



PAO ARTS CENTER RESIDENCE LAB 2022 OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

RESIDENCE LAB OVERVIEW

Pao Arts Center and the Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) invites artists and creatives to apply to Residence Lab (ResLab), a program that brings together Chinatown residents and local creatives to shape Chinatown's cultural identity. ResLab's goal is to partner artists and residents through creative engagement that amplifies resident voices and visions for their neighborhoods. The program encourages "yes, and" collaboration, where individuals build off each others' creative visions, naturally bringing new ideas into the space. The co-designed projects that emerge from ResLab expand Chinatown's cultural footprint while activating public spaces and bridging populations through community activities and artmaking.

Chinatown is changing rapidly, mostly at the expense of Chinatown's working-class immigrant residents. In the 1950s and 60s, Chinese families and children played on Chinatown's streets and stoops. However, over the past few decades, many corporations and land developers have pushed into Chinatown. There is a large and growing gap between the median household income for Asian residents (about \$18k) and White residents (about \$120k) in Chinatown. About 60% percent of households in Chinatown earn less than \$35,000 a year. In addition, fewer families and children are living in the neighborhood.

As Chinatown evolves, so do the playful and creative interventions used to address critical neighborhood issues. How can art and creative play disrupt gentrification and displacement in Chinatown? What are the possibilities when we dream and imagine together as a community?

RESLAB 2022 THEME

Radical inclusion says "who you are is welcome here." It recognizes our desire to belong without sacrificing our identity and power. It pushes back against an "us vs. them" culture. It reminds us that community is expansive.

Chinatown's working-class, immigrant communities have historically been excluded and dehumanized through racist immigration policies, violence, and disinvestment. During this pandemic, we've seen and experienced exclusion through wealth gaps, technology gaps, loneliness, and fear of safety.

How do we affirm our own sense of belonging? How do we affirm a sense of belonging for our neighbors, friends, and community? How can Chinatown's public spaces more radically include those who may have been an afterthought or excluded?

ResLab themes & sites are informed by the Chinatown Master Plan 2020:

<https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/chinatown-master-plan-2020/>

RESLAB VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Relationship Building

ResLab is an initiative that brings together Chinatown residents and local artists and creatives to shape Chinatown's cultural identity. We commit to building ethical and sustainable relationships between residents and artists, beyond simple exchange of skills and ideas, through storytelling and collaborative learning.

Chinatown Residents as Local Experts

ResLab recognizes the historical invalidation and underrepresentation of Chinatown residents' needs and experiences. That is why we recruit Chinatown residents as local experts who have intimate and institutional knowledge and insight to lead out initiative.

Radical Imagination

At ResLab, we believe in the power of imagination to elevate the voices of Chinatown residents. Art and imagination are critical to mobilize positive change in Chinatown.

Placekeeping

ResLab is committed to placekeeping as a strategy for community agency. We center the experiences and values of the local community in order to create public spaces that promote the cultural identity and well-being of the Chinatown neighborhood.

RESLAB APPLICATION RUBRIC

Artists and creative teams of all backgrounds, media, and stages of their careers are invited to apply. They should be interested in:

- Exploring issues relevant to Chinatown, Asian and Asian American communities, immigrant, and working-class populations more generally
- Co-designing projects with Chinatown residents
- Exploring the fields of creative placekeeping and community development

The selected artists and artist teams should also have:

- Demonstrated a commitment to civic practice art (e.g. facilitating, co-creation/co-design)
- Demonstrated interest in Boston Chinatown
- Demonstrated experience, or clearly articulate an interest in, working to bridge a variety of populations
- Be an active partner in working with the Pao Arts Center and ACDC to shape and refine the ResLab program in its second year

Submitted applications will be evaluated by jurors from a variety of backgrounds, including:

- Pao Arts Center staff
- The Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) staff
- Chinatown residents with varying proficiency in the English language, and varying connection with the arts

RESLAB ARTISTS AND RESIDENTS ROLES AND BENEFITS

ARTIST'S AND CREATIVES' ROLE & BENEFITS

ARTIST'S AND CREATIVES' ROLE

- Leverage artists' and creatives' creative skill sets
- Co-learners and co-teachers
- Facilitate co-creation sessions
- Make decisions about project end results and coordinate logistics within their teams
- Facilitate the creation of a shared vision for their collaborative project
- Create and manage project budget in collaboration with Pao Arts Center
- Provide a mock-up of their team's work by the final design deadline
- Play a lead role in the final production of the artwork
- Communicate with Pao Arts Center and ACDC staff throughout the process

ARTIST AND CREATIVE BENEFITS

- A stipend of \$2,000, to be paid in two separate installments, one half way through the program and the second at the completion of the program
 - An additional project, material, and equipment stipend of \$1,500, working with Pao Arts Center and ACDC staff to determine an appropriate working budget
 - Access to shared collaborative meeting space at Pao Arts Center and ACDC during open hours (dependent on COVID19 public safety regulations and guidelines)
 - Advisory hours with ACDC and Pao Arts Center staff
 - Collaborative feedback sessions and workshopping clinics
 - ACDC staff support to engage Chinatown residents and families
 - Support to further connect with the Chinatown community upon completion of ResLab
 - An opportunity to exhibit work in Pao Arts Center Gallery after the residency
 - Support with translation and interpretation if needed
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RESIDENT'S ROLE & BENEFITS

RESIDENT'S ROLE

- Share your perspective on your neighborhood and any issues you want to address
- Work with artists to share Chinatown experiences and stories
- Attend all workshops & opening/closing day
- Work with ACDC & Pao Arts Center Staff to give feedback that improves program for next year

RESIDENT BENEFITS

- Stipend of \$600 upon completing the program in September
 - Translation for workshops/artist relationship, if needed
 - Childcare during workshops, if needed
 - Unique opportunity to shape public art and culture of Chinatown
 - Support from ACDC staff to further connect with the Chinatown community
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ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART

- Projects can range from performance, visual arts, storytelling, film, music, depending on the artist's creative talents and your input
 - Art will be displayed between Friday, 8/27 (Opening Night) & Saturday, 9/25 (Closing Day)
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CURRICULUM CONTENT

The ResLab curriculum focuses on storytelling and trust building between and among artists and residents, learning Chinatown neighborhood history, and understanding and applying principles of urban participatory design.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

ResLab 2022 is approximately a 26-week program:

- 4 weeks of learning and curriculum
- 12 weeks of project co-creation and prototyping in the space
- 10 weeks of space activation and programming

The ResLab 2022 cohort will be composed of 2-4 artist teams, and each team will partner with 2-3 residents to create small group work.

The involvement of residents in your co-creation and fabrication processes depends on their availability as well as the media your team is working with. The minimum level of co-creation from residents and the expectation of Pao Arts Center and ACDC is that residents are shaping the vision of the work. They are not required to be part of the fabrication process but are welcome to if it makes sense for your project and media. Pao Arts Center and ACDC recognizes residents as experts in their experiences and in their neighborhoods, leveraging the technical skills of the artist(s).

ResLab is informed by the Chinatown Master Plan 2020:

<https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/chinatown-master-plan-2020/>

IMPORTANT RESLAB DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS

Monday, February 21, 2022, 11:59 PM - ResLab Artist applications close

Week of Monday, March 7th - Interviews with artist finalists

Selected Artists will be notified by the week of March 14th

Sunday, April 3rd - ResLab Artist and Resident Opening Social

ResLab Opening Session

Week of 4/11: Workshop 1 - Trust

Week of 4/18: Workshop 2 - Radical Inclusion in Chinatown

Week of 4/25: Workshop 3 - Radically inclusive spaces

Week of 5/2: Workshop 4 - pilot to permanence (*in person*)

Week of 5/9: Workshop 5 - Irresistible

Week of 5/23: Workshop 6 - Playful Prototypes (*in person*)

Week of 6/6: Workshop 7 - Refining Ideas

Week of 6/20: Workshop 8 - Final Proposal

Throughout September - Additional programming, including alongside ACDC's Films at the Gate and Pao Arts Center's Experience Chinatown.

For questions, contact Leslie Condon at leslie.condon@bcnc.net or 617-635-5129 x 2017

To access the [ResLab 2022 Artist Application](#), please click the link here.

COVID POLICIES

B Together COVID Policies and Precautions

Pao Arts Center and ACDC follow B Together's COVID policy that all participants must adhere to whether at our respective physical sites and any other remote spaces used for all ResLab activities and activations.

<https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/file/2021/12/BPHC-Indoor-Vaccination-Order-12-20-21.pdf>

ABOUT ACDC & PAO ARTS CENTER

ABOUT ASIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) creates affordable neighborhoods for low-income Asian Americans in Greater Boston by building affordable homes and vibrant spaces, empowering families with asset-building tools, and strengthening communities through resident and youth leadership.

ACDC ANCHOR PROJECT

This art is a part of ACDC's ANCHOR strategy to stabilize and extend the edges of Chinatown, where we see rapid cultural erosion and the displacement of businesses and residents.

Learn more about ACDC's ANCHOR strategy here:

<https://asiancdc.org/blog/2018/8/30/introducing-anchor-acdcs-creative-placemaking-initiative-dwazh>

ABOUT PAO ARTS CENTER

Pao Arts Center was established in 2017 as a visionary program collaboration between Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) and Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC). Pao Arts Center celebrates and strengthens the Asian Pacific Islander community of Chinatown and Greater Boston through access to culturally relevant art, education, and creative programs. It represents the belief that investing in arts, culture, and creativity are vital to the health and well-being of individuals, families, and vibrant communities.

CREATIVE PLACEKEEPING

ResLab contributes to Pao Arts Center's core mission by bringing artists and community members together to address Chinatown community needs through creative placekeeping while increasing Chinatown's cultural footprint within Greater Boston.

ResLab is supported in part by: Hearst Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, National CAPACD, Niantic, Inc, Ralph Lauren, and, Yawkey Foundation.
