

JOSEPH CHUNG CENTRE FOR CREATIVITY

An Architecture of - and for - Movement

Civic & Culture



LOCATION

Calgary, AB

CLIENT

National accessArts Centre

COMPLETION

2027

COLLABORATORS

Access Dzn

ISL Engineering

Altus Group

BKL Consultants

Gunn Consultants

Yeo Consulting

Spyder SC

DIALOG SERVICES

Architecture

Structural Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

Electrical Engineering

Interior Design

Landscape Architecture

The National accessArts Centre (NaAC), Canada's oldest and largest disability-arts organization, had a clear ambition for its new campus – to design beyond compliance.

The Joseph Chung Centre for Creativity, a key element of that campus, will be a home for performing arts that treats disability arts not as a special case, but as a central force in cultural life. Through careful design choices, such as gradients of light, sound, and material, it will be accessible for all and support a growing community of more than 400 artists through training, ideation, development, and exhibition opportunities across multiple disciplines.

Central to the pavilion will be the Osten-Victor Inspiration Studio, a two-storey rehearsal and performance space that will rise through both floors of the building. Like the inside of an instrument, the studio's interior will be wrapped in acoustically tuned wood panels that gently taper in, elongating the space. Around it will be several peripheral and sensory areas: Event spaces and galleries supporting both traditional and experimental work; a wellness room that shifts into a green room; and a Sound/Audio/Tech Lab that doubles as a control booth. There will also be Joe's Table Café – a social enterprise that will employ people with disabilities. Public-facing spaces will bring the neighbourhood into the campus and the campus into civic life.

The Centre has been selected as a Design for Freedom Pilot Project, becoming part of a global movement working to eliminate forced labor from building component supply chains. It will be constructed with transparent and responsible material choices, challenging the industry to rethink how and from where materials are sourced.

It will also be built to the highest standards of sustainable design, optimizing reductions in both operational and embodied carbon while targeting certification under the Zero Carbon Building – Design Standard v3 (ZCB-Design v3).