



ARTS DISTRICT
LIBERTY STATION



— 2025/2026 Emerging Dance Artist Rachel Torres

CALL FOR ARTISTS

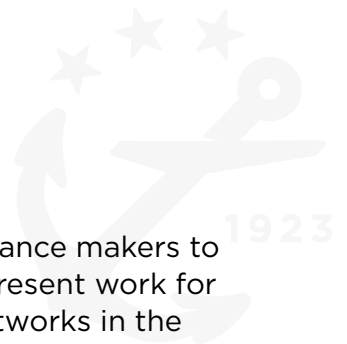
EMERGING ARTIST RESIDENCY — DANCE ARTS

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Submittal Deadline: Sunday, May 17, 2026 @ 11:59 PM PST

We are seeking applications from emerging dance artists interested in a 11-month residency with access to studio space at Arts District, an arts and culture hub at the heart of Liberty Station.

RESIDENCY OVERVIEW



This Emerging Artist Residency is intended for emerging career dancers and dance makers to grow in their practice, create new work or develop existing work, perform or present work for critique among peers and for public audiences, and build their professional networks in the San Diego/Northern Baja region by engaging with other dance artists and arts professionals in Arts District Liberty Station (ADLS).

EMERGING ARTIST RESIDENCY - DANCE

2025/2026 ARTIST

RACHEL TORRES

San Diego, CA

Rachel Torres graduated from the University of California, San Diego with a BA in Literature with Honors and a minor in Dance, performing in works by Liam Clancy, Allyson Green, and Yolande Snaith during her time there. Upon graduation, Rachel began taking classes and working with independent artists in the San Diego community. She has had the pleasure of performing works by several local choreographers including John Malashock, Jean Isaacs, Debi Toth, Sadie Weinberg, Lara Segura, Erica Buechner, Brianna Pilkinton, and Lavina Rich. Rachel has performed as a guest artist with San Diego Dance Theater and was a company dancer with the Malashock Dance Company from 2016-2020. She currently teaches youth and adult modern classes at Malashock Dance. As an Artist in Residence with Arts District Liberty Station, she was excited to have a dedicated space and time to create work and focus on her artistic voice and vision.



EMERGING ARTIST RESIDENCY - DANCE

2025/2026 ARTIST

LILIAN IBARRA PANTOJA

Tijuana, Baja California

With a family tree rooted in art, Lilian is a multidisciplinary artist who draws inspiration from her heritage to create dynamic works. Beginning her dance journey at a very early age (1995) in Tijuana, Baja California, she focused in Folklorico before discovering Contemporary Ballet at eleven (2002). Throughout her teenage years Lilian participated in several dance productions by Susana Lopez Reyes at Casa de La Cultura. She continued her formal training in Lux Boreals Modern Dance and Stage Production Education program (2010-2012). In 2014 her Ballet Teacher Rafael Oseguera encouraged her to pursue a career in early childhood dance education. Her first choreographic work "III" was showcased at Live Arts Fest 2019. In 2022 she was selected to present her piece "diverting" at the Emerging Choreographers Showcase and Prize. With the opportunity to be an Emerging Artist in Residence with Arts District, Lilian worked to expand her identity and showcase her skills as a dance maker.



OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Artists selected for this eleven (11) month residency will have 24/7 access to studio space in the Dorothea Laub Dance Place, a dance ecosystem that includes four professional companies along with other organizations and individual practitioners whose work supports movement-based artists.

Each resident will receive a stipend sum of \$3,000 to support the creation and production of work and help cover the costs of other components of the residency.

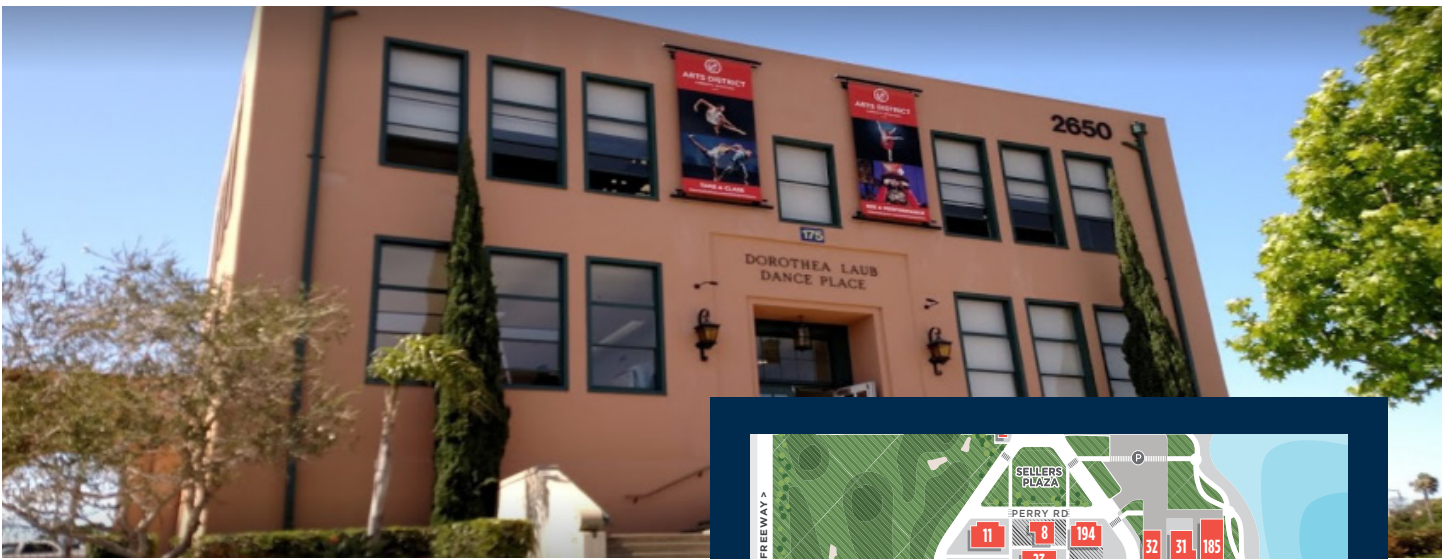
Up to 4 individuals will be selected for this upcoming residency cohort, thus making the studio a shared space among selected artists.

PERIOD OF THE RESIDENCY

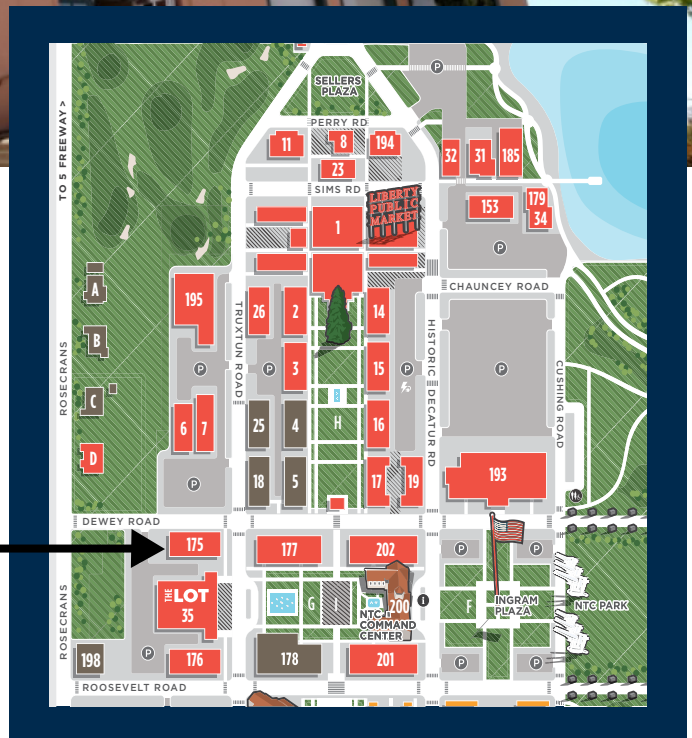
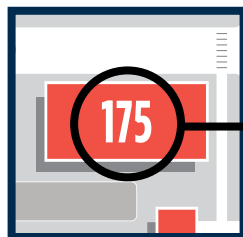
June 2026 - May 2027.

STUDIO SPACE - DETAILS

- 664 sq ft usable space located on the second floor of the Dorothea Laub Dance Place (Building 175).



The selected dance artists must utilize the studio space for a minimum average of 10 hours a week and will need to work together to create mutually beneficial studio use schedule.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Artist(s) or collaborative(s) must have an active dance/dance making practice.
- Artist(s) or collaborative(s) are not full-time students at the time of residency.
- Artist(s) or collaborative(s) must reside in San Diego County, Tijuana B.C. or a sovereign tribal territory in the borderland region.

Applicants must also be at least 21 years of age and cannot be artists or collaborative who are a current tenant of ADLS or have previously been selected for this opportunity.

EMERGING ARTIST RESIDENCY - DANCE

2025/2026 ARTIST

MIGUEL GALVAN

San Diego, CA

Miguel Angel Galvan is a San Diego-based movement artist, educator, and choreographer with over a decade of teaching experience across street and contemporary forms. He began his dance journey with breaking in high school, later gaining exposure to contemporary, modern, and jazz. While studying dance at UC San Diego, he deepened his choreographic voice and trained in studios throughout San Diego and Los Angeles. Miguel's work bridges freestyle and formal technique, and he continues to teach and create throughout Southern California. As an Artist in Residence with Arts District Liberty Station Miguel was excited by the chance to create in a space that values experimentation, collaboration, and community. He approached the residency as a unique opportunity to develop meaningful connections while contributing to an inclusive and dynamic artistic environment.



RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Individual or Collaborative selected artists will need to:

- Utilize the studio space for a minimum average of 10 hours a week.
 - > Considering shared calendar and holding flexibility for individual needs for the space.
- Host 4 studio activations/events throughout the length of the residency to engage with the community and public at Arts District.
 - > E.g. participate in Arts District partnership events, host workshops, open studios, themed talks/performances, etc.
- Participate in an End of Residency performance alongside other selected artists or collaboratives by May 2027.



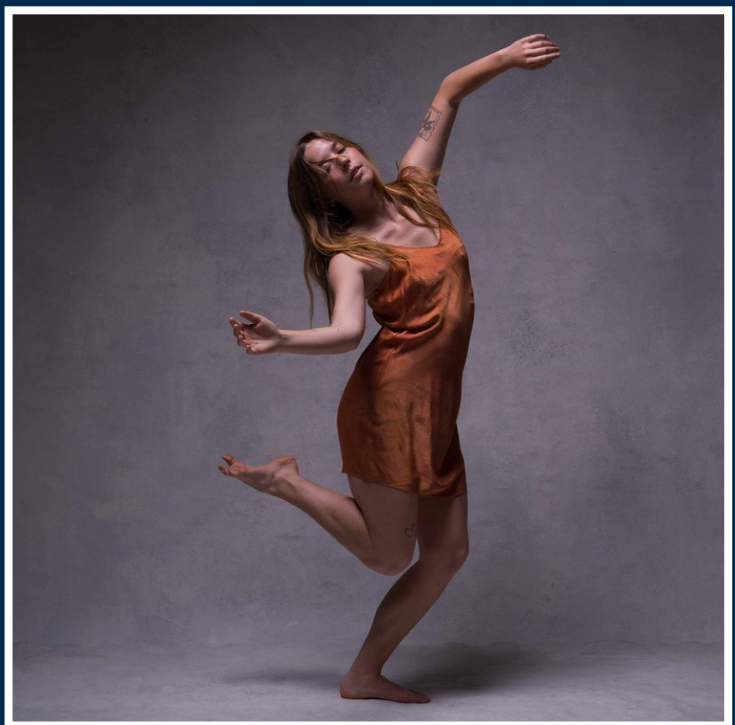
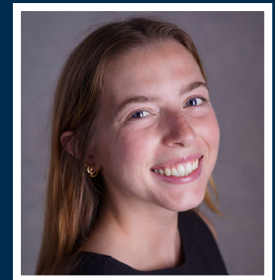
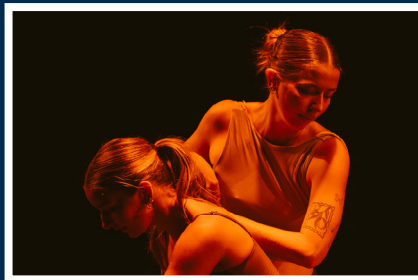
EMERGING ARTIST RESIDENCY - DANCE

2025/2026 ARTIST

GIOVANNA FRANCISCO

San Diego, CA

Giovanna is a movement artist originally from Palm Springs, CA, now based in San Diego, CA. Her creative practice draws inspiration from plants and wildlife, vulnerability, and authentic human expression. Embracing community and collective presence are integral to her practice. She studied dance and sociology at UCSD where she expanded upon her formal dance training in ballet, contemporary and modern techniques. Her first artist's residency took place in the garden space of Art Produce (gallery and nonprofit) where she cultivated an evening-length work inspired by the insects she observed there. Giovanna has performed and created work in San Diego as both an independent artist and community dancer. As an Artist in Residence with Arts District Liberty Station Giovanna was excited to explore her artistry and creative process in a versatile, gorgeous setting where she collaborated with artists across different mediums.



ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

Individual or Collaborative selected artists will need to:

- Submit a refundable security deposit of \$300 prior to residency start.
- Be willing to share studio space with other selected artists.
 - > Artists will have to work together to create mutually beneficial studio use schedule.
- Attend monthly check-in conversations with Arts District Staff during residency.
- Provide monthly and overall calendar proposals and updates to Arts District Liberty Station staff, and coordinate with ADLS staff regarding other programming that may occur in the studio space.



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Though not a requirement of the residency, ADLS is committed to supporting the growth and success of residents in other ways beyond the scope included here. Selected residents will have access to ADLS team to learn more about building a creative small business as an artist, leasing and rental agreements/contracts, fundraising, and community outreach. Throughout the residency, there is also access to explore collaborative opportunities with the resident dance companies at ADLS.

— 2024/2025 Emerging Dance Artist Lexii Regina
(photo by Rob Riingen Photography)



— 2024/2025 Emerging Dance Artist Micah Parra



— 2024/2025 Emerging Dance Artist Joyce Kushner

TO APPLY

- ▶ Interested artists will be required to create an account and submit the following information via our **GoSmart Application Portal**.

Click the logo to begin: 

Items required

- a) Contact information (phone number, address, email)
- b) Resume/CV
- c) Letter of Reference (1)
 - > 1 letter from someone who can speak to your artistic practice, person, and ethos, as a dancer/dance maker in context of this residency opportunity.
- d) Statement of Artistic Vision including your background, purpose, and the 'why' behind what you want to create and accomplish through the residency (2,500 characters maximum).
- e) Describe your intended use of the space, approach to collaboration, and goals for community engagement across the Arts District campus (2,500 characters maximum).
- f) Statement explaining how your artistic work ties in with Arts District's mission, vision, and commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (2,000 character maximum).
- g) Statement explaining why this is the right moment in your career to participate in the Emerging Artist Residency and how your participation will strengthen your artistic practice, develop your career trajectory, and support its long-term sustainability (2,000 character maximum).
- h) 2 recent and relevant work samples (video links, etc.) with brief descriptions of each sample
 - > Videos can be max 5 minutes; providing a timestamp cue of where the sample begins if not at beginning.
 - > Finished performances and/or rehearsal footage are acceptable. A single video sample can also be edited to include more than one piece.
 - > Pitch reel footage and videos of applicants teaching or taking a class will not be accepted as samples.
 - Choose samples that best showcase your artistic practice, accomplishments, or community impact. Avoid submitting materials that are purely promotional or redundant with your application submission.
- i) How you found out about this residency and its Call for Artists.

LEARN MORE!

Click a date below to join a
**BILINGUAL, VIRTUAL
Q&A SESSION**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2026
3:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Wednesday, May 6, 2026
5:30 - 6:30 pm**

Attendees can join at any point
in the hour for both sessions.

APPLICATION REVIEW TIMELINE

Bilingual (ENG/SPAN) Virtual Q&A Sessions **Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 3 - 4 pm**
 **Wednesday, May 6, 2026 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm**
Submission Deadline **Sunday, May 17, 2026 by 11:59 pm PST**
Selected Artists for Interview notified by **Friday, May 22, 2026**
In-Person Interviews to take place **Tuesday, May 26, 2026 from 12 - 4 pm**
Final Selection announced by **Friday, May 29, 2026**

If you encounter any issues uploading materials or technical questions about your submission email admin@artsdistrictlibertystation.org with subject line: “Emerging Artist Dance - Question”



SELECTION PROCESS



- An advisory committee made up of members of the Arts District Liberty Station board and staff, as well as diverse representatives of the dance and arts community will review applications and select individuals to interview.
- The advisory committee will be reviewing applications and selecting finalists based on the following criteria:
 - > ***Emerging Career Experience***
Evaluation of status as emerging/developing career artists: is artist/collaborative a good fit for a structured 11-month residency including monthly check ins, required activations, and an end of residency showcase? Are they at a point in their career where this opportunity would be impactful?
 - > ***Readiness for Residency***
Does the artist/collaborative have the experience, organizational skills, and commitment to benefit from and contribute to the residency structure? Do they demonstrate readiness as indicated through their application?
 - > ***Artistic Vision for Residency***
Does the artist/collaborative share a clear, compelling vision for what they intend to explore or develop during the residency? Does their vision or process represent innovative practices or perspectives, new voices coming to ADLS? Does it reflect intention, depth, and relevance to their artistic journey?
 - > ***Community Engagement***
Estimate of how much artist/collaborative will be able to contribute to Arts District community while in residence and beyond? Will they be strategic in the use of time, space, and engaging others?
 - > ***Commitment to IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access)***
Does the artists' work reflect inclusion, diversity, equity, and access through their creative process, community relationships, and/or intentions for collaboration?
 - > ***Quality of Work Samples***
Evaluation of the creativity and technical skill demonstrated in the applicant's work samples. Does the artist show a clear, unique voice or perspective?
- Artist/Collaborative availability for the studio will also be requested and considered at the finalist round to ensure a balanced and active shared studio calendar.
- Interviews with selected artists will follow the application review. Final selections for Artists-in-Residence will be chosen and notified of award post-interview.
- Final selection will be announced by May 29, 2026.



ARTS DISTRICT LIBERTY STATION



ABOUT ARTS DISTRICT LIBERTY STATION

Mission Statement

The mission of Arts District Liberty Station is to activate a dynamic and historic campus where enriching cultural experiences, impactful learning opportunities, and inspiring events are accessible to all.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a world-class arts district in the transborder region where creativity, culture, and community thrive.

Commitment

Our overarching foundation, NTC Foundation, formalized its commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA), recognizing that arts and culture can inspire social change. We will ensure that Arts District Liberty Station mirrors the rich diversity of our binational region, is welcoming and inviting to all, embraces the diversity of artists and art forms, and constantly provides new opportunities for creating and for enjoying. IDEA will be a guidepost for our intentions and actions in enhancing staff and Board leadership, tenant relations, visitor services, program offerings, partnership development, and communications and outreach to communities. We do this to earn the public's trust in perpetuity.

  Follow Arts District Liberty Station on social media.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

Art in Public Places (AiPP) is a collection of programs from Arts District Liberty Station (ADLS) containing the following initiatives, a public art program named Installations at the Station, an 18-month residency focused on curation named the David G. Fleet Curator-in-Residence, and early career artist residencies for both visual and dance arts, Emerging Artist Residency. This programming activates the historic campus of Arts District Liberty Station with compelling, accessible, and diverse artists, artwork, and experiences that reflect the creative spirit of San Diego and the transborder region.

EMERGING ARTIST PROGRAM

Arts District's Emerging Artist Program is an initiative to foster emerging San Diego/Tijuana Region artists with studio space and the chance to participate in a vibrant, creative environment. The initiative is designed to help them build their career in San Diego, engage with other artists, and grow their audience and patron base for future success. Learn more about this initiative [HERE](#).

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