



CALL FOR ARTISTS

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE FOR THE LA COUNTY CULTURAL CLIMATE COMMONS: COMMUNITY MEMORY LAB & LIVING ARCHIVE #ARTS-CS-RFP-26-143

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 29, 2026

BUDGET: \$100,000 Artist Fee | \$40,000 Materials Budget

1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Los Angeles County (County) Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture) invites Los Angeles County-based artists to apply for an artist residency with the LA County Cultural Climate Commons: Community Memory Lab & Living Archive, a collaboration between Arts and Culture, LA County Library / LA County Library Foundation, the Altadena Library District / Altadena Library Foundation, and Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) / Library Foundation of Los Angeles (LFLA) (collectively, Project Partners).

The Artist-in-Residence (Artist) will collaborate with Project Partners to develop a project that may include but is not limited to artistic interventions, approaches, and strategies; community engagement and participation; the creation of new artworks; and/or access to artistic and cultural experiences to meet the goals of the residency:

1. Develop a series of collective memory and artmaking workshops for Altadena residents and others impacted by the January 2025 fires that provide space for creative expression and storytelling and that foster healing and strengthen community bonds. Facilitate the addition of community created artworks created during workshops to LA County Library's new digital archive.
2. Facilitate an opportunity for Altadena-based artists to digitize their artwork as part of LA County Library's digital collections, elevating and giving more permanence to work that may have been previously overlooked, and contributing to a more holistic Altadena history.
3. In collaboration with LAPL, explore ways to connect Artist's workshops in Altadena to similar efforts led by LAPL, LFLA, and others in the Pacific Palisades.

This residency supports Goal 2 of the LA County Cultural Climate Commons initiative: to foster community connection and healing in Altadena and surrounding communities through memory-centered artmaking, incorporating completed artworks into the new digital archive.

Programmatic activities for this residency may include but are not limited to conducting stakeholder mapping, research, artist outreach and curation, program design, scheduling and

coordination, and community engagement. The Artist may employ a range of healing-centered arts practices and storytelling techniques to engage the fire-impacted communities of Altadena and the Pacific Palisades.

This project is rooted in socially engaged art and civic practice. This type of work requires a commitment to working collaboratively and a dedication to community engagement. Applicants must have a portfolio or body of work that demonstrates their ability to align creative practice with social and public need and their experience engaging culturally diverse communities.

2 BACKGROUND

Arts and Culture's mission is to advance arts, culture, and creativity throughout Los Angeles County. It provides leadership, services, and support in areas including grants for nonprofit organizations, countywide arts education initiatives, commissioning and care for civic art collections, research and evaluation, access to creative pathways, professional development, free community programs, and cross-sector creative strategies that address civic issues. For more information, visit lacountyarts.org.

The LA County Cultural Climate Commons: Community Memory Lab & Living Archive is a community archiving initiative responding to the need for cultural preservation, meaning making, commemoration, and social connection arising from the January 2025 wildfires in Los Angeles County, and demonstrating models of creative recovery and resilience in response to climate change. Led by LA County Library and LA County Library Foundation, the initiative models how cultural institutions can transcend jurisdictional boundaries to center community healing and memory in response to disasters.

In addition to claiming lives, uprooting families, and destroying property and irreplaceable objects across the County, the devastation of the January 2025 wildfires threatens to erase cultural traditions, stories, heritage, ecological systems, and relational spaces. As climate change intensifies, the region faces increasing vulnerability to climate disasters and the physical and social displacement they may cause. This initiative will help people in fire-impacted communities safeguard and share their memories, promoting healing, resilience, and social connection.

Public libraries are widely viewed as trusted civic spaces. LA County Library has preserved many community collections on its digital archiving platforms and will establish a Mobile Memory Lab with portable equipment to collect and preserve community memories at pop-up events, beginning in Altadena and surrounding areas. The initiative aims to preserve LA's diverse stories and connect the past, present, and future of climate-related events and social change. It is designed to be implemented in coordination and collaboration with the many community-based organizations and community-led projects already addressing fire recovery and healing in Altadena and the Pacific Palisades.

3 ABOUT THE PROJECT PARTNERS

LA County Library belongs to our communities and serves as a portal to learn, grow, and succeed. Founded in 1912, it is one of the largest and most innovative library systems in the US, and was awarded the nation's highest honor, the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, in 2023. Dedicated to reducing barriers and increasing access for all through culturally responsive and

dynamic collections, programs, and services, the Library serves 3.4 million residents across 3,000 square miles through its 86 libraries and 15-vehicle mobile fleet. The nonprofit LA County Library Foundation raises funds and awareness, forges partnerships, and develops deep-rooted community support for LA County Library and the millions of children, teens, and adults whose lives the Library enriches with access to a range of information, programs, and resources.

Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) is a dynamic, forward-thinking institution that provides impactful, life-changing services to four million residents, including immigrant integration and citizenship, civic engagement, digital inclusion, and lifelong learning. By preserving and sharing stories, LAPL connects people and ideas while fostering a culture of welcome, belonging, and community. Its ally of the past 33 years, the Library Foundation of Los Angeles (LFLA), has advanced LAPL's mission by raising financial support for and awareness of LAPL's resources through fundraising, advocacy, cultural projects, and strategic partnerships.

The Altadena Library District brings people and ideas together, and envisions an Altadena where all are learning, growing, and thriving together. Though the District's buildings survived the 2025 Eaton fire, its community—known for its artistic heritage—is in the early stages of a historic rebuild. Altadena Library Foundation has already joined forces with LA County Library Foundation for a *Connected Wellness* campaign, which raised funds to purchase essential supplies for those impacted by the fires, including new books and school supplies, Mi-Fi hotspots with data plans, diapers and wipes, and menstrual products.

4 STATEMENT OF WORK

Overview

During the residency, Artist will curate and produce a series of approximately 12 healing-centered collective memory and artmaking workshops (Workshops) that provide space for the community to heal, express themselves creatively, and elevate and preserve the culture, stories, and memories of Altadena. Workshop activities should include but not be limited to the following topics: fire recovery, climate change, healing through artmaking, storytelling, shared memory, place, history, and cultural preservation.

Workshops should be designed using healing-centered arts practices and engage Altadena residents in their neighborhoods. Some workshops should take place at Altadena Library District locations and LA County facilities in Altadena (e.g., parks, senior centers), in tandem with LA County Library's Mobile Memory Lab activations. Artist will coordinate with LA County Library staff to add community artworks created during workshops to LA County Library's new digital archive.

Artist should engage local artists and/or arts groups to co-lead workshops. Workshops should be designed for Altadena residents and others impacted by the January 2025 fires. Artist will work closely with staff from both Arts and Culture and Project Partners, as well as independently, to develop, plan, prototype, and implement workshops.

Altadena Library and LA County Library will host pop-up community archiving events, held concurrently with the Workshops, to digitize personal photos, collections, ephemera, and more.

The Artist will facilitate an open call opportunity for Altadena-based artists to digitize their artwork as part of LA County Library's digital collections, elevating and giving more permanence to work that may have been previously overlooked, and contributing to a more holistic Altadena history.

In collaboration with LAPL, the Artist will connect the project's memory work in Altadena to similar efforts in the Pacific Palisades.

Artist will be responsible for managing all aspects of the design and execution of project activities, ensuring smooth and timely implementation, and providing regular updates to Arts and Culture on its progress. Throughout the duration of the residency, Artist will continue to refine methods and practices to consistently achieve high outcomes and impact over time. Artist may engage and/or collaborate with other artists, culture bearers, subject matter experts, community leaders, and arts and culture organizations.

This Statement of Work establishes a preliminary schedule for contract implementation. The schedule may change after execution of the Contract. Schedule changes will be mutually agreed upon by all parties. Time is of the essence and Artist shall complete the services described below in accordance with the mutually agreed upon schedule:

Phase 1: Research (September 1 – October 30, 2026)

Beginning with a kick-off meeting organized by Arts and Culture, this phase is a time for Artist and Project Partners to establish mutual understanding and trust through shared exposure to each other's work and process. During this phase, Artist will:

- Conduct stakeholder mapping.
- Develop a Workshop plan, which will include the design, schedule, curation, and locations of a series of Workshops.
- Research local artists, arts groups, and/or other experts to co-lead Workshops.
- Form a community working group to consult on Workshop series design, as needed;
- Connect with Altadena community leaders, including staff and volunteers of the Altadena Historical Society, Altadena Heritage, and others.
- Connect with other artists and organizations conducting similar cultural preservation and oral history projects in Altadena, such as the LA Conservancy, to explore collaboration.
- Observe LA County Library and Altadena Library District programs and services taking place in Altadena, including community engagement and Mobile Memory Lab activities.
- Collaborate with a curator and historian, as needed, who will be contracted by Arts and Culture and LA County Library for the LA County Cultural Climate Commons initiative.
- Submit a draft Workshop Plan informed by these activities and research, detailing the proposed series of Workshops, including a schedule, locations, and budget.

Phase 2: Prototyping (November 1 – December 31, 2026)

During this phase, the Artist will:

- Prototype and field-test various approaches and methods for implementing Workshops in tandem with and independently of Mobile Memory Lab activations and community archiving events. The Artist will work with Library staff to develop a process that ensures

- that artworks created by community members during Workshops are properly digitized and archived, with permission of the community members.
- Meet with Project Partners and the community working group, as needed, to solicit feedback on Workshop series topics and locations. Artist will confirm Workshop series schedule, locations, and artists/arts groups. Artist will design promotional materials.
 - Submit a final Workshop Plan that incorporates lessons learned from prototyping and field testing. Final Workshop Plan should include an updated schedule, list of locations, list of collaborating artists and/or artist groups, and budget.

Phase 3: Implementation (January 1, 2027 – April 30, 2028)

During this phase, the Artist will:

- Implement the Workshop Plan, in tandem with LA County Library's Mobile Memory Lab archiving work. Staff from Arts and Culture and the appropriate Project Partner will offer necessary support and guidance during the project's implementation through regular check-ins.
- Develop and facilitate an open call opportunity for Altadena-based artists to contribute original artwork to be digitized and added to LA County Library's digital archive, with the goal of elevating and giving more permanence to work that may have been previously overlooked and contributing to a more holistic Altadena history.
- Artist will coordinate with participating artists and LA County Library staff on the digitization of artworks for LA County Library's archive.
- Explore ways to connect Workshops to similar efforts led by LAPL and LFLA in the Pacific Palisades, in collaboration with LAPL.
- In collaboration with Project Partners, the community working group, and the curator, Artist will plan a culminating exhibition or event to celebrate and acknowledge the creative contributions of Altadena residents to the project.

Phase 4: Closeout (May 1, 2028 – June 30, 2028)

During this phase, the Artist will:

- Execute a culminating exhibition or event to celebrate and acknowledge the creative contributions of Altadena residents to the project, in collaboration with Project Partners, the community working group, and the curator.
- Submit a Final Report that documents the project's development and evolution, people engaged, and successes and challenges.

5 ELIGIBILITY

This call is open to:

- Professional Artists and other creative professionals residing or working within Los Angeles County with a minimum of five (5) years of experience within the past ten (10) years creating artwork; art-based, healing-centered community engagement; and/or arts programming that incorporates public engagement and participation.

- A demonstrated ability to work collaboratively as part of a team; strong verbal and written communication skills with the ability to consider the perspectives of multiple communities and a diverse array of stakeholders.

6 BUDGET

Artist Fee: \$100,000

Project Materials Budget: \$40,000

The maximum all-inclusive project budget is \$140,000, which includes \$50,000 in artist fees per year (up to \$100,000) and \$40,000 for all costs associated with the development and implementation of the project. Project costs are inclusive of all related expenses, such as printing, materials, training, equipment, video production, mileage, parking, etc. The Artist is responsible for insurance and for managing the project budget and submitting invoices. No additional funding is provided.

This is not a full-time employment opportunity. The Artist may take on other projects during the residency.

Arts and Culture may elect to revise the budget to address changes in the Statement of Work, price, or any term and condition. Arts and Culture will have the sole option to extend the term of the residency for up to two (2) additional one-year terms, based on initially contracted rates, at the sole discretion of the Director of Arts and Culture or his/her designee, subject to performance, needs, and availability of additional funds.

7 SCHEDULE

Release of Call for Artists	June 3, 2026
Solicitation Requirements Review Request* due	June 5, 2026
Written Questions about this Call for Artists** due	June 9, 2026
Release of Answers to Questions	On or before June 17, 2026
Deadline for Submissions	June 29, 2026 5:00 p.m. PDT
Artist Selection and Contracting	June 30 – August 31, 2026
Artist Residency Begins	September 1, 2026
Residency Ends	June 30, 2028

***Solicitation Requirements Review Request**

Any person or entity may seek a Solicitation Requirements Review if they feel they are being unfairly disadvantaged by submitting a written request for review to the department conducting the solicitation. To submit a Solicitation Requirements Review Request for this Call for Artists, complete the form below and email it to cross-sector@arts.lacounty.gov, along with supporting documentation, no later than June 5, 2026.

[Solicitation Requirements Review Request Form](#)

****Written Questions about this Call for Artists**

Interested parties may submit written questions about this solicitation by email to cross-sector@arts.lacountygov no later than June 9, 2026. Arts and Culture will post answers to all questions received no later than June 17, 2026, on its website, lacountyarts.org, as well as on the Los Angeles County Solicitations website by June 17, 2026, as an Addendum to this Call for Artists.

8 TO APPLY

Application Link: All interested individuals are invited to submit an application online through SurveyMonkey Apply using the following link:

<https://apply-lacdac.smapply.io/prog/call-for-artists-Cultural-Climate-Commons>

7.1 Deadline to Apply

Submissions are due by or before **5:00 pm, Pacific Standard Time (PDT) on June 29, 2026**. Any materials received after the due date and time specified above will be rejected and considered non-responsive.

7.2 Instructions for First Time Applicants

- Please create an account using the green **REGISTER** button.
- Fill-out your account information.
- Once you Verify your email, please make sure to use the LOG IN button to re-access the application platform.

9 SUBMISSION MATERIALS

1. Resume or CV

Please provide maximum 1-2 pages outlining your background as an artist or creative professional, which may include previous projects, experience, education/training, and other related credentials.

2. Statement of Interest (3 pages maximum).

Please provide responses to the following:

- Briefly describe why this project interests you.
- Briefly describe your artistic, creative, or community practice, your sources of inspiration, and your method of developing high quality, innovative, and meaningful work.
- Briefly describe your background and experience designing and implementing community arts engagement with a healing-centered, trauma-informed approach.
- Briefly describe your background and experience, if any, archiving, preserving, and/or managing artwork, artifacts, or other historical documentation.
- Briefly describe your background and experience, if any, with oral history or storytelling projects that you have designed/co-designed or led/co-led.
- If awarded, how will you engage the Altadena community, and encourage their participation in culture and memory preservation workshops or events, understanding the ongoing challenges the fire impacted community continues facing?

- What is your experience managing budgets of a similar scale or working within similar time constraints?

3. Work Samples

Please provide between 3 to 10 relevant examples of past or current work (JPG, JPEG, or PDF format only). Include the date, project budget, client/agency (if applicable), medium, location (if applicable), and a brief description of the project.

To submit videos of relevant past work, please paste YouTube or Vimeo links in the description field provided. Please submit video samples that have been edited so that the combined total length of all video samples is no longer than five (5) minutes.

4. Acknowledgement of the following Standard County Provisions:

- Public Records Act;
- No Conflict of Interest (Board Policies 5.090);
- Consideration of GAIN/GROW Participants for Employment (Board Policy 5.050);
- Fair Chance Employment Hiring Practices (Board Policy 5.250); and
- Safely Surrendered Baby Law (Board Policy 5.135).

10 SELECTION PROCESS

Submissions will be reviewed by an evaluation panel comprised of representatives from Arts and Culture, Project Partners, and an invited professional with expertise in socially engaged art and civic practice and will be scored based on a maximum 1000-point scale. Scoring will be based on the following:

<p>Art and Creative Practice: Past works and creative practice reflect authenticity and originality; evidence of experience creating socially engaged work that embodies a commitment to public engagement and participation, collaboration, and social change; and/or a body of work that incorporates a range of arts practices and creative methodologies applicable to this Residency.</p>	<p>300 points</p>
<p>Suitability for this Project: Statement of Interest, work samples, and resume/CV demonstrate applicant’s suitability for the established goals of this residency, including experience designing and implementing healing-centered arts engagement activities and experience designing and implementing projects that include storytelling, oral histories, archiving, personal or shared memory, placemaking/placekeeping, and/or cultural preservation.</p>	<p>300 points</p>
<p>Project Management: Statement of Interest and work samples demonstrate experience working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, ability to synthesize complex concepts related to project development, and ability to manage projects within defined timelines.</p>	<p>150 points</p>

<p>Budget feasibility and completeness*</p> <p><i>*Based on the project budget of \$140,000, applicants will receive a maximum score of 220 points. However, applicants having been previously certified for one or more of Los Angeles County's Preference Programs (Local Small Business Enterprise, Social Enterprise, or Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise) shall receive an additional 30 points for a maximum of 250.</i></p>	<p>220-250 points</p>
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The evaluation panel will review applications based on the criteria detailed above and will select up to five (5) finalists for interviews. All applications will be scored and ranked in numerical sequence from high to low. Selected finalists will be asked to develop a 15 to 20-minute presentation of their creative practice and past projects for the interview. Interviews will take place over Zoom. The County retains the right to select an application other than the application receiving the highest number of points if the County determines, in its sole discretion, another application is the most overall qualified, responsive, responsible, and in the best interests of the County.

11 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Artist will be required to enter into a contract with the County of Los Angeles and must agree to a consultant agreement, such as the sample linked below, and to the County's Standard Terms and Conditions:
 - [Sample Consultant Services Contract and Statement of Work](#)
 - [County of Los Angeles Standard Terms and Conditions](#)
- All contact regarding this Call for Artists must be in writing and may be emailed to Jacqueline Pimentel, Program Specialist, Cross Sector Initiatives, at cross-sector@arts.lacounty.gov. If it is discovered that proposer contacted and received information from any County personnel, other than the person specified above, regarding this solicitation, County, in its sole determination, may disqualify their proposal from further consideration.
- Arts and Culture reserves the right to accept or reject any and all responses received or select another consultant through another process.
- All interested parties who submit materials for review will receive confirmation of receipt.
- The information contained and/or any program or event described herein may be changed, amended, modified, canceled, revoked, or abandoned without notice at any time and for any reason in the sole discretion of Arts and Culture or the County of Los Angeles. The County reserves the right to waive inconsequential disparities in a submitted application.
- This Call for Artists does not constitute an offer to contract or promise for remuneration, recognition, or any other thing. Submission of any materials in response to this Call for Artists will not constitute an express or implied contract.
- Arts and Culture is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce. Diverse applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

STANDARD COUNTY PROVISIONS

Insurance Requirements: Selected Artist and sub-contractors will be required to have commercial general liability insurance, automobile insurance (if applicable). Selected Artist must be a registered vendor with the County of Los Angeles prior to contracting.

Public Records Act: Responses to this Solicitation shall become the property of the County. When Arts and Culture makes the final selection, all submissions in response to this Solicitation become a matter of public record, with the exception of those parts of each submission which are justifiably defined and identified by the applicant as business or trade secrets, and plainly marked as "Trade Secret," "Confidential," or "Proprietary." The County shall not, in any way, be liable or responsible for the disclosure of any such record or any parts thereof, if disclosure is required or permitted under the California Public Records Act or otherwise by law. A blanket statement of confidentiality or the marking of each page of the submission as confidential shall not be deemed sufficient notice of exception. The applicant must specifically label only those provisions of their respective submission which are "Trade Secrets," "Confidential," or "Proprietary" in nature.

Conflict of Interest (Board Policies 5.090): No County employee whose position in the County enables him/her to influence the selection of an applicant for this Solicitation, nor any spouse or economic dependent of such employee, shall be employed in any capacity by applicant or have any other direct or indirect financial interest in the selection of an applicant. Applicant shall certify that he/she is aware of and has read Section 2.180.010 of the Los Angeles County Code. An applicant, or its subsidiary or Subcontractor is prohibited from submitting a proposal in a County solicitation if the applicant has provided advice or consultation for the solicitation. An applicant is also prohibited from submitting a bid or proposal in a County solicitation if the applicant has developed or prepared any of the solicitation materials on behalf of the County. A violation of this provision shall result in the disqualification of the applicant from participation in the County solicitation or the termination or cancellation of any resultant County contract.

Consideration of GAIN/GROW Participants for Employment (Board Policy 5.050): As a threshold requirement for consideration of a County Contract, applicants shall demonstrate a proven record of hiring participants in the County's Department of Public Social Services Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) or General Relief Opportunity for Work (GROW) Programs or shall attest to a willingness to consider GAIN/GROW participants for any future employment openings if they meet the minimum qualifications for that opening. Applicants shall attest to a willingness to provide employed GAIN/GROW participants access to the Applicant's employee mentoring program, if available, to assist these individuals in obtaining permanent employment and/or promotional opportunities. Applicants who are unable to meet this requirement shall not be considered for a County Contract. Applicants shall complete and return the form, Attestation of Willingness to Consider GAIN/GROW Participants.

Acknowledgement of County's Commitment to Fair Chance Employment Hiring Practices (Board Policy 5.250): On May 29, 2018, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a Fair Chance Employment Policy in an effort to remove job barriers for individuals with criminal records. The policy requires businesses that contract with the County to comply with fair chance employment hiring practices set forth in California Government Code Section 12952, Employment Discrimination: Conviction History (Section 12952). Applicants are required to complete Attachment C ("Compliance with Fair Chance Employment Hiring Practices Certification"), certifying that they are in full compliance with Section 12952 for the term of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation.

Safely Surrendered Baby Law (Board Policy 5.135): The applicant shall notify and provide to its employees, and shall require each subcontractor to notify and provide to its employees, information regarding the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, its implementation in Los Angeles County, and where and how to safely surrender a baby. Additional information is available at www.babysafela.org.

Protest Policy (Board Policy No. 5.055): Any prospective Vendor may request a review of the requirements under a solicitation for a services contract. Additionally, any actual Vendor may request a review of a disqualification under such a solicitation, as described in the Sections below. Throughout the review process, the County has no obligation to delay or otherwise postpone an award of contract based on a Vendor protest. In all cases, the County reserves the right to make an award when it is determined to be in the best interest of the County of Los Angeles to do so.

Grounds for Review. Unless state or federal statutes or regulations otherwise provide, the grounds for review of any Departmental determination or action should be limited to the following:

- Review of Solicitation Requirements Review. The solicitation's requirements and evaluation criteria unfairly disadvantage the protestor, or the solicitation's instructions were unclear and may result in the County not receiving the best possible responses from proposers.
- Review of a Disqualified Application. The protestor's application was incorrectly reviewed and disqualified based on the solicitation's evaluation criteria.

Protest Process. Requests for review must be submitted in writing within the time specified by the Department. The request must identify the person or entity submitting the protest. The request must itemize in appropriate detail, each matter contested and factual reasons for the requested review.