



Office for the Arts at Harvard

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PRESS RELEASE

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Meet the 2022 Artist Development Fellowship Recipients

FOURTEEN UNDERGRADUATE ARTISTS AWARDED FELLOWSHIPS TO FURTHER ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

The Office for the Arts at Harvard (OFA) and the Office of the Dean for the Arts and Humanities are pleased to announce the 2022 recipients of the annual Artist Development Fellowships. The program supports the artistic development of students demonstrating unusual accomplishment and/or evidence of significant artistic promise. The program is administered by the OFA, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, and the Office of Career Services, and is made possible with the support of the Office of the President at Harvard University.

Council on the Arts members at the time of selection were: Robin Kelsey (Chair), Shirley Carter Burden Professor of Photography, History of Photography and American Art, and Dean of Arts and Humanities; Alicia Anstead NF '08, Associate Director for Programming, Office for the Arts; Jack Megan, Director, Office for the Arts; Remo Airaldi, American Repertory Theater; Lecturer on Theater, Theater, Dance & Media; Federico Cortese, Senior Lecturer on Music, Conductor of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra; Jorie Graham, Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory; Phillip Howze, Lecturer on Playwriting, Theater, Dance & Media; Ruth Stella Lingford, Professor of the Practice of Animation, Film Study Center Fellow; Laura Rodriguez, Lecturer on Dance, Theater, Dance & Media; Matt Saunders '97, Assistant Professor of Art, Film and Visual Studies; Elaine Scarry, Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value and Senior Fellow of the Society of Fellows; Yosvany Terry, Senior Lecturer on Music, Director of Jazz Bands; and Aysha Upchurch, Lecturer on Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education.

The program is open to sophomores and juniors currently enrolled in Harvard College. For further application information, visit the OFA at ofa.fas.harvard.edu or the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships at uraf.harvard.edu.

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LITERATURE

Isabella Cho '24, a resident of Pforzheimer House concentrating in English, is awarded a Fellowship to engage in research in both Allston and New York City leading to a full-length poetry collection exploring Korean American landscapes. She is a Central Administration reporter and film executive for *The Harvard Crimson* and serves on the executive boards of *The Harvard Advocate* and the Harvard Creative Writing Collective. A U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts and Pushcart Prize nominee, Cho has been recognized by YoungArts, Princeton University, the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, among others.

Ezra Lebovitz '23, a resident of Leverett House concentrating in Comparative Literature, is awarded a Fellowship to support research in Europe for a collection of essays on cultural memory. Lebovitz is an editor of the poetry board for *The Harvard Advocate* where he has been a member since 2018. His poetry has appeared in *Salt Hill Journal*, *Hobart Pulp*, and *Ghost City Press*. He is also an arts staff writer for *The Harvard Crimson* and a reporter for *Dig Boston*. Lebovitz served as a research assistant to Professor Saul Zaritt of the Comparative Literature Department and to interdisciplinary artist Every Ocean Hughes at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Malachi Robinson '23, a resident of Leverett House, joint concentrating in History & Literature and African & African American Studies, is awarded a Fellowship to support the development of a television situational comedy pilot. He is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of *Indigo Magazine*, the only major Black publication run by Harvard undergraduates. A former writer for *The Harvard Crimson* and *The Harvard Ichthus*, Robinson is a member of the Signet Society, Generational African American Students Association, and Harvard College Stand-Up Comic Society.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY

Isabella Madrigal '24, a resident of Adams House concentrating in English with a minor in Psychology, is awarded a Fellowship to interview Indigenous artists and conduct research to transition her play *Menil and Her Heart*, which focuses on the issue of MMIWG2S+ (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirited People), into a screenplay. Madrigal, an enrolled member of the Cahuilla Band of Indians, is treasurer for Natives at Harvard College, is involved with the Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club and works for the Undergraduate Minority Recruitment Program at Harvard. She was a 2020-2021 Champion for Change through the Center for Native American Youth, where she sits on the Youth Advisory Board, is a Dragon Kim Fellowship recipient, a winner of Harvard's Ecker Short Story Prize, and a winner of the 2020 Yale Young Storyteller's Contest.

Mai Nguyen '24, a resident of Currier House concentrating in Comparative Literature, with a secondary in Educational Studies, is awarded a Fellowship to research, write, and produce an album featuring original collaborative poetry, music, and visual art in the style of Vietnamese *ngâm thơ*. Nguyen has performed or worked with Harvard College Opera, Harvard Collegium-Musicum, Expressions Dance Team, *The Wave* pan-Asian magazine, and the OFA Harvard Jazz Combo Initiative. She was co-director and director of development for Continuo Boston and a volunteer at Harvard Square Homeless Shelter and Y2Y Shelter.

Claire Yoo '24, a resident of Mather House concentrating in History & Literature, is awarded a Fellowship to support the development of a multi-disciplinary one-woman exhibit and show. Yoo is the president of Immediate Gratification Players Improv and head writer of *Sketch*, and was president of Harvard College Stand-Up Comic Society. She is also an events coordinator and producer for Asian CineVision, and their annual film festival in New York. A photographer, writer, and graphic designer, Yoo has had work featured in both Harvard and non-Harvard galleries and publications.

MUSIC

Ian Chan '23, a resident of Winthrop House pursuing a joint concentration in Linguistics and Mathematics, with a secondary in Comparative Literature, is awarded a Fellowship to engage in several internship and mentoring opportunities in musical theater. Chan is a composer, music director, and orchestrator involved in almost every aspect of campus theater. He has composed three original musicals: *The More You Know*, *Cruising altitude*, and *Miss You Til Tomorrow*. He has been music director on several student productions including *Legally Blonde* and *West Side Story* and will serve as music director for TEATRO and BlackCAST's spring production of *Into the Woods*. He will also act as music assistant for the American Repertory Theater's upcoming production of *1776*.

Devon Gates '23, a resident of Winthrop House enrolled in the Harvard/Berklee joint five-year AB/MM program concentrating in Sociology with a secondary in Music, is awarded a Fellowship to engage in research and performance within the Boston and New York Jazz Communities. As a bassist, vocalist and composer, Gates has studied with Terri Lynne Carrington, Linda May Han Oh, and Esperanza Spalding, and has performed with Social Science, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Alexa Tarantino, and Tia Fuller. She has composed two works for the Harvard Choruses, is a current M3 cohort member, and is working with Berklee's Institute for Jazz and Gender Justice on a multi-disciplinary project exploring jazz without patriarchy.

THEATER

Emma Choi '23, a resident of Lowell House concentrating in English, is awarded a Fellowship for a professional broadcasting internship in New York City with National Public Radio (NPR). Choi has worked as a news assistant for NPR's popular news show *Wait... Wait... Don't Tell Me!* as well as being chosen to host NPR's new short form comedy podcast *Everyone & Their Mom*. On campus, she has served as director of *Sketch*, an SNL-inspired comedy show put on by the Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club (HRDC) and president of the Comedy group the Immediate Gratification Players. A playwright, Choi has had productions of her plays performed off-Broadway and twice at the DC Fringe Festival.

Matthew Cole, '24, a resident of Dunster House concentrating in English, is awarded a Fellowship to work on stand-up comedy writing and engage in open mic appearance opportunities in New York City. A member of the improvisational comedy group On Thin Ice, Cole recently performed in *Ship Happens*, the 173rd production of Hasty Pudding Theatricals and is the social chair of Harvard College Stand-Up Comic Society. His play *Jewish Guilt(y)* was part of the 2021 Harvard Playwright's Festival.

Isaac Heller '23, a resident of Kirkland House joint concentrating in Theater, Dance & Media and Women, Gender & Sexuality, is awarded a Fellowship to study with visual and performance artist, dancer, and choreographer Julie Tolentino. Heller is a research partner at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study with playwright Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas. They have also worked as a set designer, and stage manager for several Harvard theater productions including *Ubu Roi*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Disonia* and *Into the Woods*. Heller is a member of *The Harvard Advocate* Poetry Board.

VISUAL ARTS

Mira Alpers '24, a resident of Dunster House joint concentrating in Art, Film and Visual Studies (AFVS) and History & Literature, is awarded a Fellowship to film a short documentary on cowboy churches, evangelical churches that serve ranchers and cowboys mostly in Oklahoma and Texas and focus on preserving Western culture in the conduct of their ministry. Alpers has directed two theatrical productions: *The Fortunates* (2021 First-Year Musical -- virtual production) and *This Is Our Youth* in the fall of 2021 at Agassiz Theater and stage managed Hasty Pudding Theatrical's 173rd annual production, *Ship Happens*. Alpers is a staff writer for *The Harvard Crimson's* art section and is a member of the fiction board of *The Harvard Advocate*.

Lucy Jackson '23, a resident of Winthrop House concentrating in Social Studies with secondaries in AFVS and Integrative Biology (IB), is awarded a Fellowship to support her photographic exploration of local community water use, resource extraction and climate change. Jackson is interested in human-water relationships connected with Native history and women's history. She works as a research partner with history professor Tiya Miles at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. She served as Harvard Photography Club's development chair and has photographs featured in *The Harvard Advocate*. She is a trip leader for Harvard's First-Year Outdoor Orientation Program and a Case Manager for Y2Y, Harvard's student-run Youth Homeless Shelter.

Kiana Rawji '23, a resident of Quincy House joint concentrating in AFVS and History & Literature, is awarded a Fellowship to film a documentary about a woman named Phelgone Jacks, an HIV/AIDS survivor who works daily to transform the lives of her fellow community members living with HIV in a slum in Western Kenya. Rawji has directed and produced six short films; most recently, her documentary, *Long Distance*, won the Grand Jury Prize for Best Alberta Short at the 2021 Calgary International Film Festival. In 2020, she interned at Mirabai Films for Mira Nair on the BBC series *A Suitable Boy*. Rawji is also the founder and director of The Monument Project, a public imagination and memory project, culminating in an installation in Harvard Yard this spring, as well as the founder and president of *Gentr*, an East African girls' entrepreneurship program. Her poem *Origin* was longlisted for the 2020 CBC National Poetry Prize.

The Office for the Arts at Harvard (OFA) supports student engagement in the arts and integrates the arts into University life. Through its programs and services, the OFA teaches, mentors, and fosters student artmaking, connects students to accomplished artists, commissions new work, and partners with local, national, and international constituencies. By supporting the development of students as artists and cultural stewards, the OFA works to enrich society and shape communities in which the arts are a vital part of life. For more information about the OFA, call 617.495.8676, or visit ofa.fas.harvard.edu.

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships serves Harvard College undergraduates seeking to supplement their formal education with research and fellowship opportunities during term time, over the summer, or after graduation. For more information on research and fellowships at Harvard, call 617.495.5095 or visit uraf.harvard.edu.

The Office of Career Services (OCS) is dedicated to educating, advising, and connecting students to opportunities for summer and post-graduation in order to foster their intellectual, social, and personal transformations. OCS serves students of Harvard College, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, and Harvard Extension School degree programs. For more information on research and fellowships at Harvard, call 617.495.2595 or visit ocs.fas.harvard.edu.

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