



2026/27 Artist-in-Residence Call for Applications: Performing Arts

The Umbrella Arts Center, in Concord MA, seeks applicants for its 2026/27 Artist-in-Residence (AiR) Program. Active artists looking to join a vibrant arts community in Greater Boston and further their careers are encouraged to apply. For the 2026/27 season, The Umbrella seeks two (2) Performing Arts AiR, with an interest in theatrical directing and theatrical design, respectively.

- Residency Dates: August 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027, with higher concentrations of time during rehearsal periods.
- Application Deadline: May 1, 2026
- Decision Announcement: By June 15, 2026

The Umbrella Arts Center is an active and vibrant interdisciplinary art center with 50+ Studio Artists, an independent ceramics studio and a fully equipped woodshop, robust education programs, multiple galleries with year-round exhibition, and a performance program encompassing an award-winning Stage Company and celebrated Concert Series in the historic center of Concord, MA.

The Umbrella's AiR program brings together a cohort of artists participating in The Umbrella's residency programs in Visual Arts, Ceramics, Education, and Performing Arts. The cohort is encouraged to support each other and their projects throughout the year, and The Umbrella will provide professional development and networking opportunities.

The AiR program is for emerging artists. We define an "emerging artist" as someone who, within approximately the last five years, has either...

- Completed an advanced degree program (such as an MFA).
- Become an early career artist. For example...
 - "I worked as a non-theatrical or theater-adjacent professional for years but have now decided to turn my professional focus to my practice as a director or designer."
 - "I am not interested in pursuing an advanced degree, but I am dedicated to building a career as a full-time director or designer."

If your experience does not fit either of these definitions, but you still define yourself as an emerging artist, please apply and let us know why you identify as such as part of your application.

Applicants should work primarily in either theatrical direction or design. The Performing Arts AiRs will have the opportunity to join well-established creative teams, serving as an Assistant Director/Designer on two (2) of our four (4) subscription series productions. In addition, the AiRs will collaborate together on two staged readings during the program year.

The Umbrella is particularly interested in theater artists who will...

- Use their residency as an opportunity to explore, experiment with, and elevate their own practice as a theater artist.
- Engage our local and broader community in The Umbrella's mission to promote creativity, learning, personal growth, and cultural exchange through accessible arts programming.
- Participate in conversation with both artists and audiences about their work, the importance of the arts, and its role in broader cultural conversations.

Residency Requirements: We are looking for artists interested in active engagement with The Umbrella community in Concord and beyond. As part of the residency program, the AiR is expected to...

- Participate as Assistant Director/Designer on two (2) subscription series productions during the 2026/27 season.
- Present two (2) staged readings during the program year. Directors will participate in post-show conversations with audience members following each reading. Designers will do a design presentation in concept.
- Maintain communication with Umbrella staff and participation in program evaluations.
- Engage with AiR participants across other programs at The Umbrella.

Interest and experience in teaching is a plus.

Residency Award:

- A stipend of \$2500.
- Opportunity to be involved in the activities and culture of an interdisciplinary arts center, including free access to rehearsal space, time with actors, and production resources.
- Structured feedback from established, industry-leading directors and designers.
- Access to experienced creative team members throughout the 2025-2026 season.
- Complimentary enrollment in an Inclusive Stages cohort during the residency period.
- Opportunity to engage in conversation with award-winning artists.
- Opportunity to present staged readings.
- Opportunity to instruct a full semester of class(es) as well as the potential for additional workshops for qualified candidates. Instructional activities would be compensated at a competitive rate commensurate with a candidate's experience and in line with our other instructors' rates.
- The Umbrella's marketing and publicity support of and for the duration of the residency.

How to Apply: Please submit the following application materials as one PDF document via email to Brian Boruta, Director of Performing Arts, at Brian@TheUmbrellaArts.org.

- Artist statement (500 words maximum): Please elaborate on any projects, titles, or topics you may like to explore during your residence.
- Artist resume and/or CV with contact information.
- List of three (3) professional references. Please include at least one (1) reference from a member of the faculty of your MFA program, if applicable.
- Artist Image Portfolio: Please include 10 - 20 high resolution images of work that you have created within the past two (2) years.

All applications will be evaluated by a jury of The Umbrella's staff and creative teams. based on the body of work submitted, instructional experience, and enthusiasm for engagement with our community, as well as general experience and quality of resumes.

Select applicants will be invited to a virtual interview.

For inquiries about our 2026/27 residency program, please reach out to Brian Boruta, Director of Performing Arts, at Brian@TheUmbrellaArts.org. Thank you for your interest!

The Umbrella Arts Center is an interdisciplinary creative hub where artists, learners, and audiences can connect, innovate, and thrive. Through welcoming spaces, cultural conversations, and opportunities for artistic expression and skill development, we support artists at every stage of their journey, strengthen communities, enrich lives, and shape the future through the arts.

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