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Local Youth Development Program Brings “Home” to Life for Travelers at SAN through Dance

Original dance series developed in Terminal 1 through Airport Performing Arts Residency Program

SAN DIEGO, CA — April 9, 2025 – Travelers passing through Terminal 1 at San Diego International Airport (SAN) now through May can experience a series of live dance performances that explore what it means to build a sense of home.

Titled “*Migration: Making a Home in Transit*,” these performances are presented as part of the airport’s Spring Performing Arts Residency. They are part of a project by creative youth development organization, A Step Beyond, which was awarded the first residency to be fully based in the new terminal.

Since January 2026, student dancers, alumni, and teaching artists from A Step Beyond have collaboratively developed and choreographed this series of original dances. Movement and stories have been created onsite with passengers exploring themes of belonging, identity, and adaptation. Each dance draws from the performers’ lived experiences, examining how people define “home” amid changing environments and the complex realities of everyday life.

Through their performances, the dancers invite audiences to reflect on their own experiences while navigating new places. Travelers are encouraged not only to watch, but also to engage with the creative process as it unfolds.

“Enhancing the customer experience is at the heart of everything we do at SAN,” said Atif Saeed, President and CEO, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. “Through our Performing Arts Residency program, A Step Beyond brings the spirit of San Diego’s resilient culture and the universal theme of beginning anew into the terminal—creating memorable, uplifting moments for travelers along their journey. These performances not only support youth development but also enrich the travel experience by offering passengers a sense of connection, inspiration, and calm.”

Based in North County San Diego, A Step Beyond empowers young people through dance, academic support, and family services. This year marks a milestone for the organization, celebrating the graduation of its fourth cohort of student participants who have grown with the program from elementary school through high school and are now preparing to pursue college and career pathways.

The airport’s Performing Arts Residency Program provides a distinctive platform for local artists to create and present new work in an unconventional setting, enriching the traveler’s experience while supporting the region’s performing arts community.

Live performances will take place in pre- and post-security areas throughout Terminal 1 from 4 to 7 p.m. on April 16, May 7, and May 14. For more information, visit san.org.

[For photos of dance performances, please click here.**](#)**

ABOUT SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (SAN)

Owned and operated by San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (Airport Authority), San Diego International Airport (SAN) is the third largest airport in California. SAN is a single-runway commercial service airport conveniently located minutes from Downtown San Diego. SAN serves 11 nonstop international routes to Europe, South America and Asia and it contributes nearly \$12 billion in economic activity for the San Diego region. In September 2025, the Airport Authority opened the first phase of the new Terminal 1, a larger and more efficient facility that has greatly enhanced the customer experience at SAN. Once the New T1 project is complete in 2028, it will feature a total of 30 gates and will have generated more than \$4.5 billion for San Diego's economy and created more than 25,000 jobs, paying a total of \$2 billion in wages to local workers. For more information about SAN, please visit san.org.

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