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Please Welcome the New BCA Studio Residents!

BOSTON, MA — Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) is thrilled to announce 16 new BCA Studio Residents this September. And just as thousands of others in the Boston area this month, they are busy moving in and orienting themselves to their new campus!

This fall's incoming group of local artists works within and across mediums, varying from public art to painting to media arts. As part of the program's fourth cohort, these artists will join an existing diverse community of 31 second- and third-year residents. Each of the incoming residents brings a practice of artmaking that centers innovative cultural expression, and intersections of social, gender, and racial justice.

For the first time in the history of the program, these 16 three-year residencies are fully subsidized by a generous \$300,000 grant from Wagner Foundation, marking a significant first step in the broader \$1.5m fundraising initiative to sustain and expand this vital artist-focused program at BCA.

The entering 16 artists, four of whom belong to a collective, are: Beatriz Whitehill, DOE, JB183, Mar, SOEMS, Emily Rose, Feda Eid, Funlola Coker, Heather Kapplow, Ifé Franklin, IMAGINE aka Sneha Shrestha, Maggie Wong, Mark A. Hernandez Motaghy, Marla L. McLeod, Ngoc-Tran Vu, and Yuko Okabe.



[Beatriz Whitehill](#)

Beatriz Whitehill is a Puerto Rican-American multidisciplinary artist. Her work addresses diasporic communities through a visual representation of the resilience and endurance of culture. Her paintings are full of hidden imagery, worlds within everyday objects.

[Full bio](#)

DOE, JB183, Mar, and SOEMS — collectively known as [AOA Supply](#).



[DOE](#)

DOE developed an affinity for miniature sketches of landscapes with graffiti. His charred pieces cover a wide variety of isolated spaces that are done with a butane lighter, ink, and watercolor.

[Full bio](#)



[JB183](#)

JB183 is a Bronx-born, Boston-raised, self-taught visual artist who creates from the comfort of his cave in Roxbury. Inspired by the creativity of Andy Warhol, Takashi Murakami, and Ewok 5mh, he works with spray paint, acrylics, and digital mediums to produce colorful and unique pieces reflective of the urban street art genre.

[Full bio](#)





[Mar](#)

Mar, is dedicated to using artistic expression to bring communities together and inspire others to use their own creativity. As a Roxbury native, he is most motivated by creating artwork in his neighborhood and was one of the lead artists in the “Black Lives Matter” mural in Nubian Square.

[Full bio](#)



[SOEMS](#)

SOEMS is a multidisciplinary artist with a rich history of creative output across a wide range of work: from graphic illustration, murals, brand strategy and development, to stage and prop designs; but he is mostly known for his precise, unique, and swift lettering skills.

[Full bio](#)



[Emily Rose](#)

Emily Rose is a Puerto Rican-American interdisciplinary multimedia artist. She is a descendant of self-emancipators, artisans, seamstresses, dancers, fisher people, and farmers. Her artwork addresses the legacy of colonialism and its impact on the Caribbean diaspora, particularly the transference of ancestral trauma.

[Full bio](#)



[Feda Eid](#)

Feda Eid is a Lebanese diaspora multidisciplinary artist living in the occupied lands of Wampanoag, Nipmuc, and Massachusetts People — so called Quincy, MA. Her work explores the expression of heritage, culture, identity and tradition in the often tense but beautiful space between, what is said, what is felt, and what is lost in translation.

[Full bio](#)





[Funlola Coker](#)

Funlola Coker is a sculptor from Lagos, Nigeria. Funlola's work follows research threads in the realm of recollection, imagination, and the surreal. Embracing the literary style of biomythography, Funlola builds narrative sculptures that call on nostalgic memories and moments of the mundane held dear.

[Full bio](#)



[Heather \(Hey There\) Kaplow](#)

Heather (Hey There) Kaplow is a multidisciplinary artist from and based in Boston MA, but works internationally, and has been making (and curating/producing) playful, participatory artwork in multiple mediums and contexts for almost two decades. Heather Kaplow works individually, in small and large collaborative groups, and often directly with the general public.

[Full bio](#)



[Ifé Franklin](#)

Ifé Franklin is an interdisciplinary artist who lives and creates in Roxbury, MA. Ifé graduated from The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She owns and operates IfeArt®, which includes Ifé Franklin's Indigo Project, sculpture, installation, drawing, collage, photography, fiber arts and ancestor processions.

[Full bio](#)



[IMAGINE aka Sneha Shrestha](#)

IMAGINE (aka Sneha Shrestha) is a Nepali artist who incorporates her native language and meshes the aesthetics of Sanskrit scriptures with graffiti influences. She has shown her meditative works in several exhibitions, commissioned works, and public walls around the world from Kathmandu to Boston.

[Full bio](#)





[Maggie Wong](#)

Maggie Wong is a visual artist and educator who uses research and multidisciplinary art practice to explore political inheritance, memory, and play. Her work builds meaning like a stack of toy blocks, assembling and falling into a relational history rather than fixed narratives in media that include printmaking, sculpture, and installation.

[Full bio](#)



[Mark Hernandez Motaghy](#)

Mark A. Hernandez Motaghy is an artist and cultural worker. Their work incorporates experimental video and documentary, as well as installation, performance, and text, where they explore the practice of being in common through community networks, care-based economies, and sociotechnical imaginaries that are decolonial.

[Full bio](#)



[Marla L. McLeod](#)

Marla L. McLeod is an interdisciplinary artist, curator, and educator. She has most recently shown work at Mighty Real Queer Detroit in 2024. She is also currently an Adjunct Professor at both Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Southern Connecticut State University.

[Full bio](#)



[Ngoc-Tran Vu](#)

Ngoc-Tran Vu (she/her) is a 1.5-generation Vietnamese-American multimedia visual artist and cultural organizer, celebrated for her deeply socially engaged practice that melds various artistic mediums with community activism.

[Full bio](#)





[Yuko Okabe](#)

Yuko Okabe (she/they) is an illustrator and cultural worker playing at the intersection of youthful whimsy and community engagement. She likes making characters, stories, curriculums, murals, and other colorful things.

[Full bio](#)

BCA has a rich history of fostering creative communities through groundbreaking residency, exhibition, and performance programs. Inaugurated in Summer 2021, the cross- and multidisciplinary BCA Studio Residency program is designed to foster and support access, equity, and experimentation in the arts and in new art being created in Boston. The program provides selected artists with work-only studio space and access to a roster of programs and professional support geared toward nurturing a vibrant and diverse community of artists in Boston.

The funding this year's cohort has received from Wagner Foundation means that we can make real strides in the work of creating greater equity and opportunity for Boston-area artists for whom financial support and artistic community come at a catalytic moment in their practice.

QUOTE FROM ABIGAIL SATINSKY, WAGNER FOUNDATION

"We are so thrilled to support these artists in furthering their studio practice and making Greater Boston a place for creative community to thrive. Artists are essential to healthy communities, and for that to happen, they need affordable creative spaces to expand their practices, build their networks, and reach new audiences. We can't wait to see what they will do." - Abigail Satinsky, Program Officer & Curator Arts & Culture at Wagner Foundation

QUOTE FROM KRISTI KEEFE, BOSTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

"We remain deeply grateful to Wagner Foundation for their partnership in addressing the lack of affordable space for artists in Boston and in the region. At BCA, we are committed to providing Boston artists with the essential resources to move their work forward at pivotal moments in their career. We are excited to support this newest group of artists and warmly welcome them to the BCA community." — Kristi Keefe, CEO, Boston Center for the Arts



ABOUT BOSTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) is a performing and visual arts complex whose mission is to support working artists to create, perform, and exhibit new work; and connect arts to community. Established in 1970 to serve as a hub for visual and performing arts for the people of Boston, the BCA was founded on the belief that the arts contribute to the economic and social well-being of citizens and neighborhoods. Today, BCA supports over 300 artists annually and provides more than 50 residencies, hosts more than 30 community events, 20 theater productions, 5 visual art exhibitions, and welcomes more than 200,000 visitors to its South End campus. To learn more about Boston Center for the Arts, visit bostonarts.org.

ABOUT WAGNER FOUNDATION

Wagner Foundation is a Cambridge, MA based foundation that invests in health equity, economic prosperity, and cultural transformation across the globe. Wagner Foundation prioritizes work that strengthens equitable systems and views artists as leaders and changemakers who are critical voices in interrogating the past, wrestling with the current moment, and envisioning alternative futures. Learn more at wfound.org.

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