

HOWLROUND

THEATRE COMMONS

National Playwright Residency Program Cohort 2 + 3 Convening

May 11-13, 2022 | *All times are EDT*

Hosted by HowlRound Theatre Commons and the Mellon Foundation

Convening Objectives:

- Community and relationship building: First in-person gathering of this cohort 3, and first in-person gathering since COVID.
- Reflection and Assessment: To reflect, together, on the progress of the residencies to date, share any challenges, and offer program feedback based on your experience.
- Learning: to learn from one another, especially from bright spots; to encourage cross-pollination of ideas and the sharing of artistic work.
- Ideating: To consider how the program might shift for future rounds.

Day One: Wednesday, 11 May 2022 (in person)

Location: Semel Theatre, 10 Boylston Place, Boston, MA

2:15-2:45pm

Check in and Rapid Test

Participants should arrive by no later than 2:45pm to check in, sign video release, take a Covid-19 rapid test, get per diem, and gather all paperwork.

3:00-4:00pm

Opening Remarks, Icebreaker Activity

We've met online, but not IRL. The HowlRound staff will lead us in an activity to transition our "screen relationships" into in person relationships.

4:00-5:20pm

Work Sharing + Residency Report Outs

- Work share from **Lauren Gunderson** + report out with Meredith Suttles
- Report out from **Kristen Greenidge** + Shawn LaCount (no workshare)
- Work share from **Psalmayne 24** + report out with Serge Seiden
- Report out from **Basil Kreimendahl** + Daniella Topol (no workshare)***

Each playwright + AD will be asked to present a five minute report on the progress of the residency. Additionally, some playwrights have chosen to share a reading of their work. The prompts for this report out are:

- *Playwright + AD: What are you excited about having accomplished since the start of this round?*
- *Playwright + AD: What challenges have you encountered?*
- *Playwright: Give an example of how you have used your microfund. If you have completed a residency at Emerson, share what you did.*
- *AD: When is your full production of the playwrights' work?*
- *Playwright + AD: What else are you looking forward to?*

5:20-5:30pm	Closing Remarks
5:30-6:30pm	Transition to Hotel / Break
6:30-8:30pm	Welcome Dinner, W Hotel, 100 Stuart Street

Day Two: Thursday, 12 May 2022 (in person)

Location: Semel Theatre, 10 Boylston Place

9:30-10:00am **Ask Mellon Anything! + Light Breakfast**
Here's your chance to ask Mellon anything about NPRP. Coffee, tea, fruit, and light pastries will be provided. This session is optional.

10:00-10:15am **Welcome + Framing for the Day**

10:15-10:45am **Hearing from the Graduating Playwrights:
Vera + Lauren + Rehana**
We'll take some time to listen and learn from the "graduating" NPRP playwrights. We'll ask them: what learnings do you want to pass on to current program participants based on your experience? They will also come prepared with one question to ask the two other playwrights in their session.

10:50am-12:10pm **Work Sharing + Residency Report Outs**

- Work share from **Virginia Grise** + report out with David Lozano
- Report out from **Madeleine George** + John Dias (no workshare)
- Work share from **Ellen Lewis** + report out with Luan Schooler***
- Report out from **UNIVERSES (Mildred Ruiz Sapp + Steven Sapp)** + Jacob Padrón (no workshare)***

Each playwright + AD will be asked to present a five minute report on the progress of the residency. Additionally, some playwrights have chosen to share a reading of their work. You can find the prompts for this report out on the bottom of page one.

12:15-1:45pm **Breakout Lunches by Role**
Playwrights: Rock Bottom, 115 Stuart St
Artistic Directors (Theatres of Color): Montien Thai, 63 Stuart St
Artistic Directors (PWIs): Legal Crossing Seafood, 558 Washington St

1:45pm

Take Group Photo

2:00-3:15pm

Full Group Discussion – Hearing from Artistic Leaders

Using the “inner circle/outer circle” approach, we’ll hear from the artistic directors from both cohorts for 45 minutes, answering specific questions—tag in, tag out:

- How has this residency affected how artistic decisions are made at your institution? Are there other kinds of decisions that have been impacted by the presence of your playwright in residence?
- What changes wrought by the pandemic are here to stay at your institution? Which of these are for the better, and which are for the worse?
- How did you establish mutual expectations of what the residency would be with your playwright?
- What's keeping you up at night? And what's getting you up in the morning?

The final thirty minutes is a full group discussion for all ADs and playwrights.

3:15-3:45pm

Break

3:45-4:15pm

Hearing from the Graduating Playwrights: Kirsten + Madeleine + Mike

We’ll take some time to listen and learn from the “graduating” NPRP playwrights. We’ll ask them: what learnings do you want to pass on to current program participants based on your experience? They will also come prepared with one question to ask the two other playwrights in their session.

4:15-5:15pm

Work Sharing + Residency Report Outs

- Work share from **Murial Borst** + report out with Beverly Petty
- Work share from **J. Nicole Brooks** + report out with Heidi Stillman

Each playwright + AD will be asked to present a five minute verbal report on the progress of the residency. Additionally, some playwrights have chosen to share a reading of their work. You can find the prompts for this report out on the top of page two.

5:15-5:20pm

Closing Remarks + Housekeeping

5:30-7:15pm

Break / Optional Small Group Dinners

HowlRound staff has made a limited number of dinner reservations at local restaurants for those who wish to use them.

7:30-9:00pm

**[Sea Sick](#) Performance at ArtsEmerson, 559
Washington Street**

9:00-11:00pm

**Drinks + Desserts at Bar Moxy Rooftop, 240
Tremont Street (optional)**

Day Three: Friday, 13 May 2022 (in person)

Location: Semel Theatre, 10 Boylston Place

9:30-10:00am

Space Opens, Light Breakfast (optional)

Coffee, tea, fruit, and light pastries will be provided. This session is optional.

10:00am-11:00am

Work Sharing + Residency Report Outs

- Work share from **Taylor Mac** + report out with Kristin Marting
- Report out from **Vera Starbard** + Leslie Ishii (no workshare)
- Work share from **Saymoukda Vongsay** + report out with Lily Tung Crystal

Each playwright + AD will be asked to present a five minute report on the progress of the residency. Additionally, some playwrights have chosen to share a reading of their work. You can find the prompts for this report out on the bottom of page one.

11:00am-12:15pm

**Full Group Discussion – Hearing from Cohort
3 Playwrights**

Using the “inner circle/outer circle” approach, we’ll hear from the artistic directors from both cohorts for 45 minutes, answering specific questions—tag in, tag out:

- What has this residency taught you about your own practice? How has the residency changed or shifted your work as a playwright and as a member of your community?
- What has the pandemic taught you to leave behind?
- How did you establish mutual expectations of what the residency would be with your theatre? We learn from what’s not working as well as what is.
- How are you maintaining your residency with other aspects of your career? How do you balance your residency with other opportunities as they arise? Many of you are juggling also writing for television, other commissions, productions, etc.?

The final thirty minutes is a full group discussion for all ADs and playwrights.

12:15-12:45pm

Break

12:45-2:30pm

Working Lunch: Future Program Shifts

Lunch will be provided in the Semel Theatre. We will eat and then begin a facilitated conversation about the future of the program. We'll discuss:

- What are ways we can further empower playwrights to do their best work in this program?
- How can we create more opportunities for theatre to theatre collaborations and smaller theatres, theatres of color, ensemble theatremakers, and other kinds of collaborative theatremakers to participate?

2:30-3:00pm

**Closing + Toasts to the Graduating
Playwrights and ADs**

7:00pm

**Performance of [Black Super Hero Magic
Mama](#) (Optional)**