



Image courtesy of the artist. Photographer: Justin Broadbent

Museum London Announces Inaugural Musician-in-Residence Program with Acclaimed Canadian Artist Shad

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

London, ON — SEP 9, 2026 — Museum London is delighted to announce the launch of its inaugural Musician-in-Residence program, welcoming acclaimed Canadian musician Shad back to the city where he grew up and began his storied music career. Launching in Fall 2026, the year-long residency will celebrate the role of music in fostering connection, telling stories, elevating local talent, and strengthening London's identity as Canada's only UNESCO City of Music.

"I couldn't be happier about this residency in my hometown," said Shad. "I see it as an opportunity to hopefully contribute in a range of ways to a city that nurtured me and my career: a chance to create new work and also reflect on recurring themes from past projects, to share what I've learned and also learn from and engage with new (to me) areas

of London's art and regional histories. I'm proud to roll up my sleeves alongside the excellent Museum London team for the next year."

Throughout the residency, Shad will engage with Museum London's collections, exhibitions, staff, and community through a series of special performances, public programs, educational initiatives and consultation. Inspired by themes of remembering and belonging, the residency will explore how people and communities are shaped by the places they call home, the experiences they carry forward, and the stories they choose to hold dear.

"Launching this Musician-in-Residence program is realizing a dream," said Museum London Executive Director Julie Bevan. "We're honoured to be working with Shad, whose curiosity, hometown connection to London, and acclaimed, multi-dimensional practice make him the perfect fit for this inaugural program. We're also excited to activate our city's UNESCO City of Music designation in this way, and grateful to the funding partners whose generous support makes this initiative possible."

Over the course of the coming year, Shad will participate in in-person and virtual events and creative work while bringing new perspectives to Museum London's exhibitions, collections, and programs. Activities developed throughout the residency will invite community members of all ages to explore creativity, exchange ideas, and engage with London's cultural landscape in new ways.

Support from TD Bank Group (TD) and The Paul Seed Fund at the London Community Foundation is helping bring Museum London's inaugural Musician-in-Residence program to life.

"Music gives people a way to express themselves, share their experiences and connect with each other through creativity," said Keri Kowalski, District Vice President, London District, TD Bank Group. "That's why we're proud to support Museum London's Musician-in-Residence program. By creating opportunities for local artists, students and community members to explore their creativity, develop new skills and share their talents, this program will help bring new voices and perspectives to audiences across London."

A key component of the residency will be the creation of new music developed in collaboration with local talent. This work will become part of Museum London's permanent collection, creating a lasting cultural record of the relationships, stories, creative discoveries, and shared acts of remembering that emerge through the residency.

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"Music has always been a personal passion of mine because of its ability to inspire and connect people," said Paul Seed, Founder and CEO of London-based StarTech.com. "Live music is an essential part of what makes cities vibrant; creating shared experiences that bring people together and contributing to a thriving community. London has a proud history of nurturing exceptional talent, from emerging artists to internationally acclaimed artists like Shad. The Paul Seed Fund is proud to support this unique program in partnership with Museum London and to invest in the creation of music and events that will enrich London's community for years to come."

The program will include both in-person and digital opportunities for public participation, connecting audiences with music, art, history, and one another. Further details about events and activities related to the residency will be announced over the coming months.

Museum London's Musician-in-Residence program is generously funded by the [Paul Seed Fund at the London Community Foundation](#) and [TD Bank Group](#) (TD), with additional support from Cambia Development Foundation and the [London Music Office](#). Programming at Museum London is made possible thanks to the investment of the [City of London](#), the [Canada Council for the Arts](#), the [Ontario Arts Council](#), the [Province of Ontario](#), and many visionary Londoners who believe with us that art, history, and culture are essential.

### About Shad

Shad (Shadrach Kabango) is a Canadian rapper of Rwandan descent known for blending humour with weighty themes and exploring a wide range of topics and sounds throughout his 20-year career. He won the Juno Award for Rap Recording of the Year in 2011, and five of his albums have been shortlisted for the Polaris Music Prize for Canadian Album of the Year—the most shortlist nominations of any artist in the prize's history.

Beyond his work as a musician, Shad has established himself as a broadcaster and educator. He hosted CBC Radio's Q and Netflix's Emmy and Peabody Award-winning series *Hip-Hop Evolution*, and has taught Hip-Hop-related courses at the University of Toronto and Wilfrid Laurier University.

### About Museum London

Museum London mobilizes art and history to build community and co-create an inspired future. Through exhibitions, programs, and events, we connect communities, challenge ways

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of thinking, and ignite creativity toward a more just world.

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