



A Step Beyond, Spring 2026 Performing Arts Residency

PERFORMING ARTS RESIDENCY CALL FOR PROPOSALS - 2027

BACKGROUND

San Diego International Airport's (SAN) Performing Arts Program provides a unique platform to celebrate San Diego's culture and diverse talent in dance, theater, and live music, through an ongoing concert series, special performances, and residencies. The program supports the Airport's purpose to deliver an exceptional airport experience for our community and the world.

SAN's Arts Program launched its Performing Arts Residency Program in 2016. The program cultivates the local performing arts community by inviting artist groups/collectives to develop and perform new work that is inspired by, and enlivens, the airport environment.

The Arts Program at SAN is committed to the implementation of arts programming that elevates work reflective of the San Diego region, and that promotes a full creative life for all. This effort will be supported through community engagement strategies and artist selection processes that reinforce the representation of our distinctive and unique communities. Selected artists are also expected to support these efforts in their practice by contributing to a welcoming, professional environment that is suitable for the general public through their conduct, speech, and creative work.

PROJECT SCOPE

The Performing Arts Residency Program supports the development and public performance of new work. It offers artists the space to create and workshop new material while providing SAN patrons a unique opportunity for interaction through the performing arts. This process-oriented residency is open to contemporary performing artists in all disciplines and cross-disciplinary media including digital performance and projection.

Examples of programming may include site-responsive or immersive experiences that meaningfully engage passengers; participatory or interactive works developed for nontraditional performance environments; and performances spanning local, regional, and international music, modern or traditional dance, and theatrical or acrobatic practices. Projects may be inspired by the rhythms, narratives, and movement of the airport setting itself, and created with passenger input. Performing arts groups, collectives, organizations, companies, and higher education performing arts departments are encouraged to submit their qualifications for consideration.

GOALS OF THE PROGRAM INCLUDE:

- Enhance the airport environment and engage the traveling public with unexpected and participatory encounters with culture through the performing arts.
- Provide artists with an opportunity for the research, development, and performance of new projects.
- Extend artists the opportunity to expand the reach of their programming and gain new patronage through the Airport's audience of 25 million annual travelers.
- Provide a unique venue for rehearsals, public interaction (including workshops), and cumulative performances.
- Create new opportunities for collaboration between SAN and the broader community.

RESIDENCY PERIOD

Following project approval, a 16-week onsite residency period will begin. The selected artist or group is expected to be onsite as frequently as necessary to support the realization of their final project, typically once or twice per week. During the onsite phase, the resident will be required to conduct a minimum of one performance, activation, or workshop every other week

Up to two contracts, each in the amount of \$20,000, will be awarded for a six-month residency. One contract is expected to begin January 2027, and one in July 2027. The selected artist group(s)/organization(s) will be required to work with the Airport's Arts Program staff to schedule all meetings, activities, and engagement exercises necessary for the project development process. The residency will be structured in five phases. The residency will commence with an initial kick-off meeting, site research and proposal development period, and the selected artist group/organization will work with Arts Program staff to define culminating performances.

BUILT OBJECTS OR ENVIRONMENTS

Preference may be given by the selection panel to projects that incorporate built objects or environments. This may include the creation of new props, sets, scenic elements, or installations that clearly define performance thresholds and invite passengers to step into or engage with the experience. Projects may also propose co-created sculptures or installations that allow airport customers to participate or interact with the work during periods when performers are not onsite.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One additional performance/workshop will be required to be offsite and within the San Diego community. The performance/workshop will incorporate material and content generated from the Airport Residency Program.

RESIDENCY DOCUMENTATION

The residency group is responsible for creating professional quality photographs and professional quality video documenting the entire residency period and each performance, public rehearsal, or workshop. For past examples please visit our website:

san.org/arts/past-performing-arts-residencies

TIMELINE/DEADLINES

Information Session:	September 1, 2026 (5 p.m. PDT)
Click here to join the session:	
san.org/artsinfosession	
Submissions Due:	September 7, 2026 (11:59 p.m. PDT)
Finalist Interviews:	Weeks of September 21 or 28, 2026
Notification:	October/November 2026

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. COVER SHEET

Contact information (must include ALL of the following): name, address, phone number, website, and email address of participating artist group/organization.

Identify a main person of contact for the group.

2. LETTER/STATEMENT OF INTEREST

1-2 page document including the following:

- 1-2 sentence description of proposed residency project.
- 1-2 sentence mission statement of artist group/organization.
- Brief history of artist group/organization (1-2 paragraphs).
- Description of why artist group/organization is well-suited for this residency opportunity.

- Goals and objectives of proposed residency project, including a description of how the project will offer airport patrons a high-quality, interactive performance experience, unlike other airports or performing arts venues/situations.
- Description of artist group/organization's experience with developing original, site-specific content.
- Description of artist group/organization's experience with community outreach.
- Discuss preliminary ideas about the required single community engagement event to take place outside of the airport.
- Description of how the residency will allow for growth and further sustainability of artist group/organization.
- Provide sample/proposed budget breakdown, including project documentation (photography/videography) requirements and insurance coverage.
- Any specific requirements of project (technical, rehearsal/performance space needs, etc.)

3. VIDEO

A minimum of three website links to video clips of performance examples featuring artist group/organization within the past three years. Video must be housed online (YouTube, Vimeo, organization website, etc.) and must remain accessible until **December 31, 2026**. No download or Dropbox files will be accepted for video submissions. Videos will be judged solely on content and not on production value. Cell phone video is acceptable. For each video link, include the following information:

- Name of performance.
- Date and location of performance.
- Names and titles/roles of all performers in performance.
- 1-2 sentence description of performance.
- Specify whether video has been edited in any way (multiple camera angles spliced, multiple performances combined, post production editing of audio/video, effects added, etc.) or whether it is an unedited, continuous "straight-shot" of a single live performance. ***At least one video link submitted must be a single live performance recorded without editing.**

4. IMAGES

A minimum of three high-resolution digital photos representative of the artist group/organization. For each photo, include the following information:

- Name/content of photo.
- Date and location of when photo was taken.
- Names and titles/roles of all performers in photo.
- 1-2 sentence description of photo.
- Photo credit to photographer of photo.

Website links to photos online will NOT be viewed as part of the review process. No download or Dropbox files will be accepted for photo submissions.

IMAGE SPECIFICATIONS

- PC-compatible files only
- JPEG format only
- Total photo submissions must not exceed 10MB

5. BIOGRAPHIES

A one paragraph biography on each principal and core member of artist group/organization.

6. REFERENCES

Three professional references of the artist group/organization. For each reference, include the following contact information: name of reference, name of affiliated organization, mailing address, phone number, and email address.

7. AWARDS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ETC.

Include any grant funds received, awards bestowed, notable press/media coverage, etc. (One page maximum.)

Please consolidate all materials into a single PDF and email submissions to arts@san.org using the subject line "SAN 2027 Performing Arts Residency Program". Only email submissions will be reviewed.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

This Call for Submissions is open to performing artist groups, organizations, ensembles, and artist collectives interested in submitting proposals for the Performing Arts Residency Program at San Diego International Airport. SAN's Arts Program staff reserves the right to select venue locations and rehearsal/performance times and dates at the airport based on availability, constraints, and other operational factors. San Diego International Airport will promote and publicize the residency through various mediums, including news, web, and social media. Any and all publicity efforts related to the residency on the artist's part must be coordinated in conjunction with Arts Program staff. Previous SAN Performing Arts Residency recipients must allow three years between residency periods before being eligible for consideration.

SELECTION

A panel consisting of regional and national performing arts professionals vetted by Arts Program staff, approved by SAN's Art Advisory Committee, and Airport Authority leadership, will review submissions. Proposals will be judged on the following criteria:

- Quality, creativity, consistency, and cultural relevance of past work.
- Performance history or record.
- Interest in and comprehension of residency program.
- Experience developing and performing original content for diverse audiences.
- Ability and experience engaging the public in the creative process.
- Ability of proposed project to offer SAN patrons a high-quality, interactive performance experience unlike other airports or performing arts venues.
- Opportunity for creative growth and development through residency program.
- Proposed project offers opportunity for passengers to enjoy a pleasant, tranquil atmosphere and/or one of surprise and delight.

Following receipt and review of submissions, selected finalists will be invited to interview within a month of application closing. Notification will be made by email or phone. San Diego International Airport reserves the right to choose no artist group/organization if applicants do not meet qualifying requirements.

COLLABORATION WITH ARTS PROGRAM STAFF

Arts Program staff will provide administrative, programming, and coordinating support. Associated venue costs (security, custodial, tech as agreed upon) will be provided by SAN, subject to scheduling protocols and availability of space/services. Note that all members of any artist group/organization will be expected to work with Arts Program staff directly in order to successfully facilitate the residency. A single person of contact for the artist group/organization must be designated to assume responsibility for all communication with SAN's Arts Program staff, programming activity, and representation of the artist group/organization at meetings, etc.

OWNERSHIP OF WORK

Artist group/organization shall retain ownership, including all copyright, title, patent, and intellectual property rights of original content developed during the residency period including but not limited to songs, choreography, and participatory workshops. Artist group/organization may feature original content developed during residency in future performances or engagements for purposes unrelated to the airport residency. Artist group/organization agrees to credit San Diego International Airport as a partner when performing said content at future engagements.

LIABILITY AND INSURANCE

Artist group/organization will be responsible for maintaining commercial general liability insurance as well as automobile insurance for any owned vehicles for the duration of the residency. Artist group/organization must also maintain workers compensation as required by California state law unless exempt.

SECURITY AND BACKGROUND SCREENING

All members of artist group/organization must pass a 10 year background screening and complete a two-hour airport security training course in order to gain clearance for post-security performances in the airport terminals. **The cost of the screening and badging for each individual member is \$38.** The selected artist group/organization is responsible for this fee.

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REPRODUCTION RIGHTS

San Diego County Regional Airport Authority reserves the right to photograph, film, videotape, or otherwise depict performers of the residency. It also reserves the right to distribute such photographs, film, video, or depictions at any time during the residency or thereafter for the purposes of promotion in relation to the residency or San Diego International Airport. Name recognition will be given to the artist group/organization concurrent with such uses. Artist group/organization will be responsible for furnishing professional quality images and videos for staff approval and promotional use throughout the duration of the residency.

RESIDENCY STIPEND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payment shall be made in accordance with the following schedule:

1. Contract Execution/Kick Off Meeting - \$2,250
2. Site Research and Project Development (3 weeks) - \$1,500
3. Project Proposal (3 weeks) - \$2,250
4. Residency Period (16 weeks) - \$12,000 in four-phased payments
5. Documentation (4 weeks) - \$2,000

CONTRACT

To review a sample Performing Arts Residency contract, please visit:

san.org/performing-arts-residency-sample-contract

Sample Agreement Disclaimer: This document is for informational purposes only and is not a binding agreement or offer. Final terms are subject to review and approval by the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. Artists and groups should rely only on the final agreement issued for their residency.

Exceptions to Sample Agreement: Applicants may submit a separate document identifying any exceptions to the sample agreement as part of their application. Exceptions are advisory in nature and may be considered by the Authority during the evaluation and selection process. Failure to identify an exception at the time of application may waive the applicant's ability to negotiate that provision later.

QUESTIONS

For questions about the residency opportunity, email arts@san.org