Funding Periods

- **5 June 2026** for projects that will take place between July 2026 and June 2027.
- Applicants will be notified of the Adjudication Committee's decision before the end of June.
- Awarded Funds (CAD \$8,000 - \$16,000) will be distributed in two equal installments. The first installment will be paid at the start of the project; the second installment upon submission of a Completion Report and after presentation to the Project's Assembly.

Criteria for Adjudication: Proposals will be adjudicated by a panel of DePOT members including the co-chairs of the AiR committee and a representative of the thematic initiative. The AiR Adjudication Committee may seek advice from outside sources when deemed necessary. Projects will be adjudicated based on the following:

- 40% - the degree to which the project is rooted in a deindustrialized community and addresses the research and overall goals of the heritage and/in deindustrialization thematic research area and the DePOT project – including sharing authority, engaging deindustrialized and post-industrial communities, linking local and transnational discussions,
- 40% - the artistic and social merits of the project including its potential for artistic innovation and growth, and its positive impact on both the artist(s) and community or communities involved,

- 20% - the quality and thoughtfulness of the project's overall planning and conception including presentation, background research, cultural competencies, timelines, outcomes, budgeting, resource management, etc.

About DePOT: Brexit, the election of Donald Trump as US President, and the rise of right-wing populism across continental Europe have refocused attention on the connections between race, gender and class in deindustrialized working-class communities. These volatile events have prompted debate and conjecture about the root causes and timing of the current social and political upheaval but little sustained research into those “left behind.”

The 7-year SSHRC partnership “Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time” (DePOT), based at the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University, brings together over 35 research centres, industrial museums, labour archives, trade unions and other organizations across Italy, France, Germany, the UK, Canada, the United States and many other countries. It examines the historical roots and lived experience of deindustrialization as well as the political responses to it. One of the project’s primary public outcomes will be a multi-site exhibition on Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time. For more information on the project visit: <https://deindustrialization.org/>

Ways DePOT can support your work:

- DePOT will showcase your work during our annual conference and connect you with other artists working on deindustrialization.
- Depending on the nature of your work, DePOT can:
 - Showcase your work
 - on our website
 - in our book series with the University of Toronto Press
 - in the project’s final multi-site exhibition
 - Connect you with our museum, labour archive, and community partners around the world.
- Depending on where you are located, we will support your applications for additional outside funding or sponsorships for the creative art projects.
- We can transcribe oral history interviews conducted over the course of your work.