

Artist Residency Program (ARP)

A one-year creative residency at
The Dirt Underneath.



THE DIRT
UNDERNEATH

ACTORS' SPACE

About the ARP

This Residency was created in 2022 with the goal of awarding one recipient on an annual basis.

The recipient will have free tuition and access to the following classes:

- On-Camera Scene Study (1 session = 6 classes) or a Weekend Intensive (2 days) w/John Gordon
- On-Camera Scene Study (1 session = 6 classes) w/Shawn McComb
- Voice Classes (6 hours of private lessons) w/Peter N. Bailey
- Online Grant Writing 101 Workshop (1 session = 2 x 2 hour classes) w/Victoria Urquhart
- Business Coaching (3 hours) w/ Cynthia Chan.

Applications will be accepted for the 2026 Residency until April 30, 2026.

Short-listed candidates will be granted an interview mid-May and the recipient of the 2026 ARP will be notified by June 15, 2026.

The 2025 ARP will begin July 1, 2026 and end June 30, 2027.

ARP Application:

1. Completed ARP Google Application Form including headshot + resume/artistic CV.
2. Reference letter from a member of the artistic community.
3. Personal essay (500-1000 words).
4. Video submission - maximum 3 minutes demonstrating a sample of your art form.
5. [NOT MANDATORY] Short letter from your Talent Agent listing what roles you are usually sent out for AND why they have you as a client on their roster.

ARP Selection Process

- Applications due by April 30, 2026
- Selection committee will review applications. Committee members include Cynthia Chan, John Gordon, Shaun McComb, Peter N. Bailey and Christian Lloyd.
- Short-listed candidates will be contacted for an online interview by May 15, 2026.
- Interviews will be held on May 21 or May 28, 2026.
- ARP Recipient will be notified by June 15, 2026.

Essay + Video Prompts

Essay (please answer both questions):

Question 1:

- Describe a recent creative experience—whether in acting (class, stage, or screen) or in another artistic medium—that challenged you or stretched you artistically. **What made this experience demanding or transformative for you?** Reflect on what you discovered about your craft, your process, or yourself as an artist through that experience. [250-500 words]

Question 2:

- If you are chosen as the ARP recipient, **what growth and development would you like to see in your acting** after studying at The Dirt for one year? [250-500 words]

Video Submission (max. 3 minutes):

- Please show us a sample of your work (i.e. demo reel, monologue, scene you directed). Feel free to include a variety of scenes that can show your range as an actor.

Selection Criteria

- Applicant is curious and embracing of The Dirt's philosophy towards acting and artistic pursuits.
- The Dirt will give special consideration for people who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Person of Colour).
- The Dirt will give special consideration to emerging artists.
- Consideration of how studying at The Dirt for a year will impact the applicant's artistic future.

Overall Goals of The Dirt's ARP

- Encourages applications from artists who may have previously felt unable to participate
- Promotes equity, diversity, and inclusion within The Dirt community
- Provides The Dirt with an opportunity to give back to the acting community
- Allows The Dirt to build stronger connections with the wider artistic community

Contact:

Cynthia Chan (business coach +
administrative director for The Dirt)

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