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NTC Foundation Awards Studio Space at ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station to Three Individuals Through “Emerging Artists Studio Program”

This year’s recipients are three dancers and choreographers from the San Diego/Southern Baja region each from a culturally diverse background

SAN DIEGO (May 19, 2022) – [NTC Foundation](#), the non-profit organization that oversees the development of 26 buildings in ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station, has announced three dancer/choreographers as the 2022 Emerging Artists. The Emerging Artist program awards studio space to emerging talent for one year at ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station. Now in its third year, this year’s recipients are Trixi Anne Agiao, Marcella Torres-Sánchez and Lavina Rich.

“The Emerging Artists Studio Program is one of the many ways that NTC Foundation is working to foster up and coming,” said Lisa Johnson, President and CEO of NTC Foundation. “This year’s recipients represent a diverse lineup of dancers and choreographers that will be using a shared studio space to create a variety of upcoming projects.”

In [2019](#), NTC Foundation launched the Emerging Artist Studio Program, which provided studio space for one year to two inspiring visual artists in San Diego. This year, NTC Foundation received 15 submissions and has awarded a space in the Dorothea Laub Dance Place building to three dancers and choreographers from the San Diego/ Northern Baja region each from a culturally diverse background. The individuals will use this space to help build their career in San Diego, engage with other artists, and grow their audience and patron base for future success.

More information on each of this year’s recipients are below:

Trixi Anne Agiao

Socially conscious dancer, choreographer and filmmaker, Trixi creates work centered on fighting the stigma against mental illness and mental health. Trixi grew up practicing indigenous Igorot dances from the Philippines and received most of her formalized dance training in aesthetics like jazz and modern from UCSD. Trixi spent several years at Visionary Dance Theatre, first as a dancer and then as the assistant artistic director. Trixi is now a freelancer who has been expanding her performing and creating mediums. Utilizing visual storytelling experience as a dancer and choreographer, Trixi sets out to make

stage and film productions that kinesthetically connect with her audience. Trixi plans to use this studio space to work on a variety of upcoming projects including a new dance film, weekly free choreographer and dancer workshops, and ongoing events with the FilAM Film Collective, Diversionary Theatre, and San Diego AAPI.

Marcella Torres-Sánchez

Hailing from Tijuana, México, Marcella has been dancing since the age of three. She holds a certificate in Contemporary Dance and Scenic Production from Lux Boreal Dance Company and was a member of Gloria Campobello Dance School and the Northwest México. Marcella worked as a company dancer and dance teacher at the Visionary Dance Theatre, and has performed in productions by Liam Clancy, Eric Geiger, Dr. Grace Shinhae Jun, Gina and Kyle Sorensen, Debbie Toth-Ward, and Terry Wilson. Additionally, Marcella has completed summer programs at Black Studio in México City, Broadway Dance Center in New York, and Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater. Marcella will be using her studio space to work on a full-length dance concert titled Flores Ma(r)chitas that will premiere at DanZen Fest this summer, and a piece titled Desplazado inspired by forced migration in Latin America.

Lavina Rich

Founder of the Push Process Movement, a dance collective whose mission is to explore the details in common stories through movement, Lavina is focused on exploring the human experience through dance, humor and shared emotions. Lavina is working on a brand-new work for Disco Riot's first Queer Movement Festival in June 2022. This work will explore the life of Nancy Valverde, a Chicana lesbian icon, and the masquerading laws of the 1940/1950s in Southern California. Lavina plans on expanding this piece into a full evening length piece during her time at ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station.

"As a board member who served on the selection committee for the emerging artist visual arts program, we witnessed so much creativity," said Victoria Reed, NTC Foundation Board Member and Committee Chair. "Every single applicant impressed me with their passion and unique approach to dance. Lavina's a dancer who took a break and is ready to re-focus on her dance experience and message. Marcella just graduated from college and is excited to think of next steps. Trixi has boundless energy and ideas and believes in collaboration. I can't wait to see what emerges!"

This year's selections were made by a panel of five well-known individuals from San Diego's arts and culture scene each with a unique and culturally diverse perspective as it relates to dance including Artistic Director of the San Diego Ballet Javier Velasco, the former president of Californians for the Arts and NTC Foundation board member Victoria Hamilton, UCSD dance choreographer Dr. Grace Shinhae Jun, and nationally recognized choreographer Daniel Dashunn Marshall.

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About NTC Foundation

NTC Foundation was established in 2000 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to enrich the lives of San Diegans by renovating this signature community asset and creating, facilitating, and operating ARTS DISTRICT as a 100-acre creative district. Visitors experience the arts, culture, creativity, and cuisine that are the hallmarks of the San Diego region and enjoy innovative experiences in a historic setting at Liberty Station that inspire lives for generations to come. www.ntcfoundation.org

About ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station

ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station is San Diego's largest Arts & Cultural District located in historic buildings at the former Naval Training Center in the Liberty Station neighborhood, near Downtown on San Diego Bay. With 100 park-like acres, the ARTS DISTRICT is home to nearly 145 museums and galleries, artist studios, dance companies, fine dining, creative retail and other organizations that showcase San Diego's creative community and provide innovative experiences for the public.

www.artsdistrictlibtystation.com