The Alba Sonic Arts Residency is a three-month residency at Experimental Sound Studio (ESS) in which all of the organization’s resources and platforms are made available to a graduating MFA student from the Sound Department of the School of the Art Institute (SAIC). It is the only post-graduate sonic arts residency of its kind in the US. The goal of the residency is to create an immediate outlet for the skills and ideas the student has developed at SAIC, helping to launch them into the next phase of their artistic career. The selected graduate will receive a $1,000 cash stipend and access to services and resources (overall value of over $7,500) that include the ESS recording studios, sonic arts archives, gallery, garden, and off-site performance and exhibition sites, as well as professional development assistance with grant-writing, project planning, and sustainability. The Alba Sonic Arts Residency is named after ESS co-founder Dawn (Alba) Mallozzi (1949-1999) and builds upon her longtime vision of ESS as a creative and developmental space for younger and emerging artists. The residency is purposefully open and flexible, allowing artists to work with ESS staff on an approach that best serves their artistic goals.

ALBA RESIDENCY STRUCTURE

March 1, 2019: Call for applications from graduate students scheduled to graduate in May 2019 from SAIC’s Sound Department
April 1, 2019: Applications due
April 15, 2019: ESS will select the artist-in-residence from submitted applications
May 2019: Residency award announced and included in SAIC’s end-of-year announcements of fellowship awards at commencement and through other public and internal channels
June 1-August 31, 2019: artist-in-residence will have access to the resources and platforms available below.
By December 2019: Artist-in-residence will be expected to share a public presentation of their work.
RESOURCES

Facilities for rehearsal and recording: Artist-in-residence can schedule up to 30 hours with one of ESS’s professional engineers or can facilitate their own sessions. They will be provided open access to the studios throughout their residency (scheduling subject to existing ESS programs). For a full list of available equipment visit https://ess.org/recording/.

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**Studio A**

*Studio A is an 800-square-foot multi-track live recording studio with isolation room and a separate control room. It is ideal for tracking live bands, acoustic instruments, or chamber ensembles, and comes complete with an arsenal of electric pianos and a 5’8” Young Chang baby grand. The live room has movable sound absorption and deflection panels in order to reshape its acoustic qualities to accommodate a wide range of musical and production approaches. The adjoining isolation booth is perfect for voice, drum kit, or instrument separation.*

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**Studio B**

*Studio B is a mixing, mastering, and soundtrack suite with overdub booth. The Studio features a clean, naturally non-reverberant sound that is ideal for mixing and mastering, especially with the range of software tools from Izotope, Avid, Waves, and others available in the suite. Equipped with a large LED TV and surround sound capabilities, it is also an excellent setting for cinema sound design and soundtrack mixing -- in fact, it's designed to accommodate every facet of audio post-production, including ADR, foley, sound effects editing, etc. Studio B’s uncolored acoustic transparency and accurate monitoring means you hear exactly what your audience will hear.*

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**Creative Audio Archive:** Artists in residence will have access to ESS’s Creative Audio Archive which houses documentation from ESS's 32 year history as well as a number of other collections including the Sun Ra/El Saturn Collection, the Malachi Ritscher Collection, Penumbra Music Collection, and a Links Hall Collection, among others. Some material may be available for use depending on permissions; artists-in-residence can work with the Archives Manager should they wish to use any material from the Archive.

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**Marketing & Documentation:** ESS will work with artists-in-residence to document and market work-in-progress and events in a manner that aligns with the goals of the artist while in residence. The Studio has professional audio and video recording equipment, cameras, and live streaming capabilities.

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**Professional Development & Consultation:** Artists-in-residence will have access to up to 6 hours of professional development and consultation from ESS staff and select organization partners (i.e. High Concept Labs).

Examples of topics include:

- Grant review
- Fundraising strategies
- Creating a marketing plan
- Basic bookkeeping
- Proposal writing
- Social media strategies
ALBA RESIDENCY

5925 N Ravenswood Ave., Chicago, IL 60660 | ess.org | Media Contact: Meg Noe meg@ess.org (773) 998-1069

PUBLIC PRESENTATION & ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Limited funds for additional performers, installation costs, etc are available. Costs towards public presentation are not expected to come out of the artist-in-residence stipend.

**Performance:** Performances at ESS usually take place in the versatile and acoustically pristine Studio A live room or in our beautiful outdoor garden. ESS additionally has partnerships with a number of spaces and venues around Chicago. We are happy to work with artists-in-residence to hold performances elsewhere in the city.

**Exhibition:** Audible Gallery at ESS is a 400 square foot project space focusing on intimate exhibitions that feature or are somehow driven by sound as medium, subject, or a cultural force.

**Florasonic:** Initiated in 2001, Florasonic is an ongoing series that commissions artists to create sound installations for [Lincoln Park Conservatory's Fern Room](https://www.lppc.org/). Florasonic is the only ongoing sound installation commissioning program in the United States.

**Screening:** ESS has a long history of working with and presenting sound with moving image. Potential partner venues for screenings include Chicago Filmmakers, Nightingale, and Black Cinema House.

**Workshops:** ESS can help set-up and facilitate workshops at our Studios.

**Broadcast:** ESS has established relationships with a number of local stations where work could be broadcast.

“The Alba Sonic Arts Residency is the only post-graduate residency of its kind in the US. It provides an opportunity for an emerging artist to interface with a unique organization with a 32-year history of supporting sonic arts experimentation that thrives on continually opening new and unexplored vistas. By providing a young artist with time and resources for research, support for the creation and presentation of new work, and career development, the residency reflects the organization’s inclusive and multi-faceted philosophy: creation is based on reflection and experimentation, and art requires pragmatic grounding in order to flourish. These values were articulated and reiterated throughout ESS’s history by its co-founder Dawn Mallozzi, also known as Alba, in whose honor the residency is aptly named.”

-- Lou Mallozzi, faculty of the Sound Department of the SAIC, and co-founder and director emeritus of ESS.

The Experimental Sound Studio is ADA compliant, please contact Adam Vida at adam@ess.org with any questions regarding accessibility or special accommodations.