

LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL (LMCC) AWARDS 22 ARTIST RESIDENCIES IN SECOND YEAR OF GOVERNORS ISLAND RESIDENCY INITIATIVE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19



Photo credit: David Sundberg/Esto

January 26, 2021—The **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC)** is pleased to award a second round of free artist residencies at **LMCC’s Arts Center at Governors Island** to 22 artists and cultural practitioners who have been affected by the COVID-19 crisis, in an effort to combat the devastating impact of the pandemic on New York City’s cultural landscape. Now in its second year, the 2021 emergency residency program doubles the number of artists supported by LMCC at Governors Island in 2020. This year’s artists include: **Abigail Donahue, Alexa Hoyer, Andres Santiago Pina, Anthony Huffman, Betsy Kenyon, Dena Igusti, Hsuan Yu Pan, Hyewon Park, Isaac Roller, Janelle Lawrence, Josef Pinlac, Katy McCarthy, KC Trommer, Kelly Marshall, Kosuke Kawahara, Madeleine Fia Matsson, Mingna Li, Nozomi Rose, Rhonda Wepler, Ryan D. Matthews, Selwyn V. Garraway and Yin Ming Wong.**

LMCC's Open Call for Residencies in Response to COVID-19 was organized in 2020 as part of the Governors Island Residency Initiative, an Island-wide partnership between LMCC, the Trust for Governors Island and 18 other cultural organizations that repositioned indoor spaces historically used for exhibitions and public programming as residencies or workspaces for artists and other members of the City's cultural community. Open to artists, writers, cultural workers and creative practitioners living and working across the five boroughs, the initiative provides free, temporary space to work in LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island.

Artist residencies and studio programs have been part of LMCC's work at Governors Island since it became a yearlong tenant on the Island in 2010. More recently, in 2019 LMCC opened its newly expanded and renovated Arts Center at Governors Island as the first permanent home for artists and audiences on Governors Island, a gathering place and incubator for work related to sustainability and ecology.

For the 2021 season, over 250 artists applied for LMCC's open call. The selection process was guided by values and priorities that informed a careful, equitable and inclusive approach to outreach and selection, including:

- Ensuring that artists and cultural practitioners of diverse racial identities, gender expressions and sexual orientations from across New York City have access to the opportunity and are represented;
- Seeking out artists and cultural workers whose practices give back to, or aim to make positive change within, the cultural community and/or the City at large;
- Seeking out artists and cultural workers whose practices address important socio-political issues, including but not limited to public health, gender discrimination, immigration, racial equity, climate change and environmental justice;
- Seeking out artists and cultural workers whose practices will benefit from working on Governors Island as a public space serving diverse audiences.

Over half of the applicant pool identified as Brooklyn-based, while one-third came from Manhattan, nine percent from Queens and one percent from the Bronx. Artists described losing studio space and residency opportunities due to the pandemic; identified how LMCC's residency would facilitate trying new creative practices; and cited needing studio space in which to work during quarantine, separate from their current shared living spaces.

2021 RESIDENTS AT LMCC'S ARTS CENTER AT GOVERNORS ISLAND

[Abigail Donahue](#), Design Arts | Manhattan
[Alexa Hoyer](#), Visual Arts | Brooklyn
Andres Santiago Pina, Theatre | Manhattan
[Anthony Huffman](#), Literature/Writing | Brooklyn
[Betsy Kenyon](#), Visual Arts | Manhattan
[Dena Igusti](#), Literature/Writing | Jamaica
[Hsuan Yu Pan](#), Film | Woodside
[Hyewon Park](#), Visual Arts | Brooklyn
[Isaac Roller](#), Comics/Graphic Literature | Manhattan
[Janelle Lawrence](#), Performance Art | Manhattan
Josef Pinlac, Multidisciplinary | Elmhurst
[Katy McCarthy](#), Multidisciplinary | Brooklyn

[KC Trommer](#), Literature/Writing | Jackson Heights

[Kelly Marshall](#), Visual Arts | Manhattan

[Kosuke Kawahara](#), Visual Arts | Brooklyn

[Madeleine Fia Matsson](#), Visual Arts | Brooklyn

[Mingna Li](#), Multidisciplinary | Brooklyn

[Nozomi Rose](#), Visual Arts | Manhattan

[Rhonda Weppler](#), Visual Arts | Manhattan

[Ryan D. Matthews](#), Literature/Writing | Brooklyn

[Selwyn V. Garraway](#), Visual Arts | Manhattan

[Yin Ming Wong](#), Visual Arts | Brooklyn

“The 2021 Governors Island COVID-19 Response Residency Program exemplifies the power of a diverse group of artistic voices working in community with one another to process our current reality and imagine future ones,” said **Lili Chopra**, **LMCC’s Executive Director, Artistic Programs**. “This cohort comes from different boroughs, reflects the breadth of the city’s cultural backgrounds and demonstrates a range of innovative, interdisciplinary practices. Now in its second year, the residency is a direct response to the timely needs of NYC-based artists and creative practitioners, and seeks to provide resources to those most affected by the ongoing health crisis.”

“Although the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact New York City, artists remain pillars of resilience and action. LMCC is committed to sustaining artists’ careers with a safe space for practice and work, and we look forward to welcoming 22 new artists at the Arts Center at Governors Island and to providing these artists with much needed space to build community and create,” added **Diego S. Segalini**, **LMCC’s Executive Director, Finance & Administration**.

“In light of the ongoing global health crisis, this is an opportunity to listen and respond to the challenges that New York City’s artists and creative practitioners are facing, specifically with respect to the need for work space,” commented **Bora Kim**, **LMCC’s Director of Artist Residencies**. “Coming out of the success of the pilot season of the COVID-19 Response Residency program, LMCC is even more energized to recenter our programmatic priorities to be more responsive to the needs stemming from this pandemic. We are proud of our ability to provide a safe environment for these artists and are excited to start the year by continuing this timely initiative.”

“Being a part of this residency program gives me the opportunity to create work I’ve had to push off because of the limitations of my current space, such as the choreopoem adaptation of my book *CUT WOMAN* and my show commission at Center At Park West. As a born and raised New Yorker who has been displaced in this city, it’s reassuring to know that I’m supported by LMCC,” said **Dena Igusti**, writer and one of this year’s residency recipients.

“I have been falling in love with and avoiding this project for almost a year. I’m so grateful to LMCC for providing a space and an impetus to engage with my project (*black*) *Church* again,” added **Janelle Lawrence**, residency cohort member and performance artist.

“I feel very fortunate to be one of 22 artists selected to participate in the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council’s Governors Island COVID-19 Response Residency Program. As a watercolor painter, it is quite a career opportunity to be granted such generous studio workspace in a bucolic island setting for a three-month period. During this residency, I look forward to an immersive,

creative experience, and one of exploration and discovery with my art-making in the company of fellow artists,” said **Selwyn Garraway**, visual artist and participant.

“Being part of the LMCC residency program is a godsend of a blessing for me after a year of feeling like my art career had stalled due to the pandemic and other circumstances. I am definitely feeling energized and so full of ideas that I hope to bring into the physical realm,” commented **Josef Pinlac**, multidisciplinary artist and cohort member.

SUPPORTERS

LMCC’s Artist Residency Programs are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Governors Island Residency Initiative is also supported, in part, by Cowles Charitable Trust, The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust, May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Inc., The Norman & Bettina Roberts Foundation, The Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF).

ABOUT LMCC’S ARTS CENTER AT GOVERNORS ISLAND

Conceived as an incubator for creative exploration and a gathering space to engage in dialogue, LMCC’s Arts Center at Governors Island is the first permanent home for artists and audiences on Governors Island.

The Arts Center features Artist Residency programs with studio and presenting space for artists to develop their work, and a broad range of events to convene artists and the public in an exchange of ideas and creative practices.

Work developed and presented at the Arts Center explores themes of the environment, geography and history as they refer to Governors Island and New York City at large.

ABOUT LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL (LMCC)

Founded as Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), LMCC serves, connects and makes space for artists and community.

LMCC Serves Artists through:

- Residencies that enable artists to experiment and develop their work and ideas, with professional development, financial training and networking opportunities
- Grant funding to artists that support local/neighborhood projects
- Presentation opportunities that allow artists to share their work and creative process with the public

LMCC Serves Community through:

- Free public programs in Lower Manhattan that activate neighborhoods and bring people together through performances and rich artistic experiences
- Access to artists and the artmaking process to build connections and dialogue between artists and audiences
- Grant funding for neighborhood arts and community-based organizations

SACKS AND CO.

Since 1973, LMCC has been the champion of independent artists in New York City and the cultural life force of Lower Manhattan.

www.lmcc.net

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