



DIASPORA VIBE CULTURAL ARTS INCUBATOR

**INTERNATIONAL
ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE**

2026

PARAMARIBO, SURINAME



Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator
Celebrating 30 years!



THE JORGE M. PÉREZ
FAMILY FOUNDATION



DVCAI AIR Suriname 2026

Deepened Investments

Over the past five years, the DVCAI Artist-in-Residence (AIR) has been housed in an apartment at the Nahar home in Paramaribo, Suriname. This house became home to more than fifteen artists and practitioners who participated in its programs or used it as a space to exchange ideas and present their work. This residency space has become integral to shaping our international community, and will continue to inform how we come together in the future.

With renovations and enhancements to the studio apartment conducted in late 2025, DVCAI continues to offer a one-month residency in Suriname, and a reciprocal opportunity for international artists to apply to the AIR program in Miami, Florida.

The 2026 DVCAI Artists-in-residence in Suriname program is made possible in part by the CreARTE grant program from The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation at The Miami Foundation. This support was provided to DVCAI for a six year period, in recognition of its capacity to deliver, grow, and manage impactful artist residencies and fellowships.

Mission-Driven Artist Support

The mission of DVCAI is to promote, nurture, and cultivate the vision and diverse talents of emerging and mid-career artists from the Afro-Latinx, Afro-Caribbean diaspora. This is accomplished through the DVCAI Caribbean Crossroad programs that includes exhibitions, the Artist-in-Residence (AIR) and Scholar-in-Residence programs, the International Cultural Exchange program, the BIPOC Curatorial Cohort, the DVCAI living-archive, and DVCAI's ongoing educational and outreach programs. The organization's community impact has been greatly enhanced by a long-term partnership with Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida, where DVCAI curates and operates a contemporary art space at the Monsignor William Barry Library. Notably, this is the only university library in the region to house a contemporary art space which generates faculty, student, and community engagement.

Since its founding in 1996, DVCAI has experimented with various formats for thinking and practicing together, from individual research programs to thematic collective research studies with artists, constantly adapting programs to the needs of a growing community of peers. In the aftermath of the Pandemic and significant social and political changes worldwide, we continue to ask, how do can we remain relevant to the needs of our artistic community?

In October 2022, to prevent stagnation and stay relevant in today's environment, DVCAI leaders and artist representatives initiated a reassessment of the needs of people who DVCAI serves. DVCAI held a series of community meetings to develop a participatory governance model to engaged the artistic community in future programming. This work continues to inform the DVCAI International AIR Program and Catalyst Award fellowships that support artists in their practices.

The DVCAI International AIR program and Catalyst Fellowship program is recognized for its deep impact on over 35 recipients to date. They provide one-month residencies and up to \$5,000 of fellowship support for open-ended individual research, and time and space for reflection.

These experiences are tailored to participants' research needs and include professional development experiences such as feedback and skill-sharing sessions, site visits, and exchanges with local institutions and members of the art community. The artists-in-residence in Paramaribo have 24-hour access to a private studio apartment. They participate in an open studio format at Readytex Art Gallery, and speak about their art-making process in a DVCAI Public talk alongside artist peers.

After leaving the residency, the AIRs join an even broader network of DVCAI Alumni in over fifteen countries, including the United States, and a growing cohort of DVCAI Catalyst Fellowship recipients.

DVCAI welcomes
the following artists to
the 2026 program:

Schedule

January 7 - 29, 2026: **Ifé Williams**

February 7 - 28, 2026: **Christina Pearce**

March 5 - 31, 2026: **Shayla Marshall**

April 4 - 29, 2026: **Jevon Brown**

May 2 -27, 2026: **Dudley Alexis**

June 3 - 27, 2026: **Sydney Rose Maubert**

July 1 - 28, 2026: **Khrys Kelly**

August 1 - 26, 2026: **Patrick Farrell**

September 5 - 30, 2026: **Lance Minto-Strouse**

October 3 - 28, 2026: **Isabella Marie-Garcia**

Dates and artist assignments are subject to change.

Miami | US

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Tanya Desdunes

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Paramaribo | Suriname

Host contact:

Kurt and Paula Nahar

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Maretraite
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Suriname
Mobile: 597-872-9403
Home: 01 (597)8615373

Readytex Art Gallery

Monique W. NouhChaia SookdewSing

President | Director

Lucinda Oliander

Gallery Assistant

Readytex Art Gallery

Address: Steenbakkerijstraat 30, Paramaribo, Suriname

Ph: (+597) 421750 | Fax: (+597) 471507 | Mob: (+597) 894-5911

Email: info@readytexartgallery.com | Website: www.readytexartgallery.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Readytex.Art.Gallery

Logistics

While in Suriname, please obtain the contact information you need to navigate the community from Kurt Nahar and Paula Brown Nahar. This is a self-guided residency. You are not required to create artwork.

Kurt will provide information on cafes and phone stores, as well as instructions on how to get to the Readytex Art Gallery.



Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator, Inc. Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator, Inc. (DVCAI) is a Miami-based 501(c)3 organization. The mission of DVCAI is to promote, nurture, and cultivate the vision and diverse talent of emerging artists from the Caribbean and Latin Diaspora through our exhibition, artist-in-residence, and international exchange programs, as well as through educational and outreach activities that celebrate Miami-Dade’s rich cultural and social fabric.

www.dvcai.org

follow our activities at

www.instagram.com/dvcai

www.twitter.com/DiasporaVibe.

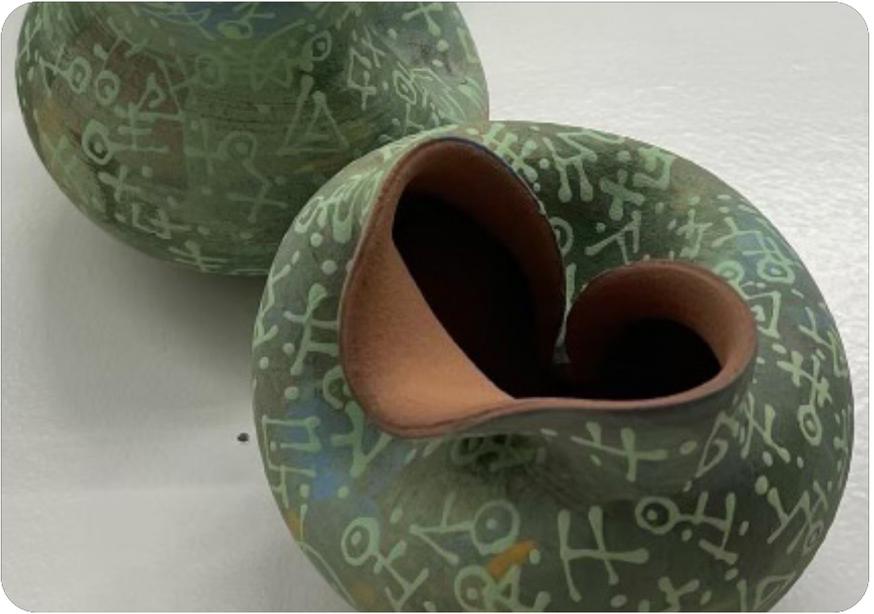
Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator is generously supported by the Knight Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the Ford Foundation. Programs are made possible with support from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor, and the Board of County Commissioners. Exhibitions, residencies, performances, and the DVCAI archive are supported by CreARTE, the Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation at The Miami Foundation, South Arts, National Performance Network (NPN), the Andy Warhol Foundation, Barry University, Barry University Institute for Immigration Studies, and the Monsignor William Barry Library, Readytex Art Gallery, The Rhythm Foundation, The Garner Foundation, The Betsy Hotel, the Wege Foundation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC), and the University of Miami, special collections Library.

READYTEX **Art Gallery**

Readytex Art Gallery, founded in 1993, sells and promotes a wide variety of fine art by skilled Surinamese artists. The gallery is located in a four-story, beautifully renovated historic building that was formerly the residence of the Issa ancestors of the Readytex founders. With the functional stone addition in the rear, the building is, architecturally and historically speaking, a striking balance between the old and the new. It is also the perfect backdrop for the meaningful and engaging works of art produced by our highly ambitious partner artists.

Readytex Art Gallery stocks a diverse collection of more than 1,000 artworks, including paintings, sculptures, ceramics, and other mixed-media works and installations. Works of art are continuously displayed throughout our gallery in regularly rotating exhibitions and special feature events, with openings from 7:00 – 9:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month. These monthly events include several high-profile solo exhibitions in which a featured core artist presents their latest art collection, as well as regular Thursday Night Features. These highly diverse TNFs can include mixed or themed gallery exhibitions, as well as special presentations by core artists, local or international guest artists, and a variety of art professionals.

www.readytexartgallery.com



Ifé Williams - Born in Atlanta, art has played a central role in her life since early childhood. Ifé Williams began her formal training in sculpture at Interlochen Arts Academy in Northern Michigan, holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Sculpture/ Metalsmithing from the University of Michigan, pursued a Master's degree in Museum Studies at Syracuse University, and received a certificate of nonprofit organizational management from the Georgia Center for Nonprofits. Over the last three decades Ifé has worked actively as a maker in stone and ceramics while also serving in several administrative roles. She currently holds the position of Deputy Director at The Hambidge Center for Creative Arts & Sciences in Rabun Gap, Georgia.



Christina Pearce is a certified Science of Happiness Trainer, Meditation Coach, and Certified Breath Coach. She guides businesses, schools, and nonprofits through mindfulness practices and workplace wellness programs. As a skilled sound healer, she weaves together breath, vibration, imagination, and sound to create transformative healing experiences. Through interactive sessions, she guides participants on unique listening journeys—offering a restorative approach to healing, stress reduction, and personal transformation.

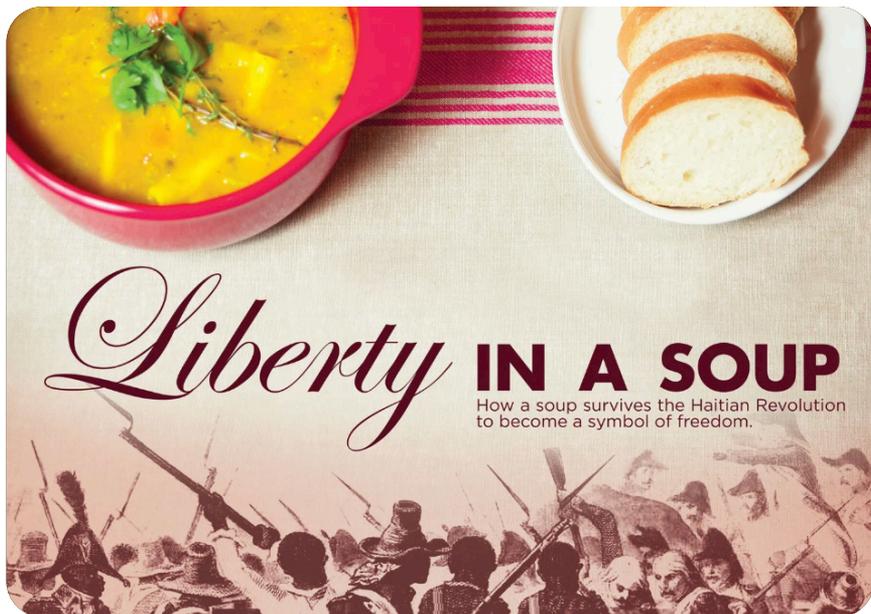


Shayla Marshall was born in 1999 in Miami, Florida, and is currently based between Miami and London, where she has been pursuing a Master's degree in Contemporary Art Practice at the Royal College of Art, developing a mixed-media, world-building practice grounded in Black diasporic experience.

Marshall's practice combines photography, installation, and sculptural elements, often using both historic and contemporary photographic techniques to challenge linear histories and reframe Black life. Her work draws on Miami's cultural landscape and the everyday spaces of Black life, extending these investigations into her graduate projects and exhibitions across the UK and the US.



Jevon Brown, is a multidisciplinary artist and designer. He received his BFA in Textiles from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2023. Brown's work explores black masculine kindred barbershops. Artifacts and cultural icons within my environments defy pattern, gravity, family roots, and personal history embedded within each fiber of his hair. He uses textiles to drape storytelling, connecting my Miami and Caribbean ancestry. Each thread of fabric is imbued with black, queer affirmations, symbols, and colors. He cites popular culture, Caribbean poetry, and queer yardie dynamics to question contemporary culture and hyper sexualized masculine in the Caribbean diaspora. Drawing, painting, dying, collaging, printmaking, pattern design, fiber art, digital processes are techniques I employ to develop Caribbean carnival creolized interiors. Brown's work has been shown in institutions such as the University of Miami, Lowe Art Museum. He has also been featured in Dwell Magazines 24 Global Emerging Designers list 2023.



Dudley Alexis, an independent filmmaker and visual artist. Dudley Alexis is both a cultural anthropologist and historian who sees his world through unique multicultural eyes. His mission as a Creative is to mine the wealth of hidden details that provide meaning to the lives of those often written off by the mainstream, finding in their stories, real treasure. His gift is in gaining the trust of others who then poignantly share their personal stories, often filled with tragedy and triumph. Alexis vividly portrays their drive to thrive and to live with dignity and equality in a world that would too often attempt to keep them marginalized.



Sydney Rose Maubert (b. 1996) is a Haitian-Cuban artist and architect based in Miami. She holds degrees in architecture from Yale University and the University of Miami, with double minors in writing and art. She is the founder of Sydney R. Maubert LLC., her art and mural practice, which has been awarded by the Graham Foundation, Oolite Ellies Creator Award, Locust Projects, NALAC Foundation, GreenSpace Initiative Grant, Miami-Dade Individual Artist Grant, Cornell Council for the Arts Award, Yale Moulton Andros Award, and University of Miami Alpha Rho Chi Award. Her work has been exhibited with DVCAI at Barry University, mtinspace gallery, Yale North Gallery, Laundromat Arts, TenBerke Architects, Augusta Savage Gallery, Artist in Residence in the Everglades, GreenSpace Miami, and Cornell Hartell Gallery. Most notably, her work is in the 21C Museum's permanent collection. She is the Jeanne and John Rowe Fellow at the Illinois Institute of Technology College of Architecture (2024- ongoing). She was the Strauch Fellow at Cornell College of Architecture (2022- 2024). She was an Artist in Residence in the Everglades (June 2023). She is a Teaching Artist in Residence at Arts4Learning Miami (Summer 2025). She is a Summer Open artist in residence at Bakehouse Art Complex through the (Summer 2025).



Khrys Kelly

EMBODE HEALING ARTS: Healing is a vast process.. it calls on all of the elements in a different dance within each other...each day you may need a different combination of modalities to feel good and work through what you need for your mind body and spirit. We offer a variety of different healing modalities in tandem with products

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Patrick Farrell - Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Patrick Farrell has been a professional photojournalist for more than 25 years. His work has taken him to Turkey, Haiti, Cuba and throughout Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean.

In 2009, Farrell's haunting images from a brutal hurricane season in Haiti won the Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography. Farrell was recognized for what the Pulitzer Committee called "provocative, impeccably composed" photos of the fragile country's humanitarian disaster. His photographs from Haiti also have been recognized with first place prizes from Pictures of the Year International and the Overseas Press Club, among other awards.

Farrell has been a staff photographer at The Miami Herald since 1987. He juxtaposes the serious nature of his work with artful celebrity and business portraits, elegant travel documentaries and progressive commercial freelance work as diverse as his South Florida home.



Lance Minto-Strouse is a multidisciplinary artist working with painting, sculpture, digital art, film and collage. He explores temporality through the history of reclaimed materials to create dialogue concerning, systematic iniquity, disposability, community and race. Minto-strouse is an alchemist who applies the transformative process to find new and more relatable ways of understanding humanity . He sees the outside world as an extension of his studio. He assembles interactive community based sculptures to generate dialogue that reflect new understandings of the past as a way to build our future. Lance crafts this as a way of honoring and paying homage to rituals rooted in his Afro-spiritual ancestral origins.

He has participated at the Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami (MOCA), also Arts 4 Learning, Teen Residency Program and later, Pérez Art Museum Miami's (PAMM) Pérez Teen Council. Lance began to commit more time towards his creative passions by matriculating at the New World School of the Arts, a public high school and college in Downtown Miami, FL.



Isabella Marie Garcia is an interdisciplinary lens-based artist, writer, and educator living in her native Miami, Florida. Interested in alternative educational spaces, holistic aftercare, and supporting visual artists in the American South in her practice, Garcia is a recipient of a 2025 Oolite Arts Ellies Creator Award and the 2024 WOPHA Research Fellowship for *The Photography Care Matrix: Teaching Traditional and Experimental Photo Techniques within Prison Environments, Residential Rehabs, and Alternative Schools*, the recipient of a 2024 Visual Aids Research Fellowship, and the 2023 Locust Projects Wavemaker Research and Implementation Grant Recipient for *What Happens When the Dust Settles?*.



Izia Lindsay
DVCAI Director of Digital Design
Augustana University

Izia Lindsay is a mixed media artist who explores both digital and traditional media. His artwork addresses symbolism in Caribbean iconography that is rooted in tradition but interpreted with contemporary ideas.

Caribbean iconography is used as a basis to create his multi-layered artistic narratives. His subject matter tackles issues of identity and class in a post-colonial society. His research stems from material culture, indigenous societies, traditions and the ever-changing landscape of the Caribbean. Lindsay uses bold, geometric shapes that juxtapose and intersperse to form his multilayered artistic pieces. Lines and shapes are conceptually layered and can be characterized as controlled naturalism. The thematic whole is a cultural narrative reproducing the dualities of his turbulent, cosmopolitan, Caribbean life.

Izia Lindsay has been working in the creative industry for over fifteen years and is currently an Assistant Professor at Augustana University where he teaches graphic design. His teaching background also includes multimedia, illustration, and typography courses at the University of Miami and Florida International University.



Roy Wallace
Director of Photography & Archive
Travel Logistics

Roy A. Wallace is a Jamaica-born, Miami-based photographer whose practice spans documentary portraiture and environmental photography. For more than twenty years, he has been a vital documentarian of the Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI), traveling and photographing the artistic engagements of its artist-in-

residence program and international cultural exchange projects. His works have appeared in numerous national and international publications, artists' catalogs, and exhibitions, preserving a living record of the African and Caribbean diaspora in motion.

A founding member of the DVCA-Eye Photo Collective, Wallace continues to nurture dialogue and collaboration among photographers while contributing to DVCAI's 25-year Living Archive. Most recently, his work was featured in *Reflections in Black: A Reframing*, an exhibition and publication curated by renowned scholar Dr. Deborah Willis, PhD, at New York University, marking his inclusion in an important national conversation on photography, representation, and the Black image.



Gordon Myers

Vice President, Director of Performances.

Song Writer, Musician.

Founder of The Hongs and

Diaspora Vibe Afrobeat Allstars Band.

DVCAI's history of larger concert presentations, with prominent guest musicians, began in 2016, with the musical and production expertise of Gordon Myers. Myers has led DVCAI to collaborate with Rhythm Foundation,

Garner Foundation, Wege Foundation, Wynwood Walls, present performing and interdisciplinary artists in various international venues from St. Maarten to Spain. Presenting artists included Julian Marley, Underground System, The Brazilian Girls, The Hongs and Friends, and Afrobeat Allstars, with collaborating visual artists, Yacine T. Fall, Najja Moon, Jorge Rojas, and Sheena Rose. The successful Julian Marley, July 31, 2021, at Hollywood Young Arts Park set the stage for larger more prominent performing artist collaborations with Underground System at the Miami Beach Bandshell on February 4, 2022 among others. DVCAI Concerts on the Lawn at the Garner Foundation have occurred since 2019, with Jedi Johnston, Tim Jago, and Electric Kif, welcoming intimate sized gatherings in Miami's Edgewater District.

BARRY UNIVERSITY

A Catholic institution of higher education, Barry University was founded in 1940 by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. Grounded in the liberal arts tradition, Barry is a scholarly community committed to the highest academic standards in undergraduate, graduate, and professional education. In the Catholic intellectual tradition, the integration of study, reflection, and action informs intellectual life. Faithful to this tradition, a Barry education and university experience foster individual and communal transformation, where learning leads to knowledge and truth, reflection leads to informed action, and a commitment to social justice leads to collaborative service. Barry is a University community where all are welcome.

THE MONSIGNOR WILLIAM BARRY LIBRARY AT BARRY UNIVERSITY

Located in the center of Barry University's Miami Shores campus, the Library is named in loving memory of Monsignor William Barry, one of its founders and an inspirational figure in the Catholic Church within the Archdiocese of Miami. Vivica Smith Pierre, MLIS, PhD, Director of Library Services, an accomplished educator, academic librarian, and researcher, leads the library's administration and vision.



BARRY UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES

A gift from Max and Ester Alvarez '71 and family made it possible to endow the position of Giselle Rios, MM, DMA, Founding Director, to guide and implement the vision of the Institute. As Rios, professor of music, assistant chair of fine arts, and now endowed chair of the Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh Institute for Immigration Studies, Though the institute isn't a brick-and-mortar building, the ideas and research behind it give scholars and students the ability to study the immigration experience in South Florida and to identify ways to better that experience for the state's roughly 4.5 million immigrants.

Special Thanks:

DVCAI 2025 committee team members:

Rosie Gordon-Wallace , Kim Yantis, Izia Lindsay,
Roy Wallace, Tanya Desdunes, Myah Smith

Readytex Art Gallery

Kurt and Paula Nahar

Monique W. NouhChaia SookdewSing

Design and cover image photo:
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Myah Smith

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Tina Monica Williams

Institutional Management Tourism

Gordon Myers

*Musican | Director of Live Performances
President -Advisory Board.*

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Maryland Institute of College and Art (MICA)

Marlon Hill

Attorney

Vanessa Greene

Artist and Photographer

Joseph Cloud

*Arts & Culture Program Design | Community Builder +
Non-Profit Arts Advisor*



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