

RUBY CITY

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Ruby City Invites San Antonio to Reconsider What Belongs Through Julia Barbosa Landois' *Weed is a Word*.

Free October 10 public program brings together art, ecology, food, and community around a site-responsive garden installation.

SAN ANTONIO, TX — September 16, 2026 — What makes a place feel like it belongs to us and what, or who, gets left out? On Saturday, October 10, Ruby City will invite San Antonio to explore these questions through *Weed is a Word*, a site-responsive project by multidisciplinary artist Julia Barbosa Landois, accompanied by a free, all-ages community picnic from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. in the Studio Yard.

Part artwork, part garden, and part gathering place, *Weed is a Word* transforms a fenced lot at Ruby City into a space for reflection and ecological reimagining. Landois has cut a large circle into the existing turf and reintroduced beneficial native plants that have increasingly disappeared from contemporary lawns, including goldenrod, purslane, frogfruit, and shy plant.

The project begins with a deceptively simple word: “weed.” As Landois writes, **“‘Weed’ is a word that denotes what belongs and what doesn’t.”** Her project considers how language shapes ideas of value and exclusion, drawing connections between the ways plants are classified and larger human questions of belonging, migration, and diversity. By returning plants often dismissed as undesirable to the landscape, Landois invites visitors to reconsider who and what determines what is worthy of care.

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On October 10, the garden will become a setting for gathering as well as contemplation. The free public picnic will offer music, snacks, complimentary zines exploring the language of weeds and the themes of the project, and seed packets for visitors to take home. The event is drop-in based and guests can stay at their leisure.

Food and drinks served during the gathering will incorporate traditional ingredients connected to the local climate, including edible varieties such as purslane and sunflower. This garden-to-table element makes the ideas of *Weed is a Word* tangible: plants often removed or overlooked can provide nourishment, support ecosystems, and become a reason for people to gather. Through food, art, conversation, and hands-on activities, the picnic becomes an extension of the artwork itself.

The project reflects the unique role contemporary art spaces can play in a community. At Ruby City, admission and public programs are always free, creating opportunities for people to encounter contemporary art without barriers while also connecting with artists and one another. Temporary, experimental, and site-responsive projects offer a particularly direct form of engagement: they are shaped by their location, change over time, and may not exist in the same form again.

In *Weed is a Word*, the garden will evolve with weather, growth, and care, making the experience inseparable from the place where it takes root. Presented in dialogue with a nearby text work by Daniel Joseph Martinez, the installation encourages visitors to consider how definitions of beauty and value are constructed and contested and to ask: **What is removed? What is preserved? And who decides?**

These questions speak to the vision of Ruby City founder Linda Pace, who believed “**contemporary art is essential to a dynamic society.**” Her commitment to sharing art with others continues through Ruby City’s free exhibitions, programs, and experiences that bring people together around contemporary art and ideas.

***Weed is a Word* Community Picnic takes place Saturday, October 10, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. in the Studio Yard at Ruby City. The program is free and open to all.**

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About The Artist: Julia Barbosa Landois (b. San Antonio, USA) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Houston, Texas. Her videos, installations, performances, and works on paper have been exhibited throughout the United States, Latin America, and Europe. Her work has been supported by grants from the National Performance Network (NPN), National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC), and Houston Arts Alliance, as well as residencies at Lawndale Art Center, Santa Fe Art Institute, Lademoen Kunstnerverksteder in Norway, and Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Germany. Her works on paper are held in the permanent collections of the City of Houston and Houston Endowment, as well as private collections. Barbosa Landois has also worked as a professor, exhibitions coordinator, grant writer, and community educator.



About Ruby City Ruby City is a free contemporary art center in San Antonio founded by artist, collector, and philanthropist Linda Pace. Opened in 2019, Ruby City presents exhibitions, site-specific installations, performances, educational programs, and public experiences that connect audiences with contemporary art and one another. Admission and public programming are always free, reflecting Pace's belief in the importance of sharing art and her vision for a cultural space accessible to all. Ruby City is operated by the Linda Pace Foundation, whose mission is grounded in the belief that contemporary art is essential to a dynamic society.