

EMPOWER ARTS SUMMIT

Showcasing the creativity, innovation, and lived experiences of disabled, d/Deaf, and neurodivergent musicians and performing artists and sharing research on accessibility in the arts.

May 26, 2025

Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre, Ottawa

Free and open to all

ACCESS GUIDE

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Event Details

About

The Empower Arts Summit is a disabled, d/Deaf, and neurodivergent-led gathering of musicians, researchers, arts organizations, and industry that will showcase the creativity, innovation, and lived experiences of disabled, d/Deaf, and neurodivergent musicians and other performing artists. During the day, it will feature talks, workshops, performances, and displays in an accessible and inclusive gathering to share diverse perspectives. The summit will conclude with a public evening concert. We seek to increase awareness and understanding of the lived experiences of performing artists, and we want to highlight and celebrate the creative contributions of artists from the disability, d/Deaf and neurodivergent communities. We also seek to examine the barriers to participation and strategies for a more accessible arts environment. The summit will promote inclusive practices and consider intersecting identities and perspectives in arts programming. All events are free and open to all.

Our Summit will take place at **Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre (CDCC)**. CDCC's main entrance is located at 290 Lisgar Street, Ottawa, Ontario. The centre's municipal/ mailing address is: 355 Cooper Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

Schedule Overview

9:00 AM - 10:15 Welcome and coffee (WH)

9:45 AM - 10:15 AM Transit to Session One

10:15 - 11:45 AM Session One

Session 1A (JT) - New Directions in Adaptive Music Technology

Session 1B (P) - New Frontiers in Music Accessibility Research

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch (WH) and Innovation Showcase (JT)

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM Session Two: Plenary Session, Keynote speaker: Sean Lee (WH)

2:30 PM to 3:00 PM break and transit to Session Three.

3:00PM to 5:00PM Session Three: A and B

Session 3A (JT) - Performers' Perspectives on Accessibility

Session 3B (P) - Accessibility Strategies and Policy

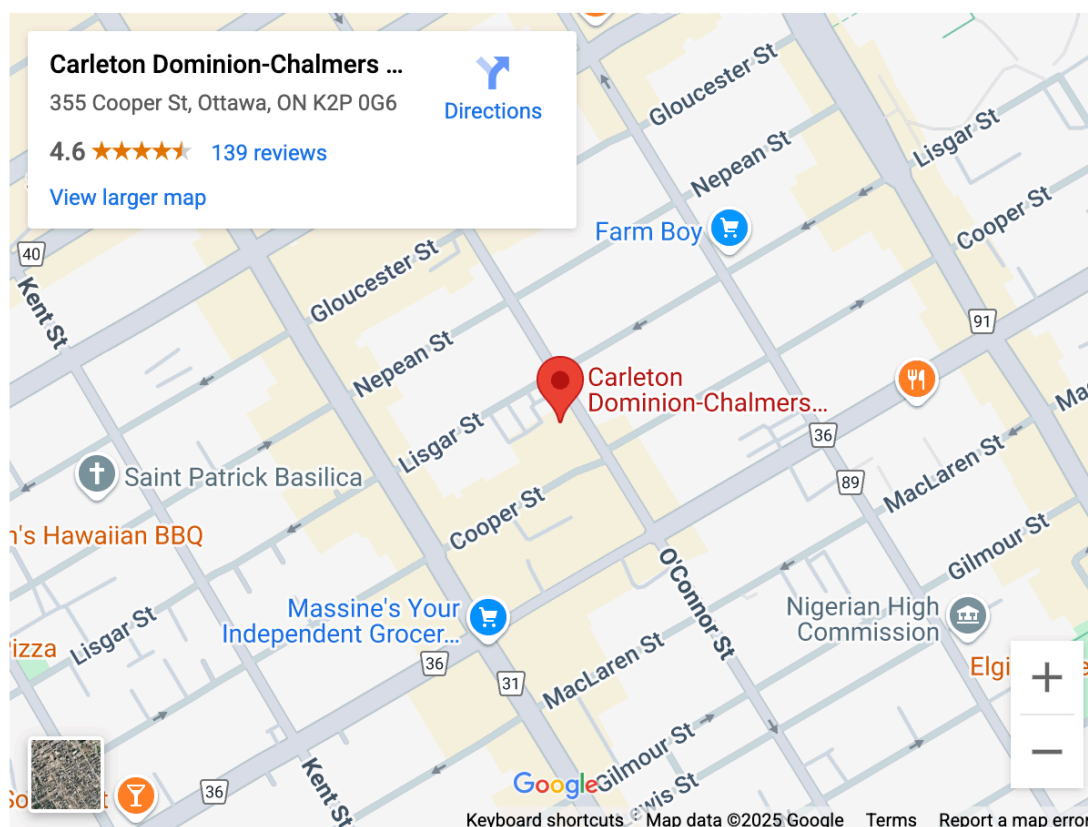
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Concert (Sanctuary)

Getting Here

Location

The Empower Arts Summit is located at [Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre](#) (CDCC). Main entrance and paid parking at 290 Lisgar Street.

We will use five rooms at CDCC - Woodside Hall (WH), Parlour (P), Jean Teron Room (JT), Library (quiet room), and Sanctuary Concert Hall.



Parking

There is a small (paid) parking lot at the Lisgar entrance, but it fills up quickly during the day. There is usually lots of available space in the evening. Purchase your parking at one of two kiosk machines. Other parking is available on the street and there is another lot off Lisgar nearby. Paratranspo drop off and pick up are available in front of the main entrance to CDCC.

Parking rates in the 290 Lisgar Street parking lot are as follows:

Monday to Friday

6:00AM – 6:00PM, \$3 per 30 minutes, \$20 Max

6:00PM – 6:00AM, \$5 Flat Fee

Three payment options include:

- Machine: One meter accepting credit cards is available in the lot (next/east to the accessible ramp).
- QR Code: QR codes are located on signs throughout the lot.
- Online: You may also visit and pay online via <https://indigoneo.ca/> using location id #OT633.

Public Transit

CDCC is easily accessed by public transit.

Travel to and from Carleton University campus via OC Transpo > #7 St-Laurent–Carleton

Plan your travel to and from other Ottawa destinations by using the OC Transport online travel planner: <https://www.octranspo.com/en/plan-your-trip/>

The Venue: Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre

Arriving/Driving/Dropping off at the Summit

Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre (CDCC) is a historic church that was purchased by Carleton University and turned into a centre for arts, performance, and learning. At the 290 Lisgar Street entrance, there are four steps with railings on both sides, leading up to a level landing in front of the doors. Next to these steps is a ramp that leads to the same landing. To the left of the main door there is a rectangular automatic door opening button.

Through the main double doors is the lobby, a wide, open space. The registration table will be to your left. Here you can sign in, pick up a name tag, and get information about audio description. Helpers will be on hand at the beginning of the day and before the evening concert to greet people. If you arrive when the registration desk is closed, there will be a staff member at the lobby desk on your right; or in the glassed-in Staff Booth to your right just as you exit the lobby.

Navigating CDCC

Immediately after the lobby, there are two perpendicular hallways that surround the main concert hall. We'll call them Hallway A and B.

Hallway A is straight ahead as you leave the lobby, and it runs the length of the building. From Hallway A you can access the concert hall and wheelchair accessible men's and gender-neutral washrooms to your left, and the Staff Booth and Woodside Hall to your right. At the end of Hallway A, through double doors, you will find the Jean Teron Room (entrance to your right) and the Library (entrance to your left).

Hallway B is to the left and up five stairs. There is a handrail on the right. This hallway is also accessible via an elevator which is on your left as you leave the lobby. From Hallway B you can access the wheelchair accessible women's washroom to your left, and at the end of the hall you will find the entrance to the Parlour, also to your left.

The Sanctuary Main Hall is the former sanctuary of the church. This is where the evening concert is. It is a very large domed room with lots of wood which makes for a resonant acoustic. It seats approximately 800 people. As you enter, to your right is the large semicircular wooden stage. Ahead of you are rows of wooden pews with aisles between them. There is room for wheelchairs at the front facing the stage.

Woodside Hall is the main gathering space. The entrance is through the lobby and to your right via Hallway A. It is a large rectangular room (38 x 57 ft) with high ceilings and large windows. Across the room from the entrance is a glass door leading to a small, enclosed garden with paved walkways. Snacks and drinks will be available in Woodside Hall during the morning registration and the afternoon break. A light lunch will also be provided. See NOTE below. Sean Lee's keynote talk will also take place here.

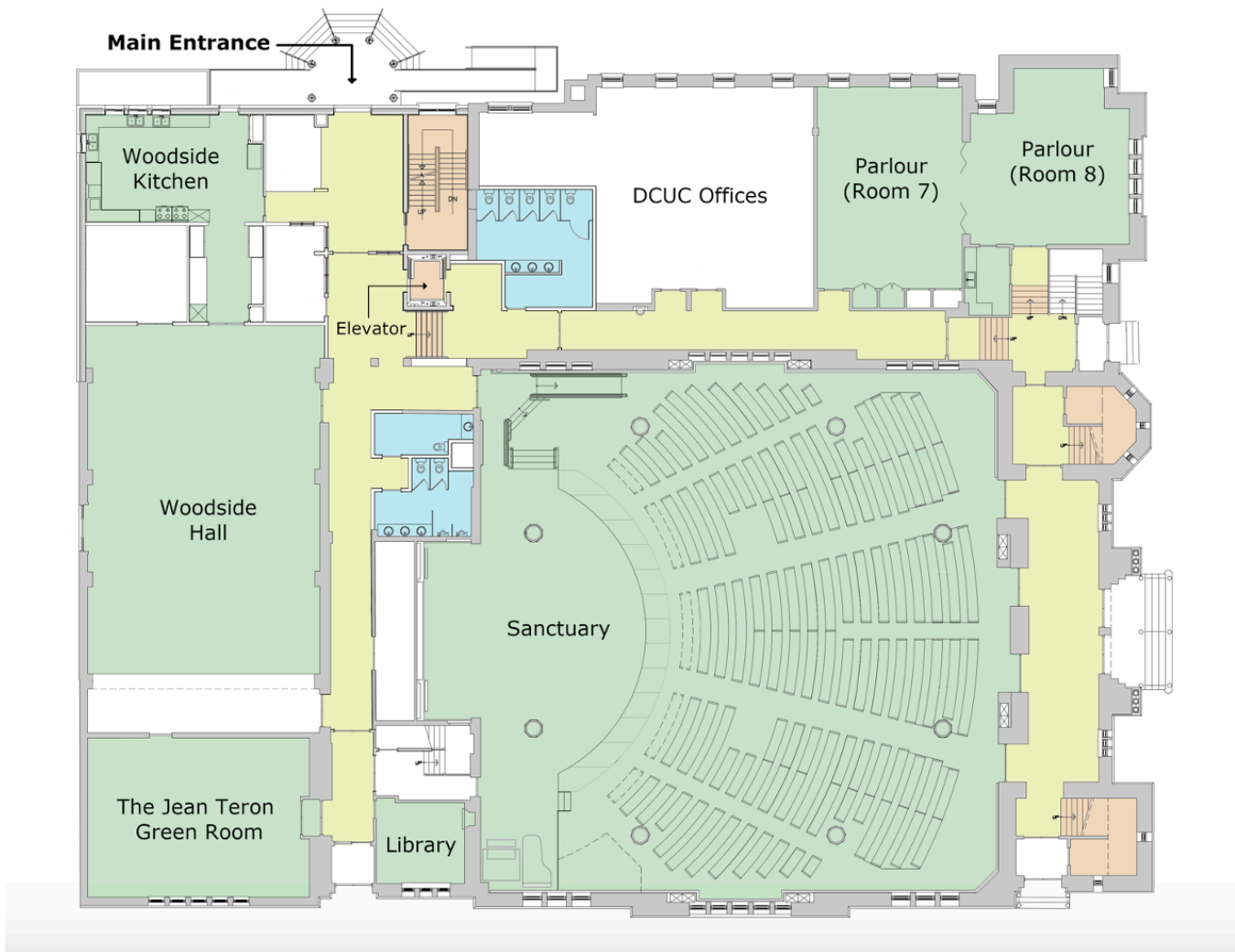
The Jean Teron room is one of two presentation spaces. Formerly a chapel, it has stained glass windows and wooden paneling. It is approximately 36 x 25 ft. There will be morning and afternoon sessions here, with chairs facing a large video screen. At noon there will be an innovation showcase with accessible arts technologies being presented on tables arranged around the walls of the room.

The Library is a quiet space available for anyone who needs a break. It is accessed via Hallway A on your left. It is 12 x 12 feet. There are comfortable chairs with one table. See below for more details about what will be available in this space.

The Parlour is also where morning and afternoon sessions will take place. The Parlour is accessed via Hallway B. These sessions are hybrid, with some people presenting on Zoom and others in person. The Parlour is divided into two rooms. We will use the room immediately in front of you as you enter. It is approximately 32 x 22 ft. Chairs will be set up facing the far wall on the right and a large video monitor.

NOTE: We will provide vegetarian, vegan, some nut free and gluten free options. We cannot guarantee that products have been prepared in a completely gluten free and nut free environment.

Floor Plan



Accessibility Details

Relaxed Event:

The summit is a relaxed event. Attendees are welcome to come and go as they please from any session. Formalities will be minimal, and attendees are invited to move around, make noise, or leave and re-enter as needed. Clear signage, a quiet room, and volunteer staff will be available throughout the day.

Wheelchair Accessible Seating

There is wheelchair accessible seating for all panels, as well as in the Sanctuary for the evening concert. Wheelchair Accessible seating will be located at the front of the seating area and identified with signs. These seats can accommodate manual and electric wheelchairs or scooters.

Scent-Free Environment

To ensure the comfort and safety of all participants, both the CDCC and the Empower Arts Summit are committed to maintaining a scent-free environment. We kindly ask that all attendees refrain from wearing scented products such as perfumes, colognes, scented lotions, or essential oils.

Masking

Masking is highly encouraged for all attendees and participants of the Empower Arts Summit. We understand that some of us, such as those of us with medical exemptions, are not able to wear a mask. A limited number of both N95's and transparent medical-grade face masks will be available at the registration table. We encourage attendees to keep the masks on unless presenting or in performance.

Accessible Washrooms

Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre has two accessible, single stall washrooms. One is located on the ground/main floor, across from Woodside Hall. The second is located on the second floor next to the elevator. Both washrooms will be identified with signage.

The Quiet Room (Library)

The Library will serve as the Quiet Room for the day. It will act as a calm, low-sensory space for anyone needing rest or a break from the stimulation of the conference. The Quiet Room will include comfortable chairs and floor seating with blankets, a table with paper and markers for low-pressure drawing or writing, adjustable lighting and sunglasses to borrow and fidget toys

for grounding or focus. Everyone is welcome to use this space as needed. Please help keep it quiet and respectful for others who may also be seeking rest.

ASL Interpretation

The Empower Arts Summit will be in English with ASL interpretation. All sessions during the Summit will have ASL interpretation. We are deeply sorry that our budget will not allow for French and LSQ services. Reserved seats will be available for the evening concert to those who will be relying on the interpretation throughout the performance.

Audio Description

The Empower Arts Summit will also provide English Audio Description. These services will be provided via Zoom, and access information, including the Zoom link and CDCC wifi details, can be obtained at the Registration desk upon arrival. Attendees may use their personal cell phones or rent one at the Registration desk—note that an ID will be required and held for the duration of the rental. Staff will be on hand to assist with setup and technical support. At the end of the day, please return rental phones to the Staff booth. If you plan on using the description services, we suggest bringing your own pair of comfortable headphones.

We are committed to providing a safe, dignified and welcoming environment for everyone. If you have questions about our access initiatives, require further information, or additional services, please reach out to mssc@carleton.ca.