



For Immediate Release

May 21, 2026

**LMCC (LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL)
PRESENTS FREE PUBLIC PROGRAMS ALL SUMMER LONG
AT THE ARTS CENTER AT GOVERNORS ISLAND**

Throughout the summer season, Governors Island visitors can partake in art-making workshops and encounter work-in-progress performance, including dance presentations from Nichole Canuso | Branching Paths (June 20) and Anh Vo (September 26)

On the verdant island, cohort of twenty 2026 Arts Center Residents use their varied artistic practices to inquire into urgent matters of climate change, environment, and sustainability

LMCC (Lower Manhattan Cultural Council; President & CEO Moe Yousuf) presents free and public programs all summer long at its idyllically situated 40,000 square foot **Arts Center at Governors Island**. The first permanent home for arts and culture on the island, opened in 2019, the Arts Center is a welcoming site of engagement with eye-opening art that emphasizes issues of climate, the environment, and sustainability—with LMCC offering performances, workshops, generative residencies, exhibitions, and more. Additionally, the Arts Center will be open every weekend from July 24 to September 27, encouraging Governors Island visitors to drop in to encounter thought-provoking art and see how visionary New York artists are considering our world today.

LMCC residencies at the Arts Center at Governors Island promote the development of groundbreaking artistic work. Reflecting the overarching vision for the Arts Center, **The 2026 Arts Center Residency** is likewise dedicated to artists addressing climate change, environment, and resilience through their creative practices. Through September, residents will share their ongoing artistic practices at a monthly series of free **Open Studios** (June 20, July 25, August 22 & September 26; previously: April 18, May 16), for which visitors are welcome to drop in to tour the studios and experience residents' works-in-progress.

The residency program includes a cohort of 20 artists (**Garrett Allen, Rachel Garber Cole, Nicole Cooper, Duy Hoàng, Derek Lee McPhatter, Tijay Mohammed, Sari Nordman, Sabrina Merayo Nuñez, Phoebus Osborne, Marie Lloyd Paspé, RedMoon Arts Movement Inc, Gabriela Salazar, Lisa Ann Schonberg, Sara Stern, Nora Treatbaby, Tanika I. Williams**), and one On-Site Assistant (**Noga Cohen**). For the first time, it features two Scholars-in-Residence from Stony Brook University (**Darla Migan** and **Nobuho Nagasawa**). This year also brings to the Arts Center's residency program its first Organization-in-Residence: **Seaweed City**. This marks the inaugural year of a new partnership with Stony Brook University and Seaweed City, expanding the residency as a platform for sustained climate inquiry across artistic, academic, and organizational practices.

From month-long **Arts Center Dance Residencies**, celebrated choreographers will also share work through in-process showings as part of Open Studios. **Nichole Canuso | Branching Paths** will preview **Lunar Retreat**, a new interactive performance installation on June 20.

Choreographer **Anh Vo** will share in-process work centering northern Vietnamese chamber music tradition Ca Trù, **A sign, a signal, a delivery, a deliverance**, on September 26. [Later this year, visitors will have a chance to experience an in-process showing of actor, dancer, writer, choreographer, and director **Sean Donovan's** latest project, **This Isn't Working**. On the first day of Open Studios on May 16, **Moriah Evans** offered an in-progress showing of her work [.../*^%<>€£¥\$&@!!!!^^^].

Throughout the summer, LMCC will offer free family-friendly **All-Ages Climate Art Workshops** at the Arts Center (July 25, August 1, 15, & 29). Each led by a 2026 Arts Center Resident Artist, these workshops invite participants to explore issues of climate change and the environment through art-making. Artist **Sari Nordman** will share how to make wearable fashion accessories from recyclable plastics (July 25, August 29). Artist **Nobuho Nagasawa** will lead participants in constructing a speculative bestiary of hybrid creature collages and three-dimensional models. (August 1 & 15).

Moe Yousuf, LMCC President & CEO said, “What feels exciting about this summer at the Arts Center is that we’re creating many different entry points into what climate arts can be. We’re approaching it broadly, with artists, scholars, organizations, and the public all part of the conversation. Through artists engaged with research at Stony Brook University, organizations in residence like Seaweed City, and artists working across visual art and performance, the Arts Center becomes a place where people can enter these questions through conversation and participation. Climate can often feel abstract or overwhelming, and artists give us ways to see it, feel it, question it, and talk about what it means for our lives now. ”

“This summer continues LMCC’s long history of supporting artists at all stages of their careers. Through these residencies, public workshops, and shared moments with artists, we’re supporting the experimentation, rehearsal, feedback, and discovery that make new work possible, while creating ways for audiences and the greater community to be part of that process too.”

2026 programming at the Arts Center kicked off earlier in April with an Earth Day Celebration, followed by *Labor of Love: An Interactive Celebration of our Hardworking Ecosystems*, part of May Day at the Arts Center and the Creative Labor, Creative Conditions campaign, presented in partnership with Doris Duke Foundation. Both events featured work from OBIE-winning artist **Greg Corbino**.

From July 24-September 27, as part of LMCC’s **River To River Festival**, visitors will be able to view **Leslie Wayne’s** exhibition *The Unintended Blues* in the Arts Center’s Upper Gallery (open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 12:00–5:00 pm; with a free, RSVP-requested opening event July 23 at 5pm). The exhibition of large-scale aerial landscape paintings and multimedia works captures the beauty of our natural environment and renders with graphic clarity one of our greatest existential threats. Wayne’s paintings document vulnerable US shorelines and melting icebergs in the Arctic Circle, portraying the splendor of what we stand to lose by our inaction.

The Tempestry Project, presented by **Madison Square Park Conservancy** and LMCC, and featuring hand knitted works displaying a full year of the city’s daily temperature data, will be on display in the Arts Center’s Upper Lobby, May 16 - September 27.

All activities this summer at the Arts Center are free and open to the public. Some programs require reservations. Additional information on specific events is available at lmcc.net and will be updated throughout the summer.

2026 Arts Center at Governors Island Public Programming Calendar

The Tempestry Project

May 16 - September 27, 2026

On View in the Arts Center at Governors Island, Upper Lobby

New York City's first **Tempestry Collection**. Created by a community of volunteer knitters, the project features sixteen hand-knitted panels or "tempestries," each depicting a full year of the city's daily temperature data rendered into various colors. Part of the nationwide **Tempestry Project**, a collaborative fiber arts offering a unique, hands-on perspective on environmental change.

The Tempestry Project is presented by Madison Square Park Conservancy and Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

Arts Center Open Studios

June 20, July 25, August 22, September 26

12:00-5:00PM

With Open Studios, LMCC invites the public into the workspaces and creative processes of the 2026 Cohort of Arts Center Residents. These open house events are free and welcoming, informal, and accessible to all ages.

Art Center Dance Residency Works-in-Progress Showings

Nichole Canuso | Branching Paths

***Lunar Retreat* (work-in-progress)**

June 20 | 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 3:00pm, and 4:00pm

Studio A3 | RSVP Required

Lunar Retreat is a multi-sensory performance inspired by the gradual distance growing between the Moon and Earth. This immersive journey invites audiences to wander, witness, and reflect on how we move through care, loss, and transformation—both individually and collectively.

Selected sections of the developing performance installation will be shared audiences for feedback and reflection.

Seating is extremely limited. Reservations can be made [here](#).

Anh Vo

A sign, a signal, a delivery, a deliverance

September 26 | 4:00pm

RSVP Required

A sign, a signal, a delivery, a deliverance brings Ca Trù, a rare northern Vietnamese chamber music tradition, into dialogue with possession rituals. Drawing from Ca Trù's austere, trance-like soundscape and its precise rhythmic structures, the project explores quieter states of losing oneself.

Leslie Wayne

The Unintended Blues

July 24-September 27

Fridays-Sunday, 12pm - 5pm

Opening reception on July 23 at 5pm - 7pm

In the Upper Gallery at the Arts Center at Governors Island

Part of LMCC's River To River Festival

Leslie Wayne's new exhibition, **The Unintended Blues** documents rising sea levels through aerial landscape paintings of vulnerable US shorelines and melting icebergs in the Arctic Circle. Additional multi-media pieces will engage viewers with issues around present day climate science. In these works, Wayne captures the beauty of our natural environment and renders with graphic clarity one of our greatest existential threats.

All-Ages Climate Art Workshops

Throughout the summer, LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island will host free Saturday Climate Art Workshops. These family-friendly events invite participants to engage in hands-on, creative experiences, and to take home their artistic projects.

Hybrid Animal Encyclopedia Workshop

with Nobuho Nagasawa

August 1 & 15 | 1:00-3:00pm

Step into a space of imagination and invention, where new hybrid creatures begin to appear! Using images from books and their own drawings, artist Nobuho Nagasawa will show participants how to create collages that merge dinosaurs with present-day animals, and build three-dimensional beings from dinosaur parts—assembled from other materials.

As these creatures take shape, participants enter a world of storytelling and transformation. Together, these creatures form a *speculative bestiary*—an imagined collection of living beings that might exist in possible worlds. Each creation becomes a

page in this shifting **Hybrid Animal Encyclopedia**, a meeting point of memory and invention, nature and imagination, past and future.

Recycled Runway

with Sari Nordman

July 25 & August 29 | 1:00-3:00pm

Create a colorful, one-of-kind wearable accessory from recycled plastic that celebrates your individual NYC style!

Arts Center Resident Artist Sari Nordman addresses eco-anxiety through environmental art projects that foster social engagement and utilize recycled plastic. Drawing on 15 years of experience as a teaching artist in NYC public schools, Sari finds joy in sharing their practice and collaborating with diverse communities. Materials will be provided, though participants are encouraged to bring clean, colorful recycled plastics such as shopping bags, newspaper sleeves, and toilet paper or paper towel packaging. Stay for the entire event or drop in for a few minutes!

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Support for LMCC's Arts Center Residency Programs is provided by The Cowles Charitable Trust, Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust, The Norman and Bettina Roberts Foundation, Stony Brook University, and Tiger Baron Foundation.

Support for The Arts Center Dance Residency program is provided by Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels and Harkness Foundation for Dance.

About Lower Manhattan Cultural Council

Since 1973, **LMCC** (Lower Manhattan Cultural Council) has supported artists across New York City. As an arts council, we fund, develop, and present work from neighborhood-based projects to major public programs that help define the city's cultural and civic life. We make the arts accessible to all New Yorkers.

Visit LMCC.net to learn more

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