ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE (AIR) 2028 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

"Re-imagining the Future: Personal Histories, Self Expression & Community Resilience"

We are excited to invite you to submit a proposal for the Artist in Residence (AIR) program at the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts for a residency taking place in calendar year 2028. This document outlines the program and provides details about the proposal process and presentation requirements.

We look forward to learning more about your work and exploring how this residency can create a meaningful and rewarding experience for you, our teens, and the broader community. If you have any questions, please contact Teen Programs Manager Taína Vargas at tvargas@eliotschool.org.

About the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts

The Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts inspires lifelong learning in craft and creativity for all. Based in Jamaica Plain, we offer classes for all ages and bring teaching artists into schools—primarily serving Black and brown students in Boston Public Schools—and community organizations throughout Boston and beyond. Racial equity is central to our vision and work.

Founded as a grammar school in 1676, the Eliot School bears the name of John Eliot, a colonial missionary whose legacy includes establishing Praying Towns where Native communities were pressured to adopt Christianity. Reckoning with this complex history is part of our ongoing work.

For our 2028 Artists in Residence program, we seek to explore joy as an act of resistance, liberated communities, and youth voice. Through artmaking and reflection on personal histories, we hope to imagine more liberated and inclusive collective futures. We strongly encourage Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) artists to apply.

About the Program

The Eliot School Artists in Residence provides intensive arts programming for teens in our Teen Bridge Program each summer. A Boston-based artist collaborates with Teen Bridge artists to develop and create a substantial body of artwork grounded in thoughtful community engagement and shaped by both the artist's creative vision and the teens' voices and ideas.

Teen Bridge is a year-round, multi-year program that combines arts education, life skills development, mentorship, job training, and employment for teen artists. Our pedagogy is rooted in the belief that arts education develops creative thinking, problem-solving, critical thinking, and other skills that support success across a wide range of careers and life pursuits. Teen Bridge students come from a wide range of backgrounds and life experiences. We

aim to create an environment where they can connect across differences, express themselves creatively, think critically, and use their voices to effect social change.

We seek an artist whose creative practice engages with social issues and community, who brings a clear creative vision and a strong sense of what they can contribute, and who can support Teen Bridge Artists in shaping the project through their own voices, ideas, and perspectives. We understand that the project's theme and final form will evolve through thoughtful engagement and collaboration with the teens. The resulting artwork is a shared creation, not an independent work belonging solely to the resident artist.

Projects may involve any medium or combination of media, including mixed-media and interdisciplinary work, an installation, or a series of objects, and should be feasible within the Eliot School's facilities. These include dedicated spaces for drawing and painting, fiber arts, book arts, woodworking, sewing, and upholstery.

The Eliot School provides the resident artist with a stipend, administrative support, workspace for collaborating with the teens, and an opportunity to present the completed work in a gallery exhibition. Additional activities and opportunities may be proposed by the artist or Eliot School staff and developed in collaboration.

Past & Upcoming Residencies Include:

2018: Nora Valdez, "Home/Hogar" (sculpture/art installation)
2019: L'Merchie Frazier, "New Urban Monuments: Stand Up Inside Yourself!" (mixed media installation)
2020: Carolyn Shadid Lewis, "InterGeneration" (animation/video)
2021: Chanel Thervil, "Feel the Flow" (mixed-media portraiture)
2022: GoFive and TakeOne, "Spaces of Belonging" (mural)
2023: Feda Eid, "Made in USA" (photography)
2024: Alejandra Cuadra, "The Preciousness of the Everyday: Vessels of Belonging" (ceramics)
2025: Yuko Okabe, "My Recipe, Our Potluck" (mixed-media zines)
2026: Corey Watanabe, "Gardens of Resonance" (cyanotype & fiber arts)
2027: Jacob Leidolf and Francisco Franco, "Around My Way: Community Is Art" (mural)
You can read more about past AIR projects at https://eliotschool.org/programs/artists-residence

Community Engagement & Impact

We see the AIR program as an opportunity for artists to engage with our teens in ways that positively impact them, their families, and their communities at large. As you develop your proposal, consider creative ways to engage Teen Bridge Artists and draw on the knowledge, experiences, and perspectives they bring from their schools, neighborhoods, families, and cultural communities.

In past residencies, this engagement has included interviews with elders and family members, surveys of community members, participatory artmaking at community events, and more. We invite you to think creatively about the impact you want to have with our teens and with our culturally diverse communities.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be 21 years of age or older.
- Be legally eligible to receive taxable income in the United States.
- Reside and/or work in Boston or the Greater Boston area.
- Not be an employee, contractor, or trustee of the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts, or an immediate family member of any of these individuals.
- Not have previously received an Eliot School residency award.

Residency Timeline and Artist Commitment

Fall 2026	Artist completes proposal process and presents to Teen Bridge.
January – February 2027	Occasional consultation between Artist in Residence (AIR) and Eliot School staff as we prepare and fundraise for the residency.
February – December 2027	Artist may contact Eliot School as needed for information to help with planning the residency.
January – April 2028	AIR works with Eliot School team to prepare and finalize plans for the residency project. Artist responsibilities include: • Determining plans for the Spring Workshops, Summer Intensive, and Community Engagement • Consulting with Youth Programs staff to determine dates for the Spring Workshops and the Summer Intensive • Communicating proactively with Eliot School Staff about material and space needs for the residency • Collaborating with the Eliot School's Communications Department on promotion plans for the residency • Working with ES Staff to determine plans for the gallery exhibition and any public events, and provide all required materials to the gallery • Building partnerships needed to carry out the community engagement portion of their residency, consulting ES Staff as needed
April – May 2028	4 to 6 Spring Workshops with Teen Bridge Artists, as the lead teaching artist. Dates to be determined in collaboration with Youth Programs staff. The number of workshops and the content are determined by the artist, and must include opportunities to: • Build a rapport and working relationship with the teens, getting to know each other and their artistic practice, • Investigate the theme and provide an opportunity for teens to refine it and plan for the residency,

	• Finalize timeline and work-plan for the summer so that Eliot Staff can support the project's coordination and implementation.
July – August 2028	Conduct a 4- to 6-week intensive in July & August as the lead teaching artist. During this time, the artist works 40 hours/week, including 25 hours/week engaged with the teens. Your proposal should delineate the intended length of the intensive. Final dates will be determined in collaboration with Eliot School staff; dates are dependent on the artist's availability, Eliot School calendar, BPS calendar, and the availability of the exhibition space. Community engagement may take place during the Spring Workshops or the Summer Intensive. Community engagement is determined and carried out by the Artist in collaboration with the teens. During this time, the artist collaborates with ES staff and the exhibiting gallery to finalize plans for installation and public events.
August – September 2028	Culminating events, such as gallery shows or community celebrations, may occur in August or September. Schedule will be determined in collaboration with Eliot School staff and exhibiting gallery. **Gallery Exhibition** - A 2-to-4-week exhibition in late summer or fall that includes both the work produced in the program and personal artwork by the Artist in Residence that is relevant to the theme. The exhibition will include an opening and/or closing reception and may also include interactive activity, performance, and/or an unveiling celebration. **Artist Talk** – one public artist talk, including the AIR and participating teens, typically at the exhibition opening or other gallery event.

Artist's responsibilities will be more comprehensively outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The artist may have opportunities to participate in activities beyond the scope of the residency, with additional compensation for these engagements. Details, including payment, will be determined in advance in collaboration with Eliot School staff. Examples may include:

- A second artist talk
- A workshop at the Eliot School for the general public

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Payment & Materials

Fall 2026	**$250 stipend** - Eliot School pays the artist $250 to complete the proposal process (written proposal + presentation to Teen Bridge in Fall 2026).
February 2027	**$150 stipend** – Eliot School pays the artist $150 to communicate and provide materials to Eliot School staff during creation of an initial grant proposal in Winter 2027. Stipend paid upon completion of the initial materials.
Spring/Summer 2028	**Up to $2,750 supplies budget** – Eliot Staff and Artist will determine materials expenses. The Eliot School may purchase materials upon the Artist's request or will reimburse expenses paid by the Artist upon receiving vendors' receipts from the Artist.
Spring/Summer 2028	**$15,000 Artist's fee** – The Eliot School will compensate the Artist $15,000 as a temporary employee. You will be required to provide a Form W-4 and will receive a W-2. The Artist will be paid in installments during the course of the residency. (By paying wages instead of a freelance fee, Eliot School provides workers comp coverage and pays half of FICA and Medicare taxes.)

The Eliot School will support the artist by:

- Securing access to Eliot School space for spring workshops.
- Securing access to Teen Bridge studio space during the summer intensive. The space can also be made available as needed, depending on scheduled classes and other Eliot School uses.
- Recruiting a group of 10 to 12 teens to collaborate with the Artist to plan, produce, and complete an art project, a community engagement component, gallery exhibition, artists' talk, and other potential opportunities.
- Providing staff support for:
    - Logistics and practical aspects of the residency. Such support may include: securing space, purchasing supplies, or arranging transportation for field trips. Specifics will be determined in collaboration with the Artist.
    - Answering questions and providing information the artist needs to achieve their residency goals.
    - Day-to-day logistics and related issues as they arise for teen participation.
    - Logistics for an exhibition, exhibition reception, artists' talk, and any additional events.
    - Promoting the gallery exhibition, any public events, and the residency as a whole.
- Providing photo documentation of the residency. Photos will be available for the Artists' use (photo credits required).
- Providing a limited budget to cover visiting artists, field trips, and materials to be determined with the Artist.
- Ensuring that all teens receive wages for their participation in the program as well as transportation, meals, and other support needed to be successful.
- Providing Workers Compensation insurance for the Artist while employed through the Eliot School.

PROPOSAL PROCESS OVERVIEW

The proposal process is a two-part process.

- **Part One: Written proposal, due Sunday, November 29, 2026.** To access the application, scan the QR Code or click on link below.
  https://forms.gle/HjHcVY6tm2GEZrT98
- **Part Two: A 45-minute presentation to Teen Bridge participants on December 18, 2026,** between 4:00PM-6:00PM at 253 Amory Street, Jamaica Plain.

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of Teen Bridge participants and Youth Programs staff. This panel will collaboratively give input on the Artist's proposal.

Proposals will be reviewed based on:

- Clarity of vision
- Demonstration of artistic and craft excellence.
- Demonstration of community engagement and civic involvement to make positive change in Boston communities.
- Thematic strength and relevance of the proposed project
- Lived experience to address the project and community work
- Ability to engage young people effectively and support and encourage teens' artistic development.
- Feasibility of the proposed project.

The presentation to Teen Bridge Artists should include:

- A brief overview of the proposed project, including community engagement
- An interactive activity with teen artists. This could be an art-making activity, community-building game, or whatever you envision – something that shows how you interact with teen artists and gives them a chance to get to know your style as a facilitator.
- In the Teen Bridge space, we typically have a variety of 2D art materials on hand, including paper, pencils, charcoal, markers, scissors, colored pencils, etc. You're also welcome to bring your own materials – the $250 stipend for presenting is intended to help offset any materials cost that the artist takes on.
- You will have about 45 minutes for your full presentation, activity and brief Q & A from Teens.

Proposal Process and Timeline

November 29, 2026	Artist's proposals due
December 18, 2026	Finalists present to panel of Teen Bridge Artists, Eliot School staff, and community members. Artist receives $250 stipend after completion of the presentation. If you are unable to present in this window, please reach out to Teen Programs Manager Taína Vargas ASAP to determine an alternate time.
January 5, 2027	AIR 2028 finalists notified of decision
January–February 2027	Occasional consultation between AIR and Eliot School staff as we prepare and fundraise for the residency. Artist receives $150 stipend.