



PO BOX 300351, 24 ELIOT STREET, BOSTON MA 02130 | 617.524.3313 | ELIOTSCHOOL.ORG

CONTACT: Angela Lett, Director of Development & Communications alett@eliotsschool.org
617.553.4897

For release May 9, 2025.

The Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts' 2025 Artist in Residence Yuko Okabe Explores Food as a Vessel for Storytelling in Residency Project

Boston, MA

The Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts' 2025 Artist in Residence [Yuko Okabe](#) (she/they) is an illustrator and cultural worker, whose work plays at the intersection of whimsy and community engagement. They have used art and design in cross-disciplinary experiences in affordable housing, healthcare, and community development. Okabe holds a BFA in Illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and is currently a studio artist at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Okabe's residency project, *My Recipe, Our Potluck* explores how individuals and communities view identity and culture through the lens of food. Using food as a storytelling vessel, Okabe will work with Teen Artists, Enijae Booke, Jacob De Palm, Diana Gasper, Lelio Leblanc, Aaliyah Levy, Laila Limontas, Dontaezjah Miller, Diligent Sankofa, and Jewel Sims. to collect stories from each other and community members who touch different parts of the food ecosystem—farmers, grocery store owners, nutritionists—as well as everyday people who need food as sustenance. They will translate these stories and observations into illustrated works that use food ephemera, such as menus, recipe cards, and packaging, as framing devices.

During the residency, Okabe and the Teen Artists will participate in workshops at the Lincoln and Dudley Square farms run by [The Food Project](#), a nonprofit that employs teenagers to grow food in urban and suburban community farms. They will also go on an excursion to observe and sketch at the [Daily Table](#), a nonprofit that operates community grocery stores in Greater Boston. Finally, the residency will include two community cooking workshops at the Roxbury Branch of the Boston Public Library on July 22 and 23. There will be spaces for members of the public to participate in each class, where they will learn to cook a dish and be led in a food-based art project by Okabe and the Teen Artists. Learn more about Okabe's inspiration and plans for the residency in this [profile](#).

The residency will culminate in an exhibition at the [Piano Craft Gallery](#) from **August 22 to September 7**, featuring the work of Yuko and the Teen Artists. Experience this art in

community, hear directly from the artists, and share delicious food at our potluck **Opening Reception on August 22 at 6 PM.**

Piano Craft Gallery is open Fridays from 6-8 PM and Saturdays & Sundays from 12-5 PM. The gallery is located at 793 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02118.

The Eliot School Artist in Residence and Teen Bridge Programs are funded in part by Mass Cultural Council's YouthReach program, BPS Arts Expansion Fund at EdVestors, City of Boston Mayor's Office of Human Services Youth Development Fund, and City of Boston Office of Youth Employment & Opportunity SuccessLink Employment Program; with general support from the Barr Klarman Massachusetts Arts Initiative; Mass Cultural Council's Cultural Investment Portfolio; and the Linde Family Foundation.

#

For photographs or further information, please contact Angela Lett at alett@eliotschool.org or at 617.553.4897.

The Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts inspires lifelong learning in craft and creativity for all. They offer classes to people of all ages in woodworking, sewing and yarn, fiber arts, book arts, drawing, painting, photography, and other crafts and fine arts. They reach thousands of people each year from Boston and beyond.