



LITTLE TOKYO SERVICE CENTER

Positive Change for People and Places

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Little Tokyo Service Center Announces +LAB Artist Residency Program Fellows

Artists will Create Works Related to Community Control and Self-Determination

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Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) is pleased to announce the artists selected for its inaugural +LAB Artist Residency Program in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles. These California-based artists were awarded three-month community based residencies from over a hundred applicants.

The Inaugural +LAB Artist Residency Program Fellows are:

- Susu Attar, Visual Artist, Los Angeles
- Dan Kwong, Performance Artist, Los Angeles
- Tina Takemoto, Visual Artist, Daly City
- Kuniharu Yoshida, Traditional Artist, Torrance

The four Artist Fellows were chosen from a talented pool of candidates in an open call by a panel of professionals from the Little Tokyo community and the program's partner organizations. They were chosen based on the strength of their artistic work and their demonstrated desire to work collaboratively within a community context and address issues related to LTSC's mission of promoting "positive change for people and places."

During their residency, the Fellows will create artworks and projects promoting community engagement and creative place-making strategies, focused around the theme of "Community Control and Self-Determination." The residency program is designed to immerse artists in the experience of the Little Tokyo community by living at the Daimaru Hotel and creating art in Little Tokyo cultural institutions.

In a unique collaboration with LTSC, local arts organizations will co-host the Fellows as well as provide them with staff support, studio and workspace. Participating organizations include: the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, the Japanese American National Museum, Sustainable Little Tokyo and Visual Communications.

"We are eager to welcome the Fellows for our first residency program to Little Tokyo," said LTSC Executive Director Dean Matsubayashi. "We look forward to these talented artists immersing themselves in Little Tokyo life, sharing their talents and impacting our community through their work."

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“JACCC is honored to host a +LAB artist in residence to enhance our work as a cultural institution. Integrating artists into our collective work as one of the oldest neighborhoods in LA. will help us not only sustain, but thrive as a community,” said Leslie A. Ito, president and CEO of JACCC.

“The Japanese American National Museum is proud to be collaborating with the Little Tokyo Service Center and the other co-host venues for this new Artist Residency Program. The four Fellows are all talented and I know that the work they produce as part of this program will contribute greatly to the vibrant neighborhood that is Little Tokyo today and inspire the community’s residents, business owners and visitors,” said Ann Burroughs, president and CEO of JANM.

“Sustainable Little Tokyo is excited to partner for the inaugural LTSC +LAB Arts Residency program. Arts and culture have been vital to the growth of our 134-year old neighborhood—from the early Buddhist temples to the creation of JACCC in 1980 to Tuesday Night Cafe in the 90s. Artists will be key in the continued struggle to sustain our historic and cultural roots. We hope this program will exemplify the kind of impact artists can create in a community when given the needed resources, space, and support,” said Scott Oshima, JACCC lead community organizer and Sustainable Little Tokyo project manager.

“Visual Communications is excited to co-create with our partner organizations and work with talented artists who will be experiencing the local spaces and places that we navigate. We are also look forward to learning through the experiences that these artists bring to us,” said VC Executive Director, Francis Cullado.

The +LAB Artist Residency Program is funded by a Community Development Investments (CDI) grant from ArtPlace America. LTSC was one of six organizations selected for the program, which explores how community-based organizations—not previously focused on arts and culture—can make the arts a sustainable part of their work.

For full bios and headshots of the fellows and more information about the residency program, please go to <http://bit.ly/2oXHKLd>.

ABOUT LTSC

Little Tokyo Service Center is a social service and community development organization that has been creating positive change for the people and places in Southern California for more than 37 years. We preserve and strengthen the unique ethnic communities of our region and help people thrive. Starting with our own home in Little Tokyo, we build and strengthen communities throughout Southern California where people, culture and our collective future matter.

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