

The Christine Karcza Disability Leadership Award

Plain Language Copy

Do you know a person with a disability who is a leader in the arts?

Nominations are open for the Christine Karcza Disability Leadership Award!

The Karcza Award is a cash prize provided by the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA) every two years.

This award is given to a person who is d/Deaf, Mad and/or d/Disabled* and who has shown leadership in the performing arts in the following ways:

- Building awareness of accessibility for d/Deaf, Mad or d/Disabled audiences
- Creating opportunities for d/Deaf, Mad or d/Disabled artists and/or arts workers
- Creating skills building opportunities and/or mentorship opportunities for d/Deaf, Mad or d/Disabled artists and/or arts workers
- Is dedicated to their practice as a d/Deaf, Mad or d/Disabled artist

This person must be an Ontario resident.

The recipient will receive a cash prize of five thousand dollars (\$5,000). The recipient will also be able to select an emerging leader in the same areas listed above to receive a cash prize of two thousand and five hundred dollars (\$2,500). This individual can be an emerging leader who is d/Disabled or non-disabled (an ally).

Nomination deadline: **5:00pm EST on Monday, April 17th, 2023.**

Nominations can be submitted in the following ways:

- 1) Using the [online form on TAPA's website](#). Folks can visit the [Karcza Award page](#) to find out what information is needed in order to nominate themselves or another individual.
- 2) Emailing Scott Dermody (Dora Awards Manager) at scottd@tapa.ca to arrange an alternate submission format with an access support staff member.

Please note that folks **are allowed** to nominate themselves.

Christine Karcza was a champion of disability rights and accessibility. She worked tirelessly alongside so many cultural organizations—the Stratford Festival, National Arts Centre, Royal Ontario Museum, Mirvish Productions, and Massey College to name a few—building awareness of the many barriers that exclude disabled people from these institutions. Christine shared her support, guidance and knowledge with so many arts and culture groups to ensure accessibility for all.

Please find some images with their respective descriptions attached to use for amplifying this nomination call on social media. Additionally, we have included some ready-to-use Instagram templates for your organization to post for your convenience!

*Glossary:

d/Deaf: “Deaf” with a capital ‘D’ refers to Deaf identity and culture. “deaf” with a lower-case ‘d’ refers to the experience of not hearing, or being hard-of-hearing.

Mad: A word sometimes used by folks who have experienced mental distress and/or use the mental health system.

d/Disabled: “Disability” with a capital ‘D’ refers to people who claim Disability as an identity and culture. “disability” with a lower-case ‘d’ refers to people who do not claim disability as an identity and culture.