ARTS UMBRELLA

Art & Design Intensive Program 2026/2027 Information Package

The Art & Design **Intensive Program** is a yearlong, once-per-week program designed for older students ages 10-19 who wish to dive deep into a focused program area and develop a more thorough and rigorous artistic practice. Students will push themselves on more advanced concepts of craft and technique and develop close community in a supportive environment. At the core of the curriculum is the enhanced development of each students' voice through close mentorship and expanded learning opportunities such as group critique and exhibition.

As students develop, they will become more self-directed and independent in their practice and be challenged to develop a portfolio of work that reflects their unique voice and personal position against broader themes and contemporary issues. They will develop an appreciation for historical context, grow their professional practice and be immersed in emerging trends. Students registered in the Intensive Program are also eligible for the **ECU Pathway Option**.

Regular attendance is required.

EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Course fees include access to learning opportunities beyond the classroom environment, including a field trip to the **Vancouver Art Gallery** for all students, participation in special exhibitions, and celebratory receptions.

ECU PATHWAY OPTION

Arts Umbrella is proud to partner with **Emily Carr University of Art + Design**, Canada's leading art and design university, to offer an exclusive pathway for students enrolled in the **Art & Design Intensive Program**. This pathway provides motivated young artists with a supported transition into post-secondary study and the opportunity to gain advanced standing toward an undergraduate degree in the BFA, BDes, or BMA programs.

Students in the Intensive Program spend the year developing a rigorous studio practice in their chosen discipline — from Architecture & Environmental Design to Clay Sculpture, Ceramics, Drawing & Painting, Stop-Motion Animation, and 3D Modelling & Animation. Through close mentorship, group critique, exhibitions, and artist-statement development, they build the creative independence, technical skill, and critical thinking expected at the university level.

Students who successfully complete the **ECU Pathway Option** will receive a waiver of the standard portfolio submission requirement, as well as ECU transfer credits recognizing the depth and quality of their work at Arts Umbrella.

The pathway is open only to domestic students enrolled in the Art & Design Intensive Program. Visit artsumbrella.com/emily-carr-university-of- art-design-pathway/ for more details.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Registration opens for returning students in May. Registration for new students is by online application, requiring a completed application form and a portfolio. This is completed online by visiting: https://www.artsumbrella.com/art-design/about-intensive-programs/

Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis, with four deadlines and subsequent intake periods. Early application is recommended.

Registration Dates

- Returning students: **May 15, 2026**
- New students: Application required (see dates below)

Submission Deadlines (for new students)

- Deadline 1: June 1, 2026
- Deadline 2: July 1, 2026
- Deadline 3: August 1, 2026
- Deadline 4: September 1, 2026

SUBMISSION GIUDELINES

Your submission package will include a completed application form and a portfolio of images. Incomplete submissions will not be considered. Apply online.

Application Form
The application form will include basic applicant information as well as your selected program stream. You will also be asked to answer a series of questions regarding your intent, understanding and fit for the program.

Portfolio
You will be asked to submit 5-7 images of completed work and 3-5 images of sketchbook pages that show process and experimentation.

This is your chance to show us who you are as an artist! Don't hesitate to show us a range of work in a variety of mediums, but do try and gear your portfolio towards the program stream you are applying to. Including program specific work helps our jury gauge the level of skill and knowledge you bring to the class and gives us a better sense of your suitability to the program itself.

For example, a Clay Sculpture application should absolutely highlight your work with clay or demonstrate your ability towards building, making, or sculpting. But it is also encouraged to include works in other mediums such as painting, drawing, sculpture, or photography to help showcase your broader artistic voice.

BURSARY & PAYMENT PLAN OPPORTUNITIES

The Arts Umbrella Bursary Fund allows hundreds of children to register in tuition-based programs at a reduced rate, based on your family's financial need. Applications for bursary funding are open to everyone. To view eligibility and submission details, download the application package at artsumbrella.com/scholarships-bursaries/

If you have questions, please contact:

Vancouver — bursaries@artsumbrella.com | 604-681-5268

ARTS UMBRELLA

CLASS SCHEDULE & INFORMATION

Program Stream	Ages	Day	Instructor	Time	Length	Price
Architecture & Environmental Design	10-12 yrs	Tues	Peter Wenger	4:00-6:00	2 hrs	$1,350.00
	13-15 yrs	Tues	Peter Wenger	6:15-8:45	2 hrs	$1,350.00
	13-19 yrs	Sat	Graham Smith	3:15-5:15	2 hrs	$1,350.00
Ceramics	10-12 yrs	Tues	Caelan Clark	4:00-6:00	2 hrs	$1,350.00
	13-19 yrs	Tues	Caelan Clark	6:15-8:15	2 hrs	$1,350.00
Clay Sculpture	13-19 yrs	Sat	Suzy Birstein	3:15-5:15	2 hrs	$1,350.00
Drawing & Painting	10-12 yrs	Sat	Andre Seow	1:00-3:00	2 hrs	$1,350.00
	13-15 yrs	Tues	Lusine Sahakyan	4:00-6:00	2 hrs	$1,350.00
	13-19 yrs	Sat	Andre Seow	3:15-5:15	2 hrs	$1,350.00
	15-19 yrs	Tues	Oksana Slonevskaya	4:00-6:30	2.5 hrs	$1,688.00
Stop Motion Animation	10-12 yrs	Sat	Marina Arndt	1:00-3:00	2 hrs	$1,350.00
	13-19 yrs	Sat	Marina Arndt	3:15-5:15	2 hrs	$1,350.00
3D Modeling & Animation	10-12 yrs	Tues	Owen Caddell	4:00-6:00	2 hrs	$1,350.00
	13-19 yrs	Tues	Owen Caddell	6:15-8:15	2 hrs	$1,350.00
Expanded Practices (Add-On)	13-19 yrs	Thu	AU Faculty	4:00-6:00	2 hrs	$1,350.00

PROGRAM STREAMS

Architecture & Environmental Design

Ages 10-12, 13-15, 13-19

In an immersive studio environment, students engage in research and critique on a variety of contemporary topics such as energy conservation, water management, car culture, sustainable landscapes, and sustainability. Creative approaches to building public spaces and urban design are explored. Both as an individual and in groups, students plan, sketch, and build models that bring their ideas to life.

Ceramics

Ages 10-12, 13-19

Students delve into ceramic design through focused exploration of functional-ware and experimental clay forms. Working in a purpose-built ceramics studio, they advance their skills in wheel throwing, glazing, and kiln firing while developing a deeper understanding of materiality, craftsmanship, and design thinking. Through surface design, texture, and form, they explore story, culture, and identity. Engagement with contemporary and historical ceramic practices strengthens their technical decision-making and creative approach to sculptural and functional clay work.

Clay Sculpture

Ages 13-19

In a purpose-built ceramics studio, students deepen their practice of contemporary sculptural ceramics through advanced hand-building techniques and material exploration. They expand their understanding of clay, tools, equipment, and processes while crafting expressive, figurative, and experimental forms. Through research, critique, and engagement with both historical and contemporary ceramic artists, students develop a more intentional approach to form, surface, and construction, strengthening their technical skill and conceptual clarity in three-dimensional work.

Drawing & Painting

Ages 10-12, 13-15, 13-19, 15-19

Students deepen their drawing and painting practice through advanced material exploration, contemporary image-making, and critical approaches to artmaking. Students investigate themes such as identity, culture, abstraction, climate, and the natural world while expanding their technical skills and conceptual range. Through research, critique, and engagement with both historical and contemporary references, they develop stronger visual literacy, refine personal voice, and build a more intentional, inquiry-driven studio practice.

Stop-Motion Animation

Ages 10-12, 13-19

Students advance their stop-motion animation practice through focused exploration of essential processes, tools, and equipment, including LED lighting, DSLR camera rigs, and professional animation software. Working with clay, objects, and cut-out materials, they develop expressive characters, compelling narratives, and imaginative worlds. Through research, critique, and engagement with both classic and contemporary animation references, students strengthen

their technical precision, visual storytelling, and creative decision-making within the timeless craft of stop-motion animation.

3D Modeling & Animation
Ages 10-12, 13-19
Students deepen their 3D modelling and animation practice through a comprehensive workflow using industry-standard software such as Blender. They learn to model, sculpt, texture, rig, light, and animate digital objects, characters, and environments while navigating complex tools and processes with increasing precision. Through storyboarding, key frames, tweening, and camera movement, they create dynamic short animations. They learn from classic and contemporary animation references to refine their storytelling, visual style, and approach to building compelling digital worlds

INTENSIVE PROGRAM ADD-ON

The Intensive Program Add-On is available exclusively to students enrolled in the Intensive Program to expand and enrich their learning by pushing their creativity across multiple forms of artistic practice.

Expanded Practices Add-On
Ages 13-19

The add-on includes a 32-week curated rotation of short-courses, each lasting between 5 to 8 weeks, that together develop material, spatial, and conceptual skills for a competitive pre-college portfolio. Courses include: Life Drawing, Darkroom Photography, Printmaking (delivered by Malaspina Printmakers), Sculpture, Curation and Installation.

Made possible in collaboration with **Malaspina Printmakers Society**.