SUPERCOLLIDER is proud to present the Space for Humanity Virtual Residency, a space + art virtual residency linking artists and space professionals to develop collaborative projects together. Selected participants will be coupled to explore their shared interests in space science. The primary goal of this residency is to explore the frontiers of space and art through creative inquiry and artistic expression.

[Click here to read the full program description.](https://www.canva.com/design/DAEi-K2vFaU/iQLcoAwyfnz4D5RPzypnNQ/view)

**1. Please provide us with your contact info.**

David Quang Pham

Asian American

Yes

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<https://www.scitheatre.org/>

@workingtidal

@WorkingTidal

**2. Please provide a short bio** (50 word max)**.**

David Quang Pham loves the theatre space and space in general. He is the science musical writer and the second apprentice of Atlanta’s Working Title Playwrights. He practices dramaturgy under LMDA. As a member of ΣΠΣ, he attained an astrophysics degree with a minor in theatre at Michigan State.

**3. Please provide a written research or artist statement** (300 words max)**.**

I grew up in an Asian household. All my parents ever watched were Eastern operas and Kabuki-esque theatre. So naturally, I compose on a pentatonic scale. As opposed to an eight-note diatonic scale in Western music, six notes are simple. Yet, if the instruments are primitive and the theme of the story is folksy, the opera is suddenly elaborate. The Universe I live in is minimal; it sounds plain. So, the universal plain is mostly dark matter (silence). That nature provides complexity. It is difficult to unravel this traditional fabric of spacetime. It is a challenge I accepted. I strive to unroll my culture’s artistic scroll. As a Vietnamese American, I aspire to connect the Eastern and Western art forms.

As an artful scientist, I make these connections by writing love letters to science. Science spins my creative process. My mind is astrophysical and astral spiritual. These aspects grant me the spirit of the science musical writer.

As a scientific artist and artistic scientist, I make simple things complex and complex things simple. Respectively, that is how I have approached composition and science communication. And when I write fables, I imagine that my friends are the audience. Anyone who has enough curiosity to knock down the gatekeeping, I consider a friend. For any generation, the closest community to that sentiment are college students who are the most inclusive. They may ensure that my composition and science communication are grounded and stay authentic. I believe that universities are best suited to progress the musicals whose goals are to be universal.

**4. Please upload your CV in PDF format.**

<https://www.scitheatre.org/starwrights/pham_david_quang/resume>

**5. Online Portfolio**

Please provide links to an online portfolio that best represents your creative work over the last three years. This can include a link to a PDF, vimeo links, etc. The next question provides an option to upload your portfolio as a PDF.

~~If you are a researcher, please link to recent research documentation. The next question provides an option to upload a PDF of a publication or other project materials.~~

<https://www.scitheatre.org/starwrights/pham_david_quang>

**~~6. If you wish to provide your portfolio/publication in PDF format, upload here.~~**

**7. How can this residency aid you in your research and work?** (max. 300 words)

For a residency to have virtual accessibility is uncommon. This space + art residency is the first of its kind. This connects the art to the science that I am most passionate about: astronomy.

SUPERCOLLIDER’s mission is to drive persistent conversation about the future of our home planet. My principles have been that the Earth is our priority. That is why I am an advocate for space exploration. From an astronaut’s lens, they know that Earth is a fragile grain. I am no astronaut but working with other space enthusiasts may gather our pieces into an astronaut’s lens. This is a helpful mindset while personifying celestial characters (ELLIPSES). I write to escape reality. But having the rigors of six calls, to keep us accountable in the creation of projects for the betterment of humanity, will remind me of where I came from. In writing these non-human characters, I can make them the most human through the connective intent of and experience from this residency.

All virtual gatherings during this pandemic are transformative. It makes certain that wherever I someday physically go, I am safe knowing of a community. This is my anecdote as a second-generation immigrant, while hearing my non-immigrant colleagues having families around the states.

Space for Humanity’s mission is to create a foundation for an inclusive future in space for all of humanity, and that means everyone. They also recognize that racism, specifically against Black people, is destroying our global society.

The residential collaboration helps me as a story creator, which can be a job creator with power in the industry. I have gone above and beyond to include historically excluded artists in my fun and non-traumatic musicals. However, there is more work to be done and more for me to learn in equity.

**8. How does the intersection of art and space expand your research, artistic or scientific practice, and concepts? Have you combined these topics before? If so, how?** (max. 300 words)

Science spins my creative process. I look for connections in my research in any branch of physics, particularly as a college student. At the Cyclotron, I felt that the quarks are also trying to attain a higher degree. In the Observatory, I noticed that the galaxies also felt aimlessly lost in our field. And these personifications are amplified and made special by my culture’s inherent devotion to humanizing nature. We love to turn wind into ghosts. Nothing makes character arcs abled quite like fables. My mind is astrophysical and astral spiritual. These aspects grant me the spirit of the science musical writer.

Since college, I have been working on a particle physics fable. TOUR revolves around Quark, Lepton, Boson, and Atom. This opera has these subatomic educators collide and compete in the academic Accelerator (<https://www.tourmusical.com/>). Under Working Title Playwrights, we developed ELLIPSES. This astrophysics epic is about the Galaxy family and their quest to undo the Big Bang, after Gravity (the family dog) and a family member set it off. When JD strikes down Singularity to run away from home with Gravity (the family dog), their younger siblings are left to fend for themselves in the vastness of the cosmos. The supermassive heart of this coming-of-age family musical is finding oneself in the nothingness (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/>). During the summer of 2021, I cowrote the book and music of PARALLEL UNIVERSITY for the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**9. Give us a brief description on what you plan to do at this residency? We understand this may change and evolve, but give us a glimpse into your thinking.** (max. 300 words)

As I had done for my apprenticeship and the NYPL summer program, I shall start a story from a blank slate. I do not concentrate myself to preexisting materials. I simply strive to cowrite a brand-new ten-minute musical. This science musical is set in outer space and alludes to the inner human condition. The science is legitimate, and the themes expand consciousness by introducing to us something that we never noticed before.

Due to the scientist-artist coupling, this play may be either a solo show or a two-hander. I am likely to be the composer-lyricist on the team. For demo recordings, I have vocalists that can be hired to lend a helping hand. Two songs will be composed and pre-recorded. Animations may visualize the demos. During the final presentation, my partner and I may read as the characters. If this is a solo show, one narrates and the other reads.

**10. What qualities, research topics, and skills are you looking for in a collaborative partner?** (max. 300 words)

Space science is in all our creative processes. As a theatremaker, I worked with creatives from all walks of life. What I noticed are that researchers are disciplined. In either of my musicals, the team members who have STEM backgrounds were always punctual. They are the most open to expressing their critical and reasonable thoughts. Those are the qualities sought in our collaboration. I strive to create a project with an empathic artist-scientist who understands what it is like to be underrepresented.

Our similar experiences could help us start on the same page before researching topics of neurophysics or astrodynamics. Neurophysics may connect the cosmic web to human nerves. Astrodynamics may have caused our LEO to get closer to the Kessler syndrome, but it may also be our way out of it. I am open to any cosmic topics, but those two are my pursuits.

Music and science are coupled. Playing an instrument improves our cognitive process and communication skills. Scientists are often musicians. However, sometimes the mind is dedicated exclusively to scientific research. Therefore, I do not seek any skill in music from my partner. An interest in music and theatre is all that matters. With two pairs of ears, we should be willing to hear experimental sounds and handle atonality before the conclusive melodies.

As this is the inaugural year, there is room to make the most mistakes (the spirit of science and art). If chosen, we are setting the stage for years to come. We will prove whether this residency should stay virtual or shift to physical. I will be vigilant on that, and I hope everyone would be, too. We shall hold space.