2020 CREATE CHANGE
GUIDELINES + FAQS

RESIDENCY + FELLOWSHIP
ABOUT THE LP

MISSION
The Laundromat Project advances artists and neighbors as change agents in their own communities.

VISION
We envision a world in which artists and neighbors in communities of color work together to unleash the power of creativity to transform lives.

We make sustained investments in growing a community of multiracial, multigenerational, and multidisciplinary artists and neighbors committed to societal change by supporting their artmaking, community building, and leadership development.

THEORY OF CHANGE
When artists and communities collaborate toward collective goals, we create meaningful transformation and wellbeing. Making art and culture in community and fostering new leadership helps shape a world in which members feel truly connected and have the ability to influence their communities in creative and effective ways.

2020 THEME | ABUNDANCE AS PRACTICE
...we are each other’s harvest: we are each other’s business: we are each other’s magnitude and bond.
- Gwendolyn Brooks

The Laundromat Project commits to practicing abundance as a pathway to imagining more for ourselves and our communities. Claiming abundance is a personal and political commitment, especially for communities of color in this historical moment. From a place of self-determination and care, the Create Change program is an invitation to show up as each other’s harvest, business, magnitude, and bond.

As the theme of our 2020 program, we will collectively explore: What does it mean to make art and build community with abundance as a foundation? What does change look like if we are all invested in the advancement of POC artists and communities? How can we cultivate the resources, knowledge, and relationships needed for our communities to thrive? In other words, we believe creative visions, ideas, and actions can fuel new ways of making positive change in the world.

We are looking for artists, cultural producers, and makers of all creative disciplines, backgrounds, and experiences to practice abundance through the co-creation of community-based art projects in NYC.
The Laundromat Project offers its Create Change Fellowship program for artists and cultural producers who are interested in developing or deepening a collaborative, community-based, and socially-engaged creative practice. The Fellowship is philosophically grounded in rigorous theory and the practice of art making, power analysis, and individual and collective transformation. As a POC-centered organization, our perspective is deeply informed by and embedded in the voices, cultures, histories, perspectives, and leadership of people and communities of color.

The program champions an intensive learning-practice model, that culminates in place-based team projects. Fellows meet with a diverse roster of artists, activists, arts professionals, curators, and change agents offering diverse strategies for creating work at the intersection of art and civic action. This supports the development of an active community of practice and new approaches for participatory community art engagement.

The program format offers a series of six workshop trainings, an opportunity to co-create a hyper-local community activation, monthly coaching sessions, professional development network building through a cohort-based program. Past workshops have included deep listening and oral history, disrupting racism through art, building community partnerships, and understanding public policy and power mapping. Incoming Fellows will join a network of 160+ alumni, including artists and cultural producers like Kameelah Janan Rasheed, Sara Abdullah, Taja Lindley, Katherine Toukhay, Ola Ronke Akinmowo, Misra Walker, Sukjong Hong, Sydnie Mosley, Raúl Ayala and more.

Overall, this Fellowship helps artists deepen practices in storytelling, ecosystem building, cultural arts organizing, and cooperative / collaborative community engagement. Our aim is to shape a “community-first” approach to public art.

The 2020 Create Change Fellowship program will engage a specific neighborhood around models of cultural asset mapping that center the voices and histories of long term residents, small business owners, youth, activists, and cultural institutions. How are neighbors reshaping cultural production and what it means to belong to a city, a neighborhood, or a block? What role does the commons play amidst rapid urban change? What do POC communities need to thrive in abundance? These are the leading questions Fellows will address through the theme of “abundance in practice” as we make art, build community, and create change in place.

Up to 8 Create Change Fellows will be selected to participate in the 2020 program. The Fellowship is open to artists, activists, neighbors, designers, organizers, healers, and storytellers, and cultural producers at all stages of their creative practices. We value age diversity, multilingual artists, and self-taught practitioners. The program requires a serious time commitment, and Fellows must live in one of the five NYC boroughs to take part in the six-month program from February through July. We are looking for artists with research and community engagement experience who want to explore strategies for entering and building within a community using LP values and methodologies as a foundational approach.
FELLOWSHIP
OPEN CALL

Eligible Fellowship candidates:

- Are in alignment with The LP’s values, POC-centered principles, and practicing abundance statement
- Are at least 21 years of age
- Are not enrolled in a degree-seeking program
- Demonstrate an interest or practice in socially and community engaged art
- Live in one of the five boroughs
- Are committed to working collaboratively with members of the 2020 Create Change cohort
- Be familiar with the cultural history and local issues impacting the communities of color
- Have the availability to commit 200 hours to the Fellowship: at least 150 hours over 6 months working with the Create Change cohort and community partners and 50 hours attending Fellowship workshops, programs, and related assignments

HOW TO APPLY
Submit your application via laundromatproject.submitable.com

KEY DATES
- Application Open: September 19
- Application Closes: October 17 (11:59pm EST)
- Group Interview: November 23
- Decision Notification: Early December
- Announcement: January 2020

INFO SESSIONS
- September 26: Webinar Session via Youtube
- October 9: Live Session at The LP Harlem Office (127 West 127th Street, NY NY)

Register for Info Sessions here

PROGRAM SCHEDULE
- Orientation: February 1
- Workshops
  - Mondays: February 10, March 2 + 23, April 20
  - Saturdays: February 22, March 14, April 4
- Coaching Sessions: April 27, May 4, June 8
- Group Work Sessions: May 4, June 1 and July 20
- Doctors Hours: May 18
- Culminating Project Activations: June - July

This schedule is subject to change and does not include the independent work Fellows will conduct around their culminating community activations
RESIDENCY PROGRAM

OVERVIEW
The Laundromat Project’s flagship Create Change Artist-in-Residence program supports the development of a participatory and community-attuned creative project by artists working within their community. Projects may take place anywhere in the five boroughs, across various community sites, from laundromats and urban gardens to playgrounds and community centers. The residency is a year-long program that runs from January to December.

As a POC-centered organization, our perspective is deeply informed by and embedded in the voices, cultures, histories, perspectives, and leadership of people and communities of color. Additionally, the residency program is open to artists of color working in communities of color. It requires a significant time commitment as artists are expected to develop collaborative projects in community amongst neighbors, local stakeholders, and community organizations.

The Residency offers a $15,000 honoraria and up to $5,000 in project production, a series of six workshop trainings, monthly cohort coaching sessions, professional development mentorship, and a network of 160+ alumni artists and cultural producers. Rudy Shepard, Stephanie Dinkins, Salome Asega, The Black School, Micheal Premo, Tatfoo Tan, LaTasha Nevada N. Diggs, Chinatown Art Brigade, Nontsikelelo Mutiti, and more.

2020 RESIDENCY | CULTURAL ARTS ORGANIZING
Up to 3 Create Change Residents will be selected to participate in the 2020 program. This year’s program has been reshaped into a practice-based lab around The Laundromat Project’s pedagogical framework for community arts engagement. Our approach is one that centers a cooperative approach, where artist projects are co-created in partnership with community members and local organizations.

Cultural organizing as a practice, as a pedagogy, as an artistic methodology, de-centers the self. It de-centers the ego, and allows for there to be a collaborative connection with community.
— Ebony Noelle Golden, Betty’s Daughter Arts Collaborative

Cultural organizing is central to our learning praxis and the projects we support. Our aim is to develop new strategies and ideas around equitable community engagement and public-facing creative practices. We support residents by offering individualized project incubation and mentorship to strengthen their projects, learning, and discovery. The Create Change Residency is an experimental platform, and we invite participants to explore new areas of artistic practice and methods of research.
RESIDENCY OPEN CALL

HOW TO APPLY
Submit your application via laundromatproject.submitable.com

KEY DATES
• Application Open: September 19
• Application Closes: October 17 (11:59pm EST)
• Interviews
  ◦ First Round November 4 - 13: Digital interview with LP Staff
  ◦ Second Round November 23: Project presentation to a jury panel of art professionals
• Decision Notification: Early December 2019
• Announcement: January 2020

INFO SESSIONS
• September 26: Webinar Session via Youtube
• October 9: Live Session at The LP Harlem Office (127 West 127th Street, NY NY)

Register for Info Sessions here

PROGRAM SCHEDULE
• Orientation: February 1
• Workshops
  ◦ Mondays: February 10, March 2 + 23, April 20
  ◦ Saturdays: February 22, March 14, April 4
• Group Coaching Sessions: April 27, May 4, June 8
• Doctor's Hours: May 18
• 1-1 Mentorship Sessions: Mud-June - Early November

This schedule is subject to change and does not include the independent work Residents will conduct around their projects

ELIGIBILITY
Eligible Residency candidates:
• Are in alignment with The LP’s values, POC-centered principles, and practicing abundance statement
• Are at least 21 years of age
• Have a creative practice that demonstrates a record of public engagement in their creative practice
• Demonstrate an interest or practice in socially and community engaged art
• Live in one of the five boroughs
• Are committed to co-creating a community-based art project
• Are familiar with the cultural history and local issues impacting the neighborhood they are proposing to work with

Who should apply to the Artist-in-Residence program?
• Create Change Fellowship alumni are highly encouraged to apply to the Residency program
• Artists with strong ideas and strategies towards initiating or building upon an existing community-based project
• Artists that are eager to develop their individual artistic practices by incorporating social engagement tools
• Artist and activist collectives, both newly formed or those with a long history of place-based activations, are encouraged to apply
• Artists interested in producing a collaborative and community-responsive public art work
Frequently Asked Questions

I've already participated in several professional development Fellowships. What is unique about this program?
The Create Change Fellowship is not a typical series of professional development workshops. Some of the topics and themes covered every year include: cultural arts organizing, building community partnerships, deep listening and storytelling, understanding public policy, dismantling racism through art, and more. We believe in the tenets of popular education and draw from the immense and diverse knowledge of the cohort participants throughout the program.

This Fellowship program also allows artists to learn by doing while creating a project collaboratively alongside a group of their peers and community members. This powerful and experiential form of learning is central to The LP’s mission and core values, which we imbue in all of our programs. Besides concrete skills and experiential learning opportunities, one of the greatest benefits we offer our artists is a network of like-minded practitioners and supporters.

The LP’s rich network includes local and national peers, activists, arts professionals, curators, funders, and change agents and over 140 Create Change alumni living and working across NYC. Upon completing this program, all Fellows receive a certificate and become eligible for exclusive alumni opportunities, such as LP grants for future projects and continued professional development training.

Can I apply if I am currently enrolled to a part-time or full-time college or graduate program?
No, applicants currently enrolled in degree-seeking programs are not eligible for the Create Change program.

Do I have to be a “visual artist” to apply?
No, the Create Change program is open to artists of all creative disciplines who are interested in community-based art making.

Should I already identify as a community-based artist or one that incorporates social practice within my work?
Not necessarily. We realize that traditional models of formal training for visual artists (be they based in universities or facilitated through residencies emphasizing individual aesthetic and/or professional development) quite often do not fully prepare them to work with and in a community in a sustained or even substantive way.

As our flagship program, Create Change was created to offer artists an opportunity to deepen or develop a public art practice that graduates from a model of placing static art objects in public spaces to one that emphasizes the ways art and artists can serve as catalysts for social action and relationship building (not just contemplation). We realize that some artists may not identify as community-based artists or social practitioners, but are curious about making work in this way. We created the Fellowship program to provide a space where artists can build on their approaches to community-based art making and explore various approaches to collaborative art making.

Do I have to be a professional artist to apply? How do you define a professional artist?
As a community-based program we recognize that there are many accomplished artists who do not identify themselves as “professional artists” and/or do not earn their living solely from art-making. Successful applicants are able to demonstrate a record of relevant artistic experience; a solid creative practice; and analytical thinking skills to offer to workshop discussions.

What is the time commitment for the Fellowship program?
Fellows will spend roughly 50 hours participating in professional development trainings, workshops, and discussions, but should plan to spend roughly 150 hours attending potluck salons, planning group project, and meeting with neighbors, community-based organizations and businesses in The LP’s anchor neighborhoods.

Are artist collectives eligible to apply for the residency?
Yes, artist collectives/collaborative are encouraged to apply and should select one member to submit the application on behalf of the group.