

THE DEPARTMENT RESIDENCY

what it is

The Department Residency is a 6-month, application-based creative residency designed to give working creatives access, space, and proximity to others actively making work.

This is not a traditional studio membership, coworking space, or accelerator. It's a shared commitment to showing up, making work, and contributing to a creative ecosystem.

Residents receive near-unlimited access to The Department's studios and common areas, while participating in a curated community that prioritizes collaboration, experimentation, and sustained creative practice.

who it's for

The residency is designed for creatives who:

- are actively making work (film, photo, music, design, writing, mixed media, etc.)
- value being around other working creatives
- want access without financial gatekeeping
- are interested in collaboration, not isolation
- are ready to participate in a shared creative environment

what residents receive

access

- near-unlimited access to studio spaces (subject to booking guidelines)
- ability to book Studio A, Studio B, or both
- shared equipment and resources (as available)
- space to host creative-centered events or gatherings

proximity

- a curated group of X residents per cycle
- daily exposure to other disciplines and workflows
- organic collaboration and shared problem-solving

opportunity

- priority consideration for paid gigs routed through The Department
- opportunities to assist, collaborate, or lead projects
- visibility through showcases, events, and documentation

what's expected

The residency is built on participation, not passive access.

Complete at least one publicly shared project per 6 months

- film, photo series, music release, installation, performance, etc.

AND (one of these):

host or co-host a creative event / workshop / screening

assist or collaborate on another resident's project

document the space or community (photo, video, writing)

mentor or support newer creatives in the cohort

Provide value to studio the space

pay-what-you-can model

The suggested contribution for the residency is **\$250/month**, but the program operates on a pay-what-you-can basis.

Residents may contribute anywhere from \$0–\$250/month, depending on their situation.

No explanation is required.

Contribution level does not affect acceptance.

This model exists to remove financial barriers while keeping the space sustainable through partnerships, events, and sponsorships.

how booking works

- 2 active bookings at a time
- 4–6 hours per booking
- No recurring bookings unless:
 - it's a public program
 - it's sponsored
 - or it's Department-led
- paid and sponsored bookings take priority
- residents are always supported in rescheduling if conflicts arise

post residency

The residency is intentionally time-bound to keep it focused and accessible.

At the end of each cycle, residents transition into one of three paths:

- **renewal** (selectively)
- **alumni access** (reduced but ongoing relationship)
- **collaborator roles** (paid or program-based involvement)

why we're doing this

The Department exists to support creative work without turning space into a gatekeeper.

This residency is an experiment in:

- access over exclusivity
- community over transactions
- sustainability over burnout
- culture over churn

We believe creative momentum grows faster when people are together, not siloed.