

# SUITE/space RFP- Call for Proposals 2026

## **MABOU MINES SUITE/space**

SUITE/space is a NYC based performance residency for early career interdisciplinary artists whose practices emerge from lived experiences at the margins—artists whose bodies, identities, histories, or access to opportunity have been shaped by systems of exclusion, and who are redefining the cultural landscape through innovative, boundary-crossing work. The program offers artists the opportunity to work in residence at Mabou Mines, over a 14 month period, to strengthen their practice and experiment with performance ideas.

The Resident Artist Program (RAP) was established in 1991 by Ruth Maleczech as a laboratory where emerging artists could freely explore performance concepts. As long-practicing artists, the Company recognizes the formidable pressures artists face in finding space to explore and create. We believe that process-focused development is the best way to create original work, offering artists the opportunity to deepen their practice. The program has supported over 400 artists in its 30+ year history, including all three of Mabou Mines' current co-Artistic Directors.

SUITE/space evolved from RAP in 2018, led by Karen Kandel and Carl Hancock Rux, specifically to support BIPOC artists. Based on cohort feedback, as well as being sensitive and responsive to the needs of the times, we have restructured SUITE/space and experimented with new ideas in pursuit of a more holistic, integrated experience for each artist. In this spirit, this year's residency expands its focus to include marginalized artists across a broader spectrum of identities and demographics. We are especially interested in artists who want to interrogate form, language, structure, and intention—artists willing to undo as much as they build.

SUITE/space aligns with the ethos articulated by Lee Breuer, who frequently emphasized that theater is not a factory of uniform outputs but “a place where the unknown is invited to speak.” Within such a framework, ritual becomes not a prescribed sequence to be mastered, but a living practice shaped collaboratively through presence, listening, and the continual negotiation between intention, discourse and surprise.

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE**

We welcome early career artists who identify as or come from (but are not limited to):

- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities
- Immigrant, refugee, asylum-seeking, and undocumented communities
- LGBTQIA+, queer, trans, and gender-expansive identities
- Women, femmes, and nonbinary people
- Disabled communities (physical disability, Deaf/HoH, Blind/low-vision, neurodivergent, chronically ill, neuropsychiatric)
- People impacted by carceral systems, including those formerly incarcerated
- Underrepresented religious, ethnic, or linguistic communities

**Artists must:**

- Reside in NYC area for the duration of the residency
- Have a demonstrated history of artistic practice up to 10 years
- Not currently be a student enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program
- Be individual artists and/or collaborators

**Project requirements:**

- We invite cross-disciplinary, installation and collaborative performance based projects
- We invite projects prepared to be deeply examined, questioned, and reworked
- We encourage projects that have been partially developed but not fully workshopped or presented

**WHEN**

The 2026/27 SUITE/Space Program will run from May 2026 - June 2027. Submissions open on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 and proposals are due by Friday, March 13, 2026 at 11:59pm ET. Three artists will be selected and notified by late April 2026. Residency will officially begin May 2026. Final performances will take place in June 2027.

**SUITE/Space ARTISTS RECEIVE:**

- Two \$4,000 stipends
- 80 hours of rehearsal space in Mabou Mines' sunlit studio in the East Village
- Work in progress showings in September 2026
  - Includes 1 day of technical rehearsal in the theater
- A three day run of SUITE/Space performances in June 2027
  - Includes 2.5 days of technical rehearsal and 50-50 box office split
- Technical and administrative support
- Complimentary tickets to all 2026/2027 Mabou Mines productions
- Ongoing artistic dialogue with Artistic Directors and members of the Mabou Mines collective
- Workshops with Associate Artist David Thomson that will focus on finance and care, drawing from his work with the [Artist Sustainability Project](#)—an initiative designed to expand the conversation around financial, artistic, and personal empowerment within the arts community.

**FRAMEWORK FOR SUITE/Space RESIDENCY:**

- Further develop your proposed work over the course of 14 months culminating in a performance run at Mabou Mines
  - Includes supplying necessary materials for administration, production, marketing and promotion in a timely fashion
- Engage with cohort members in Mabou Mines collaborative style of art making
- Participate in monthly collective meetings to share work and connect
  - In these meetings artists will consider what best serves their process - an excerpt, an open rehearsal, a conversation, an installation. Collective dialogue enables the group to exchange ideas and questions, discover new tools for building, and engage in ongoing reflection.