



ARTS DISTRICT
LIBERTY STATION

— 2025 Emerging Visual Artist Marcela Alacrcón López



CALL FOR ARTISTS

EMERGING ARTIST RESIDENCY — VISUAL ARTS

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Submittal Deadline: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 @ 11:59 PM PST

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

RESIDENCY OVERVIEW

The Emerging Artist Residency is intended to help early career visual artists develop their work, build their confidence and career in the San Diego/Northern Baja region, engage with other artists, and grow their client base for future success. This program aligns with the Arts District's goal of elevating emerging artists in our transborder region by offering access to studio space in the dynamic cultural environment of Arts District Liberty Station. In addition to providing space, the residency further supports artists-in-residence with the opportunity to showcase original work, as well as provide promotional support, working relationships with professional curators, business advice, and engagement with the wider creative community.

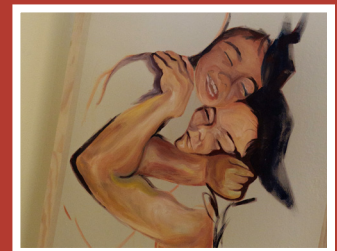
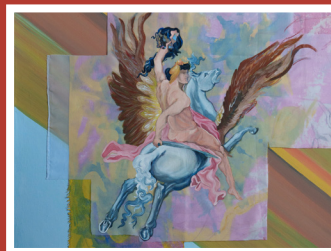
EMERGING ARTIST RESIDENCY - VISUAL ARTS

2025 ARTIST

MARCELA ALARCÓN LÓPEZ

Tijuana, Mexico

Tijuana based artist, M.A.L. has been practicing her skills in the visual arts since 2019. Originally a psychotherapist, M.A.L. blended artistic curiosity with her clinical experience and psychological interests. Growing up across different states and countries, M.A.L. developed a wavering interest in plastic arts influenced by her fluctuating background. Her pictorial and sculptural work is characterized by playfully borderline dramatic motifs, experimental contrasts between the figurative and conceptual, as well as the use of diverse supports such as cement, acrylics, transparencies and food.





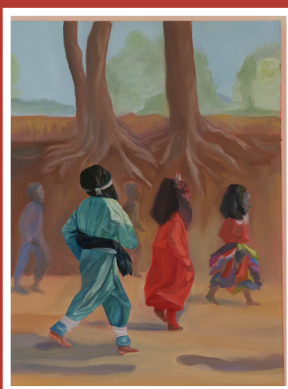
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2025 ARTIST

EDÉN DELAVARA

San Diego, CA

Edén DeLaVara is a mixed media artist based in San Diego, CA. She dissects the importance of belonging, comfort, and intercultural exchange through the lens of her Mexican-American and Black identities. Her body of work, primarily centered around figurative painting and drawing, champions vibrant colors and textures to cast a joyful and celebratory light on the otherwise mundane. Raised in Vista, Edén began exploring portraiture in middle school and discovered a delight for draftsmanship. Through her academic career, her two fields of study— International Development and Studio Art— significantly informed her artistic voice. She draws much inspiration from contemporary art movements within the Black community and artistic movements along la frontera. As an emerging artist in San Diego, Edén is developing a new body of work synthesizing the legacy of African American quilting with contemporary painting and fiber art practices.



OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Artists selected for this six (6) month residency will have access to studio space at Arts District, an arts and culture hub at the heart of Liberty Station.

Four (4) individuals will be selected for this upcoming residency cohort. Two (2) artists will be selected to complete the residency during Aug 2026-Jan 2027, and the other 2 artists will be selected to complete the residency during Feb-Jul 2027. The 2 artists selected for each residency period will be sharing the studio space.

Each resident will receive a stipend of \$750 to support studio expenses throughout the residency.

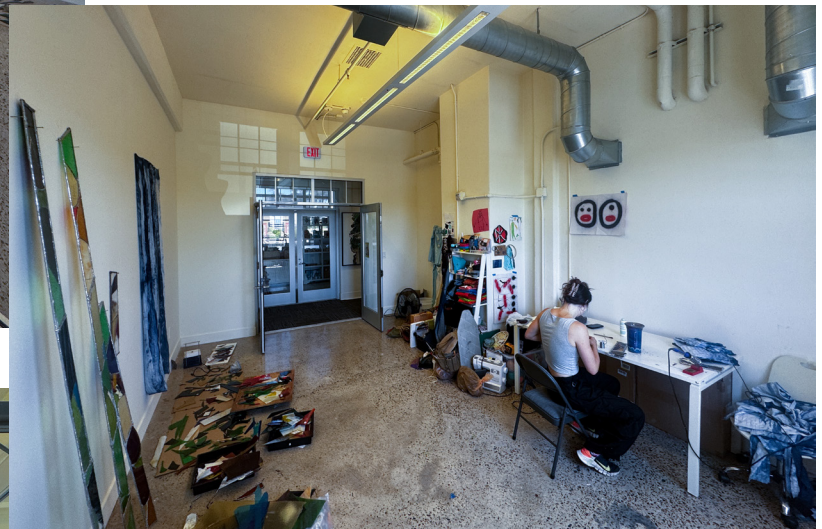
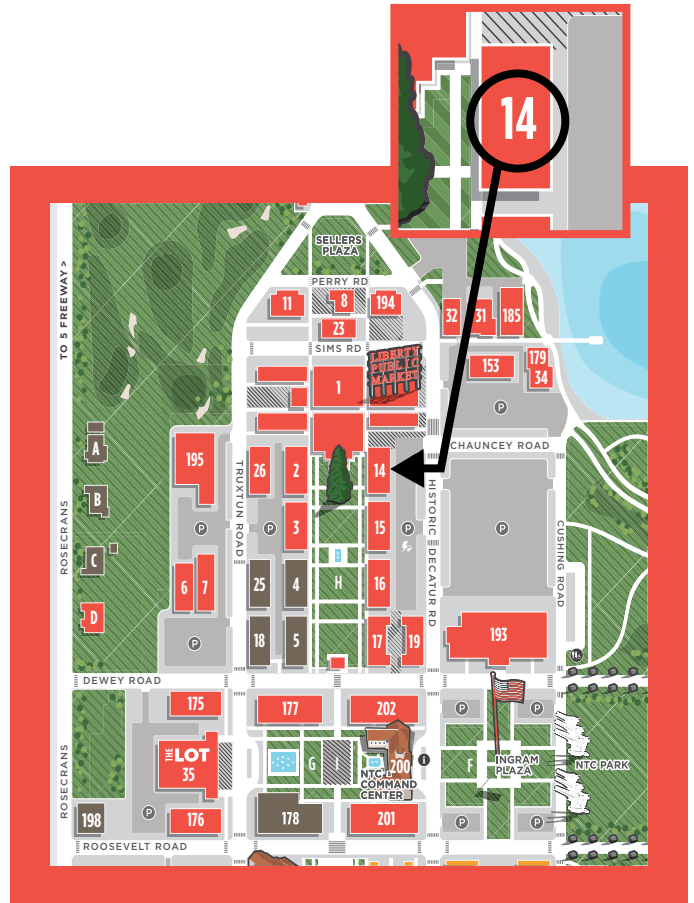
PERIOD OF THE RESIDENCY

August 2026 - January 2027

February 2027 - July 2027

STUDIO SPACE - DETAILS

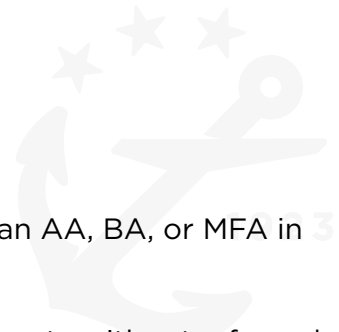
- 324 sq. feet studio located on the second floor of Barracks 14



The two artists selected for each residency period will share the studio space.

Each resident will receive a stipend of \$750 to support ancillary expenses throughout the residency.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



- Early career artists who are working towards or have graduated with an AA, BA, or MFA in Visual/Studio Arts or a similar field.
OR
Early career artists seeking to further/continue careers in visual studio arts without a formal education in visual or studio arts.
- Applicants must also be at least 21 years of age and cannot be artists who are a current tenant of ADLS or have previously been selected for this opportunity.
- Artist(s) must reside in San Diego County, Tijuana (B.C.), or a sovereign tribal territory in the borderland region.

Note: this residency does not include on-site housing and is not intended as a live-in program. Beyond the amount of the residency stipend, Arts District Liberty Station is unable to provide additional financial support for transportation.

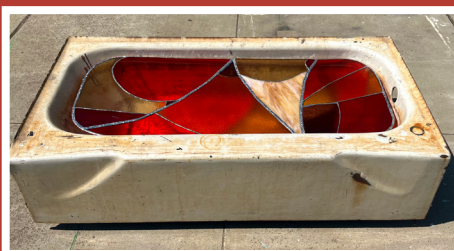
EMERGING ARTIST RESIDENCY - VISUAL ARTS

2026 ARTIST

AUDREY GINGRAS

San Diego, CA

Audrey Gingras uses sculpture and installation as a language to interpret the space between the physical world and that of spirit, based on histories of religious and craft traditions. Through stained glass, fused glass, ceramics, and steel welding, she explores themes of memory, transience, and ritual. Her sculptures exist in a state of accumulation and evolution, illuminated by ephemeral light filtering through glass objects or wax pooling and dripping down ceramic facades. In her time as an Emerging Artist in Residence with Arts District Liberty Station she has been excited to collaborate within a vibrant and supportive creative community and expanding on communal practice work in a setting that encourages experimentation, dialogue, and artistic exchange.



RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Selected artists will need to:

- Utilize the studio space a minimum of 15 hours a week
- Hold 3 events throughout their residency to engage with the public e.g. participate in Arts District events, host workshops, host themed talks, etc.
- Collectively, the Artists in Residence must coordinate to have the studio space open on Saturday and Sunday hours to be coordinated with Arts District Staff.
- Work with ADLS Curator-in-Residence throughout the residency.



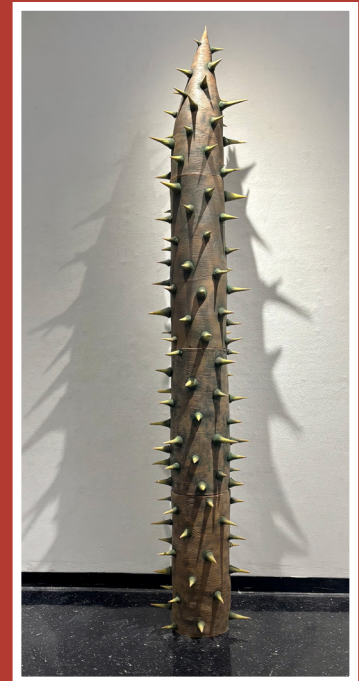
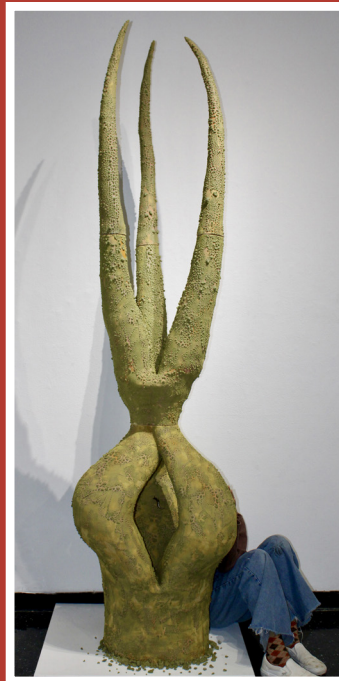
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2026 ARTIST

ANA SAAD

San Diego, CA

Based in San Diego, Ana Saad, is a multimedia artist working in primarily ceramic and fiber mediums to create sculptural works which speak to queer identities, human nature, and communal interactions. Through the materiality of ceramic and fiber, they use a visual vocabulary of uncanny nature-like motifs to explore and dismantle gender binaries, exploiting the often uncomfortable realities of queer existence. Ana creates work which offers insight into aspects of queer existence: the all-encompassing discomforts, resistance, anger, and love which intertwine into the queer experience. Within their time as an Emerging Artist in Residence, Ana has been working on connecting to others in the community and explore Arts District Liberty Station more intimately, inviting the greater San Diego art community through workshops and open studio events.





ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Selected artists will need to:

- Attend monthly check-ins with designated ADLS staff member.
- Submit a residency plan outlining the objectives for the residency upon initial residency check-in with ADLS staff.
- Submit refundable security deposit of \$300 prior to residency start.
- Be willing to share studio space with the other selected artist.
- Provide monthly and overall calendar proposals and updates to Arts District Liberty Station staff, and coordinate with ADLS staff regarding promotion of events occurring 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, and the fundraising/development landscape for artists.

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) Submit proof of address (dated within the last 60 days)
 - Acceptable formats: utility bill, correspondence, housing documentation, financial statement, insurance policy
 - Before submitting, please black out or obscure all sensitive personal information

If proof of address is not available, please explain why you should be considered from San Diego County, Tijuana, or the tribal territories within. Including at least 1 reference within a local community organization or academic institution who can verify regional status.
- c) Resume/CV
- d) Artist statement (2500 character maximum)
 - Describe yourself and the central themes, ideas, or questions that drive your practice. What is the cohesive message or intention behind your body of work?
- e) Letter of interest in having a studio residency at Arts District Liberty Station (2500 character maximum)
 - Including residency purpose, ideas for community engagement, and why this residency would be right for this point in your career
- f) Preferred residency time frame (Aug 2026-Jan 2027 or Feb-Jul 2027 or Flexible if open)
- g) 5-10 work samples (images, video links, etc.) with brief descriptions for each sample attached
 - If any work samples utilize digital tools such as AI or else, please specify how in your descriptions.
- h) 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, June 24, 2026

4:30 - 5:30 pm

Monday, July 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, June 24, 2026 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm**
..... **Monday July 6, 2026 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm**
Submission Deadline **Wednesday, July 15, 2026 by 11:59 pm PST**
Selected Artists for Interview notified by **Thursday, July 23, 2026**
In-Person Interviews to take place **Monday, July 27, and Wednesday, July 29, 2026**
..... **from 10 am - 12 pm**
Final Selection announced by **Friday, July 31, 2026**

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

SELECTION PROCESS

- Submissions will be reviewed and selected by Arts District Staff, local subject matter experts and members of Arts District’s Art in Public Places Committee (AiPP).
- Interviews with selected candidates will follow the application review. Final selections for Artists in Residence will be chosen and notified of award by Friday, July 31st, 2026.
- Our AiPP advisory committee consists of members of the Arts District Liberty Station board and staff, subject matter experts, and diverse representatives of the local visual 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:
 - > **Alignment with Residency Goals**
Evaluation of the artist’s status as early career artist: are they a good fit for a structured 6-month residency including monthly check ins, required activations, and an end of residency exhibit? Are they at a point in their career where this opportunity would be impactful?
 - > **Readiness for Residency**
Does artist have fitting experience, organizational skills, and commitment to benefit from and contribute to the residency structure?
 - > **Community Engagement Potential**
How will the artist be able to contribute to ADLS community while in residence and beyond? Will they be strategic in the use of time, space, and engaging others? Does the artists’ work reflect a commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and access?
 - > **Artistic Vision**
Evaluation of the creativity, innovation, and technical skills demonstrated in the applicant’s portfolio or work samples. Does the artist show a clear, unique voice or perspective?



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, 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 COMMITTEE

The AiPP committee advises Arts District's board and staff on strategy, directions, and opportunities to support and elevate emerging artists, curators, and culture bearers whose work enhances the public experience of arts and culture at Arts District Liberty Station.

Learn more about the committee's members and history, [HERE](#).

EMERGING ARTIST PROGRAM

Arts District's Emerging Artist Program is an initiative to foster emerging San Diego/Northern Baja 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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