



Office for the Arts at Harvard

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PRESS RELEASE

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Meet the 2024 Artist Development Fellowship Recipients

THE OFFICE FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES 13 UNDERGRADUATE ARTISTS TO RECEIVE ARTIST DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIPS

The Office for the Arts at Harvard and the Office of the Dean for the Arts and Humanities announce the 2024 recipients of the annual Artist Development Fellowships. The program supports the artistic development of students demonstrating unusual accomplishments 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; Jack Megan, Director, Office for the Arts; Remo Airaldi, American Repertory Theater; Lecturer on Theater, Theater, Dance & Media; Alicia Anstead NF '08, Associate Director for Programming and Producer of the ARTS FIRST Festival, Office for the Arts; Daniel Chong, Professor of the Practice, Parker Quartet; Elizabeth Epsen, Lead Administrator for the OFA Dance Program; Jorie Graham, Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory; Phillip Howze, Associate Senior Lecturer on Playwrighting, Theater, Dance & Media; Ruth Stella Lingford, Professor of the Practice of Animation, Film Study Center Fellow; Laura Quinton, Assistant Director of Studies and Lecturer, History & Literature; Matt Saunders '97, Professor of Arts, 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; and Yosvany Terry, Senior Lecturer on Music, Director of Jazz Bands.

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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DANCE

Benjamin Pearson '25, a resident of Adams House concentrating in English, is awarded a Fellowship to study movement languages associated with drag and clown performance to inform his own choreography as a classical ballet dancer. Pearson began his professional ballet career at the San Francisco Ballet, where he spent two years as an apprentice before joining the Boston Ballet as an artist. At each company, Pearson originated roles in world premieres from choreographers including Alonzo King and William Forsythe, and worked with choreographers including Justin Peck, Christopher Wheeldon and Benjamin Millepied. He is working on experimental ballet/plays that explore the relationship that both dance and dances have to language and performance.

Liliana Price '25, a resident of Lowell House pursuing a double concentration in Sociology and Theater, Dance, & Media, is awarded a Fellowship to support training under the mentorship of Tina Berkett, Artistic Director of *BODYTRAFFIC* in Los Angeles. Price specializes in contemporary, modern, hip hop, heels, improvisation, and aerial dance genres. She is the co-founder of the *Harvard Contemporary Collective* (est. 2022) and a premier director of the company. She is currently a 2024 *Harvard Conflux Collective Resident Fellow*, and a Scene Director and choreographer of the 30th Annual *Eleganza Fashion Show*. Previously she served as executive director and choreographer of the *Expressions Hip Hop Dance Company* and as a dancer for the *Harvard Ballet Company*. She is a recent graduate of the 2023 *Boston Dance studios Pre-Professional Program*.

LITERATURE

Cory Beizer '25, a resident of Dunster House concentrating in English, is awarded a Fellowship to write a collection of climate-fiction short stories in Stockholm, Sweden, a city aiming to be fossil-fuel-free by 2040. They are an organizer at the Writing for the Climate Contest, co-president of the Harvard Meditation Club, a senior editor at the *Fig Magazine*, and a volunteer at the Food Lab for Kids. Beizer's writing primarily centers on the environment and climate change, and they hold fellowships at the Food Literacy Project and the Harvard Office of Sustainability.

Sazi Bongwe '24, a resident of Winthrop House pursuing a concentration in English, is awarded a Fellowship to write a collection of interrelated stories to bridge anti-apartheid and exilic literatures at the American University of Paris. A writer and co-editor for *The Harvard Advocate*, as well as an associate magazine editor at *The Harvard Crimson*. Bongwe co-founded *Ukuzibuza*, a publication that featured over 70 creative works. His writing has been featured in the South African publications *The Mail & Guardian* and *New Frame*.

Taylor Fang '25, a resident of Adams House concentrating in English, is awarded a Fellowship to conduct ethnography and research at three sites along the Yangtze River. She is working towards a full-length collection of poetry and prose on waterways. She serves on the Board for the Harvard Creative Writing Collective, and was previously President, and is an ARTS FIRST Festival Student Producer. Fang received the 2023 Academy of American Poets Prize and the Llyod McKim Garrison Prize, which honors the best poem written by a Harvard undergraduate.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY

Mya Johnson '25, a resident of Cabot House pursuing a concentration in Neuroscience, is awarded a Fellowship to develop multimedia artistic approaches to create traction in the study and treatment of neurodegenerative disorders. Johnson will also engage in an internship under the guidance of renowned street dancer Stiggity Stackz at his organization Stiggity Stackz Worldwide. A member of the Harvard Innovation Lab, Johnson has previously conducted research at the Weizmann Institute of Science and Concordia University of Wisconsin.

Proof Schubert Reed '25, a resident of Pforzheimer House concentrating in Art, Film, and Visual Studies, is awarded a Fellowship to create a documentary essay film exploring gender, inherited land, and memory; the film will be set in western Ohio, at a farm where the women of her mother's family grew up. She will also attend a writer's workshop, generating creative nonfiction along the same themes. Proof serves on the executive and features board of *The Harvard Advocate*, where she writes and edits creative nonfiction. She is also the founder and producer of Sanctum Sessions: Live at The Advocate, a live-recorded living room concert series celebrating independent artists and has worked various production internships including with Red Wagon, Grandview/Automatik.

MUSIC

Isaac Newman '25, a resident of Quincy House concentrating in Music, is awarded a Fellowship to support his study of conducting at the Monteux School. In addition to music directing the Mozart Society Orchestra, Newman served as Assistant Conductor of the Harvard Radcliffe Orchestra, which he conducted in concert in 2023. He also conducted the 40-show run of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals in Cambridge, New York, and Bermuda. A 2023 recipient of the Francis Boott Prize in Choral Composition, Newman's work is set to be published by Hal Leonard this year. Newman is studying abroad at the Schola Cantorum in Paris while assistant conducting L'Orchestre du Nouveau Monde and playing cello in L'Orchestre Sorbonne Université.

THEATER

Avery Hansberger '25, a resident of Mather House pursuing a double concentration in Theater, Dance & Media and Economics, is awarded a Fellowship to study at the Stella Adler Art of Acting Studio. Hansberger is co-president of the Asian Student Arts Project and a member of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals business staff. He has performed in a range of musicals, plays, and short films at Harvard, including *Cells*, *Ugly Feelings*, *OUT*, *Legally Blonde* and *Something Like Sadness*.

Amelie Julicher '25, a resident of Eliot House pursuing a double concentration in Theater, Dance & Media and Government, is awarded a Fellowship to intern this summer at a professional Shakespeare theater company. She has studied classical acting at the London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art and played various roles with the Hyperion Shakespeare Company at Harvard including Gertrude in *Hamlet*. Next, she will play Calpurnia in Hyperion's upcoming productions of *Julius Caesar*. In addition to on-campus acting credits, Julicher is a member of the Radcliffe Choral Society, where she serves as the publicity manager, and is a writer for *The Harvard Crimson Arts Board*.

Katie Runions '25, a resident of Winthrop House concentrating in Theater, Dance, & Media, is awarded a Fellowship to conduct research in New York City for an anthology of short play adaptations centering sisters, family, and queerness. She has worked as a tech producer and lighting designer on numerous Harvard productions, including *Jekyll and Hyde*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and the student written musical *Iscariot*. She is an assistant director for *Spring Awakening*, taking place at the Loeb Mainstage in early April 2024.

VISUAL ARTS

Victor Arruda '25, a resident of Quincy House pursuing a double concentration in Government and Art, Film, and Visual Studies, is awarded a Fellowship to create a documentary film celebrating the vibrant culture of Northeastern Brazil. Arruda is interested in Latin American cinema, documentary filmmaking and still photography. He works as a multimedia production intern at the Harvard Admissions and Financial Aid Office, where he creates multimedia projects for social media platforms. Previously co-president of the Harvard Undergraduate Brazilian Association, Arruda now serves as a director for Harvard Model United Nations.

Eddie Dai '25, a resident of Dunster House pursuing a joint concentration in Art, Film, and Visual Studies and Anthropology, is awarded a Fellowship to support a film that combines practices from both documentary and fiction, and that borrows elements from ethnographic, road and oil movies. Dai is a board member of the Harvard Outing Club and a member of Harvard Radio Broadcasting. With a background in environmental nonprofit work and research, he is interested in considering the politics of place and ecology through documentary, fiction, and experimental filmmaking.

The Office for the Arts at Harvard 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 mission of the Mignone Center for Career Success is to empower and support the learners we serve in identifying, exploring, and achieving their career and professional goals and aspirations wherever they may lead. MCS serves students of Harvard College, Kenneth C. Griffin 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 careerservices.fas.harvard.edu.

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