

Call for Applications: Sow to Sew Flax Residency

Sow to Sew Summer 2025 Artist-in-Residence



The Sow to Sew Project in partnership with the Flax Fibre to Fabric Project at NSCAD University (Nova Scotia College of Art and Design) are thrilled to launch its Call for Applications for the Summer 2025 Artist Residency focused on flax and linen.

About the Residency

Nova Scotia is home to a growing number of farmers and craftspeople interested in exploring functional applications for locally grown fibre flax. This residency at NSCAD University aims to foster connections between fibre producers and makers, by providing a site for studio-based making to creatively explore the potential of this material from the ground up. This thematic residency invites makers to investigate the material qualities of flax fibre and its by-products to promote sustainable textile production. Intended outcomes of the residency include the development of new materials and products that can be applied to fine art, craft, and design applications, including for the body, interiors, or the built environment.

What Does the Residency Provide?

- 24-hour access to textile and fashion studios at NSCAD University equipped with weaving looms, knitting machines, sewing machines and a dye and print studio
- An honorarium amount of \$1500
- A material stipend of \$500
- Access to raw materials including long line and short tow flax fibres, flax shive and broken flax waste
- Access to local yarn and fabric resources
- A site visit to a fibre farm and processing mill in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia
- Please note that no housing accommodations will be provided

The artist-in-residence will be expected to give a public talk about their work following the residency and to participate in a thematic exhibition about flax and linen in fall 2025 (paid in addition to the residency honorarium following recommended CARFAC fees). Please note that the Textiles and Fashion Studios and several sections of the Fountain Campus at NSCAD University are unfortunately not accessible for those with mobility issues.

Key Dates

Application deadline: April 25, 2025

Successful candidate notified by: May 1, 2025

Residency window: June 1 to June 30, 2025

Location and Duration

- A four-week duration between June 1 and June 30, 2025 to take place in NSCAD's Textiles and Fashion Studios (Fountain Campus), 5163 Duke Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Eligibility Criteria

- This residency is open to recent graduates (undergraduate, college or graduate degrees) from a textiles or fashion program, or equivalent art, craft and design programs, and emerging or mid-career artists practicing in these fields;
- The successful candidate must explore themes of sustainability or circularity in their work;
- The successful candidate must propose a clear outcome of their work with flax;
- The residency is open to artists who are Canadian citizens, Canadian permanent residents or have a valid and appropriate work visa.

*Applicants are asked to demonstrate how they meet these criteria in their Letter of Intent.

How to Apply

To apply, please submit the following as attachments in an email to vfrappier@nscad.ca, using the subject line "Sow to Sew Flax Residency Application":

- Your CV
- A portfolio of 5 high quality images of recent work with annotated list
- A letter of intent describing how this residency aligns with your current artistic practice, what you propose to achieve and your material needs (max. 500 words)

Questions

For any questions about the residency and application process, please contact Valérie Frappier, Sow to Sew Project Coordinator, at: vfrappier@nscad.ca

About the Sow to Sew Project

The Sow to Sew Project is a three-year initiative exploring sustainable fashion, textiles and interdisciplinary craft practices at NSCAD University and is made possible by a generous donation from the Hilary & Galen Weston Foundation. The project provides bursaries and professional development opportunities to students, presents the Sow to Sew Speakers' Series, hosts an artist-in-residence program, supports capacity building in NSCAD's Textiles/Fashion Department and will conclude with a public Symposium in Fall 2026.

About the Flax Fibre to Fabric Project

Flax Fibre to Fabric is a four-year research project funded through NSERC/SSHRC that supports the development of a local fibre flax industry in Atlantic Canada through trans-disciplinary and community-based research, collaboration, and engagement. The Flax Fibre to Fabric Project aims to define critical methods, processes and infrastructure to prepare Atlantic Canadian communities to adapt to the effects of climate change by connecting farmers, fibre mills, craftspeople, and consumers to promote the growth of sustainable textile supply chains.

