

Dear NCRA/ANREC Awards Committee,

It gives me great pleasure to nominate CJSW's DJ Training Workshops for the Local Talent Development Award. These workshops have given countless community members and volunteers the skills to begin their journey into becoming a professional DJ working in the City of Calgary.

Akin to the rest of the country, Calgary's arts scene took a massive hit during the pandemic. Over the course of 2020-2021, events were either canceled or held at a limited capacity, and the vibrancy normally held within the community dwindled. One could imagine CJSW's excitement to see in 2022, the return to live, in-person events across the province, as well as the first in-person semester in 2 years bringing students back to campus. Everything opening up again also meant a large demand for musical entertainment at these events. CJSW saw an opportunity to provide this entertainment at events by training volunteers how to use DJ equipment, and give them a chance to program their own set at a campus or community event.

Starting in March of 2022, CJSW held a series of workshops to train inexperienced volunteers and programmers how to use a turntable, a mixer, and spin a set with vinyl records. Over the course of the month of March we developed a roster of 10 volunteers who could now DJ out in the community, and in April, we were able to provide DJs for the Calgary Underground Film Festival before every single movie, most of whom were the beginners we trained back in March. From March onwards, we have continued to offer DJ workshops throughout the year and provide various campus and community events with DJs, including UofC Clubs Week, UofC orientation events, Alberta Beerfest, and CJSW Funding Drive parties to name a few.

We've since seen these folks who were trained by CJSW Staff begin to seek out their own DJ opportunities and receive compensation for those events. Dandy Brewing Company, a local brewery that hosts Vinyl DJ nights, is almost exclusively programmed by our school of DJs, and as more vinyl DJ nights open around the city, we are seeing our volunteers shining faces taking advantage of their newfound skills and improving Calgary's local arts scene through skills they learned at CJSW. We can only hope to expand this program and offer more skills training to strengthen our community of DJs, as well as bring in more volunteers into this new generation of entertainment professionals in Calgary.

Due to the clear connection our DJ training workshops have had on talent development in the local arts scene, it is clear that they deserve a nomination for this year's CRABOs. The tireless efforts of staff and engagement of volunteers has made this program extremely successful, and I strongly urge you to recognize this by awarding CJSW's DJ training workshops the Local Talent Development Award.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tyra Sanderson  
*Outgoing Program Director and current volunteer, CJSW 90.9FM*