FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR NOMA'S CREATIVE ASSEMBLY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

New Orleans–based artists of all disciplines are invited to apply for a year-long residency that connects creators with the New Orleans Museum of Art's permanent collection, exhibitions, programs, and staff.

The theme for the 2024–25 Creative Assembly Cohort is "literacy and language." Applications for this cycle are due Friday, September 27.



A 2024 performance titled *The Beauty of Things*, choreographed by 2023–24 Creative Assembly resident Lauren Ashlee Messina, in NOMA's Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden.

NEW ORLEANS – Applications are now open for the **New Orleans Museum of Art's Creative Assembly Cohort**, a community engagement-focused residency program that connects New Orleans–based artists of all disciplines with the museum's collection, exhibitions, programs, and staff.

Participating artists have access to professional development workshops, opportunities for mentorship, and support to produce public-facing programs at the museum or elsewhere. **Artists may apply to be part of the 2024–25 Creative Assembly Cohort through Friday, September 27**: https://noma.org/2024-25-creative-assembly-application/.

NOMA's Creative Assembly residency launched in 2021 to support local artists' creative and professional development and to facilitate participatory art and museum experiences across all disciplines with community collaboration and social change at the forefront.

“Creative Assembly offers the unique opportunity for artists to work within a museum and in collaboration with our city’s many communities,” said **Dr. Redell Hearn, Chief Educator at NOMA**. “This residency program is an important part of NOMA’s commitment to developing innovative offerings for New Orleans–based artists and our visitors from near and far alike.”

Artists are selected by a panel with the goal of amplifying a range of art forms and highlighting artists’ individual definitions of community. Previous Creative Assembly artists have represented a wide variety of disciplines, including hip-hop, painting, dance, food justice, and perfume creation.

“Recent Creative Assembly projects have expanded visitors’ expectations of what they might experience at NOMA or at any museum,” said **Kelci Baker, Community Engagement Manager at NOMA**. “It’s an honor to work alongside artists of all types as they realize their own dynamic creative visions.”





Left: 2023–24 Creative Assembly resident Kr3wcial performs in NOMA’s Lapis Center for the Arts during *Urban Mosaics*, a program organized with fellow resident artist Charm Taylor. Photo by Angelo Joseph Photography. Right: 2023–24 Creative Assembly resident Daniel Fitzpatrick leads a poetry-inspired gallery talk at NOMA.

Projects from the 2023–24 Creative Assembly Cohort include video works and live performances by Kr3wcial and Charm Taylor; workshops led by Daniel Fitzpatrick, Dianne Honoré, and Paige DeVries exploring topics such as poetry, Black Masking Indian beadwork, and cell phone photography; and a site-specific dance work by choreographer Lauren Ashlee Messina inspired by American classical composer Julia Perry.

The 2024–25 Creative Assembly Cohort is supported in part by the Darryl Chappell Foundation.

"We are excited to partner with NOMA to support exceptional artists from the New Orleans community as a part of the 2024–25 Creative Assembly Cohort," said **Darryl Chappell, CEO and Chairman of the Darryl Chappell Foundation**. "Our mission is to empower Afrodescendant artists to achieve their highest potential, and this collaboration aligns with our vision of artists having a transformative impact on their local community."

Learn more about Creative Assembly: https://noma.org/learn/creative-assembly/.

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About NOMA and the Besthoff Sculpture Garden
The New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA) and its Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden are home to innovative exhibitions, installations, educational programs, and research. Exploring human creativity across time, cultures, and disciplines, the global scope of the museum's initiatives open a vibrant dialogue with the history and culture of New Orleans. The museum stewards a collection of nearly 50,000 works, with exceptional holdings in African art, photography, decorative arts, and Japanese art, as well as strengths in American and French art, and an expanding collection highlighting contemporary artists. The museum's exhibitions and dynamic learning and engagement offerings serve as a forum for visitors to engage with diverse perspectives, share cultural experiences, and foster a life of learning at all ages. Recent exhibitions include *Black Orpheus: Jacob Lawrence and the Mbari Club*, *Called to the Camera: Black American Studio Photographers*, *The Orléans Collection* (an exhibition of forty European masterpieces from the collection of the city's namesake, Philippe II, Duc d'Orléans), *East of the Mississippi: Nineteenth Century America Landscape Photography*, and *Changing Course: Reflections on New Orleans Histories* (seven contemporary art projects focusing on reimagining stories from the city's past).

NOMA's 12-acre Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden expands visitors' experiences of the museum with one of the most notable sculpture gardens in the country. The Besthoff Sculpture Garden, free and open to the public seven days a week, has nearly 100 sculptures and

outdoor works of art situated in a unique landscape featuring Spanish moss-laden live oaks and a sinuous lagoon surrounded by an expansive ecosystem of native plants. The works in the garden range from the 19th to the 21st centuries, with pieces by Auguste Rodin, Henry Moore, Louise Bourgeois, Ida Kohlmeyer, Claes Oldenburg, Sean Scully, Maya Lin, Do Ho Suh, Ugo Rondinone, Wangechi Mutu, Hank Willis Thomas, and many others. The Besthoff Sculpture Garden features contemporary design elements—including a sculpture pavilion, an amphitheater, and an architecturally significant canal link bridge connecting the garden's original 2003 footprint with a 2019 expansion. Its water management practices support the health and resiliency of New Orleans City Park and the surrounding environment. Throughout the year, NOMA hosts outdoor programs in the Besthoff Sculpture Garden including festivals, performances, wellness classes, tours, and more.