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*PICTURING THE SOUL OF A CITY*

**NEW PUBLIC ART FOR DOWNTOWN NEWARK TO BE  
FEATURED ON NJPAC'S REIMAGINED CAMPUS**

**More than a dozen artists commissioned by the Arts Center to create works  
reflecting the city's complex and inspiring past, present and future**

*Seven Newark-based artists are among those chosen via juried selection process*

Newark, NJ — April 22, 2026 — The [New Jersey Performing Arts Center](#) (NJPAC), in partnership with Newark's [Project for Empty Space](#) (PES), is proud to announce the names of 13 artists and artist collectives from New Jersey and New York who have been commissioned to create original, site-specific public works of art that will be installed by 2027 on the Arts Center's redeveloped campus in downtown Newark.

The artists include award-winning painters, print-makers, sculptors and muralists with pieces on display across the region, creatives undertaking their first large-form public works —and one artist, **Danielle Scott**, who, as a senior at Newark Arts High School, painted a portion of the community mural displayed on fencing around the NJPAC construction site when the Arts Center was built three decades ago.

Other participants include **Nina Chanel Abney**, now an internationally renowned artist, whose first public work was a mural included in the 2016 *Gateways to Newark: Portraits* project on McCarter Highway, and **Layqa Nuna Yawar**, who completed a monumental, 350-foot-long mural in Newark Liberty International Airport's Terminal A in 2022.

This announcement follows a multi-year community engagement initiative in collaboration with creative agency [WeShouldDoltAll](#) (WSDIA) that brought together Newark residents, creative professionals and families involved in NJPAC's Arts Education programs to inform the design of NJPAC's new campus.

Insights from those efforts, along with advisory input and staff engagement, informed a competitive Request for Proposals process launched in November 2025, which attracted hundreds of submissions from artists across the region. The commissioned artworks, inspired by the theme ***Stories in Sound, Movement and Community***, span a variety of media and will offer interactive experiences centered on the initiative's core ideas.



“The quality of the proposals was exceptional, and this group of artists truly reflects the spirit of our community,” said **John Schreiber, President and CEO of NJPAC**. “Their work will make art a part of daily life in this district, connecting the creativity inside our theaters with the neighborhood outside.”

The artworks will be integrated into the **Cooperman Family Arts Education and Community Center**, a new purpose-built home for the Arts Center’s arts education and social impact work, and **ArtSide**, a new mixed-use residential and retail complex —both currently under construction —and throughout the NJPAC campus. The awarded proposals, selected by two distinguished juries, will form the visual soul of NJPAC’s transformed 12-acre campus and complement the architecture of **Barton Myers** (who designed NJPAC a generation ago), **Skidmore, Owings & Merrill** (ArtSide) and **Weiss/Manfredi** (Cooperman Center).

“The creative arts have always been at the heart of NJPAC and this new collection will continue that legacy by showcasing the work of local artists,” said **Kim Bernardin, Director of LMXD**. “We look forward to seeing these works come to life as the redeveloped campus takes shape.”

Installation of the artworks will coincide with the completion of elements of the ArtSide and Cooperman Center projects throughout 2026 and 2027.

“This process began with listening — grounding the vision for this public art program in the voices of the community,” said **Co-Directors Rebecca Pauline Jampol and Jasmine Wahi of Project for Empty Space**. “Through the RFP process, we engaged artists who understand that public art is not just about aesthetics, but about belonging. These works welcome people in, reflect NJPAC’s mission and honor the stories that define Newark.”

From large-scale outdoor installations to rehearsal studio murals, these projects will connect the Arts Center’s theaters with the street life of the downtown district. Each artist will also have a specific, tailored engagement with the community, including workshops, photography projects and archival research.

“Projects like this show how public art can transform everyday spaces into places of connection and meaning,” said **fayemi shakur, Director of Arts and Cultural Affairs for the City of Newark**. “When artists are invited to shape the public realm, they help tell the story of a city —reflecting its people, its history and its future.”

In addition, NJPAC’s collaboration with WSDIA led the agency to create two major anchor artworks for the Cooperman Center: a graphic curtain installation spanning the building’s



picture windows, and a monumental wall sculpture depicting an abstracted soundwave of a Queen Latifah song.

**The selected artists and artist collectives include:**

- **Nina Chanel Abney** (Cold Spring, NY): ArtSide, Underpass Installation
- **Eirini Linardaki** (Newark, NJ): ArtSide, Retail Windows Vinyl Installation
- **Layqa Nuna Yawar** (Newark, NJ): NJPAC Exterior East Facade Mural
- **Malcolm Rolling, Hans Lundy & Kaishon Way | YENDOR** (Newark, NJ): 31 Mulberry Street Facade Mural
- **Danielle Scott** (Jersey City, NJ): Cooperman Center, Interior Elevator Mural
- **Damien Davis** (Newark, NJ): Cooperman Center, Floor 1, Reading Room Mural
- **Angela Pilgrim** (Newark, NJ): Cooperman Center, Floor 1, Vestibule Mural
- **Haemee Han** (Mountainside, NJ): Cooperman Center, Floor 2, Corridors Mural
- **Shoshanna Weinberger** (Newark, NJ): Cooperman Center, Floor 2, Vestibule Mural
- **Matilda Forsberg** (Maplewood, NJ): Cooperman Center, Floor 2, Vestibule Mural
- **Kimmarii** (Brooklyn, NY): Military Park Garage, Level 1 Mural
- **Antoinette Ellis-Williams** (Newark, NJ): Military Park Garage, Level 2 Mural
- **Tom Nussbaum** (East Orange, NJ): Military Park Garage, Level 3 Mural

**Biographies of each artist, their thoughts about this project, and links to their online work can be found at [njpac.org/publicart](http://njpac.org/publicart).**

**The selection process was guided by two distinguished juries comprised of:**

**Alliyah Allen** – Independent Curator

**Alyson Maier Lokuta** – AVP, Arts & Well-Being, NJPAC

**Ashley Mays** – Chief Marketing Officer, Newark Alliance; President, Newark Happening

**Chantal Fischzang** – Interdisciplinary Designer; Associate Professor of Communication Design, Rutgers University–Newark; Co-Director, Design Consortium

**Chelsea Keys** – Senior Director, Social Impact, NJPAC

**Elena C. Muñoz-Rodriguez** – Assistant Curator, Latinx & Latin American Art, The Newark Museum of Art

**Eyesha Marable** – Assistant Vice President, Community Engagement, NJPAC

**fayemi shakur** – Director of Arts and Cultural Affairs, City of Newark

**Jennifer Tsukayama** – Vice President of Arts Education, NJPAC

**John Schreiber** – President and CEO, NJPAC

**Kim Bernardin** – Director, LMXD

**Kitab Rollins** – AVP, Performance and Broadcast Rentals, NJPAC

**Lauren Craig** – Executive Director, Newark Arts

**Patricia Ryan** – Senior Creative Director, NJPAC



**Rebecca Pauline Jampol** — Co-Director, Project for Empty Space

**Sherri-Ann Butterfield** — Senior Vice President, Social Impact, NJPAC

**Stefon Harris** — Co-Director, Express Newark; Founder & Director, Harmony Lab

**Tamara Remedios** — Director of Neighborhood Impact, Audible

**Tim Lizura** — Executive Vice President, Real Estate & Capital Projects, NJPAC

**Victoria Walker** — Director, Arts and Education District

**Weiss/Manfredi** — Multidisciplinary New York City–based design practice, Cooperman Center architect

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### **About NJPAC**

The **New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)**, located in downtown Newark, New Jersey, is an anchor cultural institution for both the city of Newark and the state of New Jersey. It is an artistic, cultural, educational and civic center where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. NJPAC brings communities together both on and off of our campus — on stages, in schools and community settings — providing access to the arts for all and showcasing the state’s and the world’s best artists, while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Social Impact programs, NJPAC leverages the arts to advance positive outcomes in education, health and well-being, civic engagement and community development. NJPAC has attracted more than 12.7 million visitors (including more than two million children) since opening its doors in 1997. Learn more at [njpac.org](http://njpac.org).

### **About PES**

**Project for Empty Space (PES)** is a multifaceted arts organization that includes Exhibitions, Artists Residencies, Public Art initiatives, subsidized Artist Studios, and Artist Professional Development/Granting opportunities. Our programs lean into social discourse, including narratives that have been historically and systemically erased. We strive to course-correct historic instances of forced marginality, inequity, and invisibility. Today, in our efforts to support socially-oriented artists, we maintain a commitment to holding space for both looking back and looking to new potentials and futures.

### **About LMXD**

LMXD is the mixed-income and market-focused member of the L+M family of companies, one of the nation’s leading builders and developers of affordable housing. Building upon a 40-year track record of civically impactful projects such as Essex Crossing in New York and Banner Lane in Washington, D.C., LMXD’s mission is to create transformative mixed-income and mixed-use projects with a particular focus on culture, community, and sustainability in the Northeast and across the country. Visit <https://lmsd.com> to learn more.