

# Artist Residency Program (ARP)

A one-year creative residency at  
The Dirt Underneath.



THE DIRT  
UNDERNEATH  

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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 receive free tuition and access to the following classes and professional development opportunities:**

- \* **On-Camera Scene Study** with John Gordon — 1 session (6 classes)
- \* **On-Camera Scene Study with Shaun McComb** — 1 session (6 classes)
- \* **Voice Classes with Peter N. Bailey** — 6 hours of private lessons
- \* **Online Grant Writing 101 Workshop** with Victoria Urquhart — 1 session (two 2-hour classes)
- \* **Business Coaching** with Cynthia Chan — 3 hours of coaching

**Applications will be accepted for the 2027 Residency until April 30, 2027**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview in late May or early June. The recipient of the **2027 ARP** will be notified by **June 15, 2027**.

The 2027 ARP will run from **July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028**.

## ARP Application:

1. Completed ARP Google Application Form with headshot and resume.
2. Reference letter from a member of the artistic community.
3. Personal essay (500-1000 words) answering two questions.
4. Video submission #1 – up to 3 minutes showcasing your art.
5. Video submission #2 - max 2 minutes answering one of four questions.
6. [optional] A short letter from your Talent Agent outlining the roles you typically audition for and the reason they represent you.

# ARP Selection Process

- Applications will open in early January and are due by April 30, 2027 (6:00pm EST)
- The committee (Cynthia Chan, John Gordon, Shaun McComb, Peter Bailey, Christian Lloyd) will review applications from May 1-15, 2027.
- Selected candidates will be contacted for an online interview by May 16, 2027.
- Interviews will take place on Zoom in late May or early June 2027.
- ARP Recipient will be notified by June 15, 2027.

# Essay Prompts (please answer both questions)

## Essay 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]*

## Essay 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 Prompts

## **Video Submission #1 (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.

## **Video Submission #2 (max. 2 minutes): Please answer one of the following four questions:**

### An Actor You Admire

1. What have you learned from watching the performances of an actor you admire? Share a specific quality, choice, or approach that has influenced the way you think about acting.

### A Core Belief About Acting

2. What was a core belief you held when you first started acting? Has that belief stayed the same, evolved gradually, or changed dramatically since you began? Explain how and why.

### A Scene That Stayed With You

3. Think of a scene from a play, television show, or film that has stayed with you. What made it memorable, and what do you think made the scene work?

### Your Dream Role

4. Name your dream role and briefly explain what draws you to it. You can think of a character type or archetype (i.e. villain, hero in fantasy thriller). What is it about the character that interests or excites you?

# Selection Criteria

- **Curiosity and Artistic Alignment:** Demonstrates curiosity and an openness to The Dirt's philosophy and approach to acting and artistic pursuits.
- **Representation and Inclusion:** Gives special consideration to applicants who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour).
- **Emerging Artists:** Gives special consideration to emerging artists who are developing their skills, voice, and artistic practice.
- **Potential for Artistic Growth:** Considers how a year of study at The Dirt may contribute to the applicant's artistic development, career, and future opportunities.

## Overall Goals of The Dirt's ARP

- Welcomes applications from artists who may not have previously felt that this opportunity was accessible to them.
- Supports equity, diversity, and inclusion in The Dirt community
- Offers a chance for The Dirt to support the acting community
- Helps The Dirt connect better with the artistic community

# Contact:

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