

Media Release
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Jessie Beier joins ASSIST Community Services Centre as Artist in Residence

Edmonton... Local artist, educator, and program developer Jessie Beier is beginning her six-month term as artist-in-residence at ASSIST Community Services Centre's Head Office. The Edmonton Arts Council as part of the City of Edmonton's *Art of Living* cultural plan sponsors this artist-in-residence initiative.

"I'm delighted to have the time and space to develop a body of work," says Beier who has just finished her semester teaching at the University of Alberta's Department of Secondary Education. Her decade long career has been filled with experiences in various disciplines and fields. Beier's role as artist-in-residence will allow her the opportunity to focus on the exploration of a single theme, "I like to envision how art might act as a force for imagining the world anew and want to learn how others see a new future."

ASSIST is eager for Beier to begin her term as their first artists-in-residence. "We feel this is a golden opportunity for the community, staff and clients to be involved in arts and culture as this is an area we don't have specific programming in," says Executive Director Fion Lee. Beier impressed the ASSIST staff with her knowledge and experience as well as the different modes of communication she utilizes to share and discuss art. Lee hopes Beier's work will "bring excitement and the unexpected into their offices."

Founded in 1977, ASSIST initially focused on Edmonton's growing Chinese community, since then its mandate has grown to include new Edmontonians from a broad spectrum of cultural backgrounds. They are an immigrant settlement agency whose primary focus is the successful and integrative settlement of newcomers to Edmonton. ASSIST aims to provide diversified services to Canadian immigrants and their families, helping them to actively contribute to society. Learn more at assistcsc.org.

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The Edmonton Arts Council is a not-for-profit organization that supports and promotes the arts community in Edmonton. The EAC works to increase the profile and involvement of arts and culture in all aspects of our community life.

Media Contact:

Annette Aslund
Communications Officer, Edmonton Arts Council
780.424.2787 ext 239
aaslund@edmontonarts.ca