



**2024 SUMMER PLAY LAB  
CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
to theater artists living in the HUDSON VALLEY, CAPITAL DISTRICT,  
BERKSHIRES, and NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT**

Ancram Center for the Arts (Ancram Center) seeks proposals from Hudson Valley, Capital District, Berkshires, and northwest Connecticut-based theater artists of all practices (playwrights, designers, performers, composers, directors, dancers, dramaturgs, interdisciplinary artists, etc.) to develop and present new work as part of Ancram Center's 2024 Summer Play Lab Residency. The residency will culminate with a work-in-progress showing for the public. One artist or artistic team will be selected for this year's residency.

Ancram Center's Summer Play Lab supports theater artists in the creation of a new work or the further development of an existing piece. Ancram Center seeks to further the artist's process and efforts to bring their emerging piece closer to a fully realized production in the future at Ancram Center or elsewhere. While the Summer Play Lab is open to theater artists working in an array of styles, a project proposal's fit with Ancram Center programming aesthetics will be a consideration in the selection process.

To apply, artists must submit a proposal and application form by March 22nd, 2024. All proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee convened by the Ancram Center. Selection will be made on or around April 1 with the residency to begin the week of June 10th. See below for additional scheduling details.

**Selection Priorities**

In evaluating proposals, Ancram Center will prioritize:

**Alignment with Ancram Center Aesthetics:** Proposals that resonate with Ancram Center's programming aesthetics will be given preference. You can read more about Ancram Center's programming [here](#).

**Innovation and Creativity:** Emphasis on projects demonstrating originality, pushing artistic boundaries, and offering a fresh perspective.

**Community Engagement:** Projects that actively involve and engage the local community, fostering connections through the performing arts.

**Equity and Inclusivity:** Encouragement for proposals from artists of underserved, underrepresented, or historically marginalized communities including Black, Latino/a/e/x, Indigenous, Asian, People of Color, LGBTQ+, and disabled artists. All artists are welcome to apply.

## **Community Engagement**

Central to its mission, Ancram Center seeks to connect artists with the community at large. As part of Summer Play Lab, this engagement shall be facilitated through two public convenings:

- The artist will lead a two or three-hour interactive workshop that will be open to the public. In consultation with Ancram Center directors, the artist can design the workshop experience based on their expertise and practice (e.g., a playwright might ask participants to craft short monologues based on writing prompts). The workshop may also be conceived so it helps the resident artists work on their project (e.g., a director might guide participants to create compositions exploring similar themes found in their Play Lab piece.) Enrollment will be limited and determined in conversation with each artist.
- Optional talkbacks following each public showing.

## **Additional Programmatic Considerations**

- Ancram Center's mission centers on providing the community with opportunities to connect through the performing arts.
- The residency is specially created to support artists making new, innovative, multi-disciplinary work that is immediate and directly engages its audience.
- The project being proposed can be at varying stages of development: from initial steps on a new idea to picking up on something that already has been started.
- To advance equity and inclusivity within the field through this residency opportunity, Ancram Center encourages proposals from artists from underserved, underrepresented, or historically marginalized communities.
- The residency will entail attending a weekly group check-in with Ancram Center directors to share project updates.
- Approximately 30 hours of rehearsal time in Ancram Center's performance hall is available the week leading up to the final showing.

## **Additional Logistics**

- The work-in-progress showing can be the full length of a piece or an excerpt of a longer work, with a total running time (in either scenario) of 45-55 minutes preferred.
- Each piece will be presented twice, as work-in-progress showings.
- Ancram Center will host audience talkbacks with the resident artists following each Play Lab show.
- Any participating actors who are members of the Actors' Equity Association will need to be engaged under an appropriate agreement with the union if performing as part of a final showing.

## **Key Dates**

Applications due March 22nd

Decision and artist notification on or around April 1

The residency begins the week of June 10th

Public showing on June 16th

Residency concludes on June 17th

## **Financials**

The artist or artistic team selected for the Play Lab will receive a budget of \$3,000 which the artist can allocate at their discretion as needed towards their stipend, production materials, additional performers, etc. This budget shall be payable in two installments: half upon acceptance and the balance due the week of Play Lab showings.

## **About Ancram Center for the Arts**

Under the leadership of directors Jeffrey Mousseau and Paul Ricciardi, Ancram Center for the Arts presents a mix of contemporary theater, alternative cabaret, and community arts programs. Located in the Hudson River Valley in a former grange hall converted into an intimate and flexible space, Ancram Center offers a unique opportunity for audiences to directly engage, up close, with visionary theater artists at the top of their field yet rarely seen in our region. Ancram Center programming is made possible through support from the New York State Council for the Arts and the generosity of community members. For more information, please visit [www.ancramcenter.org](http://www.ancramcenter.org)

## **SUMMER PLAY LAB – In Brief**

Ancram Center provides artist participants of Summer Play Lab with the following:

30 hours of rehearsal time in Ancram Center space

\$3,000 budget to be utilized at artist's discretion

Public visibility for the project and artist through marketing, press releases, social media, and website presence

One final work-in-progress showings

Use of Ancram Center basic tech package (includes house light plot, sound, projections)

Production staff with limited technical support for showing