



City of Dallas Artist Micro-Residencies

Collaborations between local creatives
and government departments

2018 • 2019

DALLAS CULTURAL PLAN

WHAT IS AN ARTIST MICRO-RESIDENCY?

The Dallas Cultural Plan piloted the Artist Micro-Residencies program in City of Dallas departments in 2018 and again in 2019.

The micro-residencies provided an opportunity for the artists to see how the City works — and vice versa, fostering greater understanding, altered perceptions, and increased awareness of future partnership opportunities. These micro-residencies highlight how artists can bring a new viewpoint and set of tools when approaching everyday municipal challenges. This booklet provides an overview of the ten completed micro-residencies.

Applications for the next round of Artist Micro-Residencies open in the first quarter of 2020.

Visit our website dallasculture.org or follow us on Facebook @dallasculture for updates.

ARTSTILLERY & LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT

Artist: Artstillery is an experimental performance company that empowers marginalized communities and reveals the rawness of ruth in human life. Their work consists of live performances, soundscapes, video and puppetry in an immersive experience for audience members.

Department: The Dallas Public Library strengthens communities by connecting people, inspiring curiosity and advancing lives.

Residency: Artsillery and the Dallas Public Library explored how to activate underutilized library spaces, and revitalize the connection between libraries and their communities. They also used web based tools for the Library to communicate the space they have available, what it can be used for, and target groups. They created a “next steps” that included the development of new networks and relationships, programs that can be cultivated through networking events, teaching artists, and/or art exhibitions, and support tools for those seeking to use their spaces.

IV AMENTI & THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Artist: Iv Amenti has been a Creative Social Practitioner in the city of Dallas for more than 15 years. As a professional in the performing arts, she partners with communities to create storytelling opportunities using various artistic mediums.

Department: The Dallas Park and Recreation Department’s mission is to champion lifelong recreation and serve as responsible stewards of the city’s parks, trails, and open spaces.

Residency: Amenti sought to address the growing concerns of seniors, who regularly use the local recreation centers, who felt displaced during peak youth programming hours or seasons. Amenti worked to create a series of protocols that could be used by facilitators to create programming targeting youth and seniors. The design allows for weekly gatherings that offer physical, mental, social, and emotional interaction. After the seven-week program, she recommended an assessment of activities, with the purpose of refinement and expansion.

JUSTIN CHILDRESS/GRAY GARMON & THE DEPARTMENT OF CODE COMPLIANCE

Artist: Gray Garmon practices Human-Centered Design to understand and deeply appreciate the context of human behaviors, emotions, and motivations to design more innovative solutions. Justin Childress is a Creative Director and partner at Switch, a strategic branding and interactive design studio with offices in Dallas and Oklahoma City.

Department: The Department of Code Compliance's mission is to foster clean, healthy, safe, enriching communities while preventing physical blight from Dallas neighborhoods.

Residency: Childress and Garmon were able to see the work done everyday by the Department, including neighborhood concerns, clearing heavy debris, collecting discarded needles, and inspecting Dallas' food establishments. Through their experience they developed a series of strategies that would support the goals of the Department, community advocates, and increase connection between residents and Code Compliance.

MELISSA GONZALES & THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN

Artist: Melissa Gonzales is a Gallery Educator at the Nasher Sculpture Center of Dallas, where she primarily leads student tours; develops resources for teachers; and teaches workshops for students, teachers, and adult visitors. She previously spent 15 years with the Education Department of the DMA.

Department: The Planning & Urban Design Department develops comprehensive plans, policies, and programs through effective community engagement. Our goal is to advance livability, economic vibrancy, sustainability, and equity throughout Dallas.

Residency: Gonzales worked with the Planning and Urban Design Department on school and community outreach projects, developing an interactive presentation for school career day visits. She developed an activity sheet for children to introduce them to the idea that they are a part of a neighborhood and can want things for their neighborhoods.

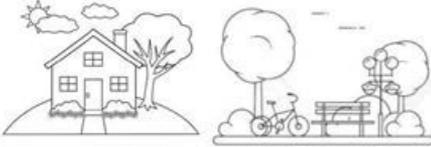
CONSTANCE WHITE & THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Artist: Constance White is a professional creative who imagines and manifests the possibilities of meaningful beauty and design in neighborhoods and urban spaces. Through planning and co-design she seeks to thoughtfully craft relevant and creative opportunities that allow communities to express their unique and collective voices.

Department: The Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) is committed to protecting and improving the environment by leading and guiding the City of Dallas in our efforts on environmental compliance, pollution prevention, and continual improvement.

Residency: White discovered a series of challenges that stem from the difficulties of communicating vitally important but highly technical information in a way that compels people to respond. She modeled strategies of engaging residents in art creation activities that could be used as a model for the Department in their engagement efforts.

MY NEIGHBORHOOD



Add yourself, friends, pets, and family!

My Neighborhood

My neighborhood looks like _____

My neighborhood sounds like _____

My neighborhood tastes like _____

My neighborhood smells like _____

My neighborhood feels like _____

Write a poem about your neighborhood!

Did you know?
The City of Dallas Planning and Urban Design Department wants to help you make your neighborhood the best that it can be.

What do you want for your neighborhood?

- Safe Streets
- Clean water
- Recycling
- Trees and parks
- Access to public transportation
- Welcoming spaces

Your voice is important!
Call the Neighborhood Vitality Team for help, to learn more, and to get involved with your community! (214) 671-8900

<http://dallascityhall.com/departments/prnv/Pages/NeighborhoodVitality.aspx>

Follow us on





Activity Sheet Developed by Melissa Gonzales
Image Credit: Melissa Gonzales

JAMES STARR & LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT

Artist: James Michael Starr is currently an author of historical fiction, but earlier phases of his nomadic creative experience span work as a creative director, graphic designer, writer (including at a division of The Richards Group ad agency), and more recently, sculptor.

Department: The Dallas Public Library strengthens communities by connecting people, inspiring curiosity and advancing lives.

Residency: Noting James Michael's professional focus in the fields of architecture and marketing, the Library asked him to visit 14 branches, including Central, and, based on his experience in space planning, branding, and wayfinding, to report back on two issues: 1) how these spaces are currently being used and 2) how they might be made more open, welcoming, and multi-functional. His recommendations range from easy options for maximizing space to standardization of interior signs and optimizing exterior signage and landscaping.

SOFIA BASTIDAS & THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Artist: Sofia Bastidas is a curator and cultural producer who is interested in creating collaborative systems and networks to formulate a regenerative curatorial and historical research practice working with artists, scholars and organizers.

Department: The Department of Housing works to create and maintain affordable housing throughout Dallas, promote greater fair housing choices, and overcome patterns of segregation and concentrations of poverty through incentives and requirements.

Residency: Bastidas conducted extensive research on the NOFA Land Transfer Opportunities program, a request for proposal from developers to acquire land that the City of Dallas owns to develop single family housing. In questioning the outdated assumptions of single family housing, she wanted to re-think the physical and financial architecture of living, working, and commuting within what we call "home" to a more sustainable, equitable, flexible and intergenerational dwelling.

HALEY NELSON & HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

Artist: Haley Nelson, originally from Northern California, is a freelance dramaturg and writer based in Dallas, Texas. She has worked with Kitchen Dog Theater since 2016 as Manager of Literary and Community Initiatives, managing the theater's dramaturgy, community engagement programming, and annual New Works Festival.

Department: The Historic Preservation section provides services related to historic districts, historic structures, and potential historic districts and structures.

Residency: Nelson used her background in dramaturgical analysis to identify and analyze the challenges faced by the historical preservation staff and citizen engagement with office processes. She gathered that the four main issues were in pre-process home buying, proper commissioner and task force staffing and ordinance enforcement, clear and accessible information, and negative patron relationships.

DENISE LEE & THE OFFICE OF EQUITY

Artist: Denise Lee, CEO of Denise Lee Onstage and the producer of the DLO Cabaret Series and the Dallas Cabaret Festival, is a community activist. Her gatherings, *Community Conversation*, are held monthly and encourage people with diverse backgrounds to have honest, open dialogue.

Department: The Office of Equity works to shape a city government and Dallas where everyone thrives by working internally and externally to provide professional development and education, analyze policy and procedures, and build robust community collaborations.

Residency: Lee worked to understand the City's equity efforts and gave input to *Undesign the Redline*, a national, traveling art and design exhibit. Lee programmed the opening reception in the lobby of City Hall. At this event, she curated spoken word poetry by Verb Kulture, a Land Acknowledgement by Jodi Voice Yellowfish to honor Native Americans, and accompaniment by local drummer Len Barnett.

DALLAS CULTURAL PLAN



dallaspubliclibrary



Dallas Park & Recreation



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

OFFICE OF EQUITY

HISTORIC PRESERVATION