

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) ABOUT THE ARTISTS' ENCLAVE AT I-PARK

[Revised 11/25/2009]

How many artists are in residence during your sessions?

There are usually six artist guests during each residency session.

What kind of living quarters are provided?

You will have a private bedroom and a shared bathroom (no more than 2 individuals sharing a bathroom) in an historic two-story house. The house has been completely renovated and is air-conditioned. Kitchen facilities are shared by all the residents.

What kind of storage space is available for my 'stuff'?

The studios are of reasonable size and your specific requirements will be discussed in advance during a pre-residency phone interview. The living quarters have a fair amount of closet and other space for clothing, but we generally suggest that you pack light.

What kind of studio facilities are provided?

Basic, private, well-lit, multi-purpose workspaces in a converted barn structure and in a series of free-standing cabins. Except for the Pond Studio (wood stove only), the studios are heated and air-conditioned and have ample natural light. We use a monthly checklist to assure that all studios have the basic amenities (copy available) at the beginning of each session. I-Park will attempt to accommodate specific equipment needs, within reason, especially if this equipment is likely to have future utility. Some customization of the workspaces may also be possible with advance discussion. We have a separate document outlining the specific music, kiln and general art equipment available on site. We also have some descriptive information on the various studios that we can provide. At this time, we also have some studio photos and specs posted on the I-Park website.

Can I request a specific studio or room in the house?

Studios and bedrooms in the house are assigned by staff based on our best judgment, taking into consideration many factors. We try to match the specific personal and working needs and habits of the artists with the particular characteristics of the various spaces we have available. We also need to be flexible in the face of changing circumstances. So, while you can ask for a specific studio or bedroom, we generally discourage such requests and, in fact, we often do not make final assignments until a day or two prior to the beginning of the session. Staff studio assignment decisions are final.

Do you charge for use of the kiln?

If your project requires heavy use of the kiln and you are producing for a commercial application, we will charge for the estimated cost of the electricity consumed. In most cases, however, there is no charge.

Are the barns and cabins in the woods?

No, except for the Pond Studio, they are actually in fairly close proximity to the residence facility. The Pond Studio is about a ten-minute walk from the house.

What is the policy on smoking?

No smoking is allowed in the house, studios or common areas. Smoking on the grounds is permitted with due consideration for your fellow non-smoking residents as well as fire safety.

What about meals?

Beginning in 2010, we will provide a basic food service for the artists at no cost. Breakfast and lunch selections will be stocked in the refrigerators and pantries from which meals can be prepared by the artists at times of their choosing. For dinner, on four nights of the week, a chef will prepare a group meal for the artists. While there will be a set time for dinner, attendance is not mandatory. We do ask that you let us know well in advance if you're not going to want dinner or if you'd like a doggy bag put aside. On the fifth night, usually a Thursday or a Friday, we'll mix it up either by ordering in take-out, doing a barbeque, having an I-Park volunteer prepare the meal or organizing a potluck meal or something similar (participatory). Usually these meals are scheduled in conjunction with a social event that evening. In some instances, guests are invited to such meals. For Saturday and Sunday dinner, there will be ingredients available for the artists to either put together group meals or they can simply prepare something for themselves individually. The pantries and refrigerators are stocked with staples and the kitchen is designed and outfitted with the appliances and such for group cooking. While the group dinners are typically something that's looked forward to, and, over the years, the culinary skills of our artists have proven to be quite impressive, the ultimate meal pattern that develops will naturally differ by group. The artists are, however, responsible for cleanup after their meals.

Can/will you cater to individual dietary needs?

While we are accustomed to providing a vegetarian option, we're not geared up for accommodating other, more particular dietary restrictions. Artists are encouraged to bring special ingredients from home and are welcome to go on routine shopping runs with staff where they can purchase their special needs. Each artist is assigned a small space in the refrigerator and some shelf space in the pantry for their 'private stash.'

What are the time frames of the residencies being offered?

We generally structure our program around four-week residencies. However, we typically program some two-week sessions, especially in our high season (June – August). For 2010, we are experimenting with offering a handful of 8-week sessions that will span two 4-week sessions. Those requesting an 8-week session, assuming they've been accepted by their program jury, may be asked to provide references and will be asked for a special project statement. This additional documentation is not required at the time of application submission, however. With the slight departure of the new 8-week sessions, I-Park's primary goal is to promote serious inquiries and projects while fostering a participatory environment and sense of community. This is best achieved when the session participants arrive together, stay together and then leave at the same time.

What are the dates for the 2010 residency sessions?

The 2010 residency program will officially run from May through November. The final residency season calendar will be posted on the website in December. The calendar will show the individual residency session dates as well as the dates for Open Studios and our annual Open House.

You are calling the potential April and December sessions 'off season.' What does that mean?

We will be fully staffed and in full swing, though we do not offer our food program in the off season. Also, there may be some relaxation of the structure and rules in order to accommodate special situations that would not otherwise be permitted during the official I-Park season (e.g., collaborative ventures, performing arts/ensemble residencies, sessions where the artists are focused on a particular theme or project, etc.). And while we will make every effort to minimize the impact on artists in residence, there may be construction or maintenance work scheduled for these times, and therefore, some noise and/or workmen on site may be unavoidable.

What about transportation to and from the facility and getting around while there?

I-Park will be happy to pickup artists from the airport or the train or bus stations that service this area (Connecticut). We do not make pickups at the New York, New Jersey or Rhode Island airports. Pickups and drop-offs are subject to 10-day advance scheduling and are based on making these runs at the beginning and end of the scheduled residency session and during normal work hours (8:00 – 5:00). Especially in the case of airport arrival pickups, coordination can be tricky. Artists are issued a specific, written set of instructions that they must follow to assure that the arrangements don't get messed up. Those who do not follow these instructions could find themselves spending the night at the airport or paying a steep taxi charge. Also, should you have occasion to leave I-Park before the official end of your residency session, you would need to make your own arrangements for transportation. There is ample on-site parking for those who wish to drive. We go grocery shopping once a week and are happy to take you along if you don't have your own vehicle. Special arrangements can be made for unusual purchasing needs with advance notice. We can help you source local transportation options (rental cars, private drivers) if you need transportation during the course of your residency. In any event, those who do not have a vehicle will need to plan for their shopping needs a bit more carefully than those who do.

How remote is I-Park from commercial amenities, entertainment, the real world?

We're a 15-20 minute drive to most types of retail shopping, and even further from decent art supply stores. Therefore, shopping trips need to be planned more carefully than would be the case in a typical suburb or city. We are, however, fairly close to a well-stocked hardware store/lumberyard. Our Orientation Notebooks are constantly being updated with information to help you locate the types of items and services you may require. You should, however, try to bring with you any odd-ball art supplies or specialty tools you might need, if at all possible.

Can I ship materials via UPS or other means in advance of my arrival?

Sure, but it's a good idea to let us know your intentions in advance so we can be on the lookout for your materials and put them in a safe spot for you. Be sure to send your package(s) to our street address in East Haddam and not the post office box. And, you are responsible for the shipment of any articles back home at the end of your residency (packaging, making your own arrangements with the shipper, including payment arrangements, etc.). Please don't leave items behind for us to send back for you.

What is the policy on international applicants?

We enthusiastically welcome international applicants. However, we are not well versed in the workings of the visa application process. While we are happy to prepare a formal letter of invitation and will provide whatever additional support information is requested, it will be your responsibility to carry the burden of the visa acquisition process through the appropriate bureaucratic channels. If you are planning to come from abroad for a residency, you should start working on such arrangements early. Artists must be reasonably fluent in English.

What's the story with the international travel grants?

In 2010, we will be offering six grants of \$750.00 each to international artists (non-U.S. citizens) who would not otherwise be able to participate in the I-Park residency program because of the prohibitive cost of air travel. Artists who would like to be considered for a grant need to indicate as such on the space provided on the application form. After the selection process is completed, those artists who requested, and are eligible for, a grant will be contacted and asked to submit a formal request for the funding as well as 2-3 personal references. The I-Park grant committee will then review these materials in light of the artists' jury scores as well as other relevant information in the applicants' application packages. The discipline-specific juries are not, however, made aware of who's requested a grant during the selection process.

Is there an age requirement?

We do not allow artists under the age of twenty-one to become residents.

Can students apply?

Yes, but we are more partial to graduate rather than to undergraduate students. And though students can become residents, and many have had very fruitful experiences at I-Park, our program is mainly targeted to emerging and mid-career artists.

What expenses will I need to cover?

The use of the facility is at no charge. However, residents will need to pay for transportation to and from the general area and any art materials required. Artists intending to make long distance phone calls should also purchase for their use a prepaid phone card.

Will I need to bring towels and sheets and what about laundry facilities?

We will provide you with towels and bedding items. We have a washer/dryer on site and you are welcome to use our laundry detergent and related supply items.

What kinds of communications are available at I-Park?

We have several phones on site with two available lines. We have two computer workstations for common/shared use, both of which have high-speed, wireless internet connections as well as the basic Microsoft suite of programs. If you have a laptop that has wireless capability, you should be able to readily utilize our wireless network, at least within and around the house and in most of the studios. Note that cell phone coverage in our area is limited and, at this time, only the Verizon network works well here. We have walkie-talkies that can be used by people walking or working out on the land and we have a loud bell that we sometimes use to call people to dinner.

What kind of computer hardware and software will be available?

We have the above-mentioned computers on site, one of which has good graphics and music capabilities. Both are PC's. We have a large format HP color printer as well as a standard format laser printer. If you need more specific information, please send your inquiry to the office. In addition to the several software programs already installed on our systems, we will consider requests for additional specialized software on a case-by-case basis. Note that the computers are available to residents for casual use only as they are shared among all members of the group. If you require heavy access to a computer for your work project(s), you should inquire of staff well in advance of your residency to determine whether or not we will be able to accommodate you. It is assumed that computer users are reasonably well versed in their applications and that residents should not look to staff for hardware/software support or training. Residents must abide by the computer rules posted at the workstations.

Does I-Park grant residencies to those involved with computer-generated and new media art?

Enthusiastically yes, however you may need to bring along your own specialized equipment. But don't be afraid to ask if you have need for something specific in this field.

What about photography and video art?

We have regularly hosted artists working in these areas. However, we do not have specialized equipment or studio spaces specifically outfitted for these art forms at this time.

What is the policy on spouses or partners?

Our program is focused on the individual and his or her personal creative pursuits. Spouses and partners are not allowed as part of the general residency program.

In the application, you ask for date of birth? Is that really necessary or relevant?

Date of birth information is not seen by the selection committee and is simply for statistical purposes, to know the types of artists we're appealing to, and perhaps, not attracting, for whatever reason. Know that, if accepted, we'll also ask you for your height (weird, you think?). You can leave these items blank if you feel strongly about it, but please don't complain if you can't reach your cupboard space in the kitchen or if your legs extend out a foot beyond the end of your bed.

Can two or more individuals apply to work on a collaborative project?

Generally the answer is no. However, if you are both accepted into the programs as individuals, you may make a special request for joint scheduling during an 'off-season' session.

Can I invite a guest?

We can accommodate guests on an occasional, case-by-case basis, but frankly, we discourage it, especially during the work week. We usually have a full house and a guest has the potential to upset the social balance of the place, particularly if the nature of the guest relationship is purely social. The best time to have a guest visit would be for Open Studios. Permission needs to be requested before the guest is invited and such approval will be issued in writing and posted on our bulletin board so that all residents are aware in advance. In any event, guests are never allowed to stay overnight. Artists are responsible for the proper behavior of their guests. Unauthorized individuals appearing on the grounds without prior permission will be asked to leave.

If I happen to live close by, is it a problem if I return home occasionally?

We view the grant of time and space at I-Park as somewhat precious. Those who live close-by may, quite naturally, be tempted to go home on occasion, or even on some kind of routine schedule, to attend to...whatever. This makes for a less than fully engaged residency experience and it has an impact on the others in the group. We frown on this and, except in extraordinary circumstances, will not offer residencies to those unable to fully utilize the program as intended.

Do you have any advice for an artist who has never participated in a residency program before?

In our invitations and announcements, we refer to 'self-directed' residencies at I-Park. You need to be prepared to set your own goals and organize your own daily routine accordingly to achieve these goals. The Artists' Enclave imposes very little structure – you're pretty much on your own in terms of making effective use of your time. Not everyone has the discipline or motivation to deal with this freedom successfully. The other aspect of life at I-Park that has been problematic for a few of our residents has been the issue of solitude and quiet. We stress to all concerned the importance of respecting the privacy of our resident artists. This tends to foster an emphasis on work over social interaction, at least during the workday. Furthermore, the general area itself is extremely quiet and, on moonless nights, very, very...dark. Although solitude and the ability to control one's own time are highly valued by most of those who express an interest in I-Park, this is not for everyone. Some individuals need a more broadly and predictably supportive social structure, external sources of direction and even, in some cases, a bit of commotion. You should not look to the Artists' Enclave to provide these for you.

Are you open to the public? Can I come up and check the place out?

We are not open to the public. Even our annual Open House and other social events are on an invitation-only basis. I-Park strives to maintain a quiet retreat-like environment for its artist guests and works to minimize any distractions or disruptions. Although we are happy to show people around, we generally limit this to accepted applicants and invited guests. Please make prior arrangements with staff if you'd like to visit the facility. We'll be happy to show you around.

Does I-Park commission works of art or have any presentation/gallery facilities or opportunities?
Not at this time.

Is it possible to create and/or site installations on the land?

Yes, subject to the approval of the Executive Director. In most such cases, a written proposal and sketch will be required in advance. The artist is responsible for removing the installation at the end of his or her residency or at the end of the season. In certain exceptional cases, installations may remain up for a longer time frame. Certainly, those working in the field of environmental art are encouraged to engage the I-Park landscape and will find here a rich natural canvas for their creations.

Is it alright to use materials found at I-Park in my work product?

Although you must ask permission before doing so, yes, there are a variety of natural and man-made materials and objects, including junk, on the site that you are welcome to utilize.

Do you expect to repeat the focused environmental art program anytime soon?

Yes, we will repeat the environmental art residency program and host the next Environmental Art Biennale in 2011.

Any special projects or themes planned for 2010?

We are planning a symposium on the Thanatopolis memorial park concept for some time in 2010. We hope to break ground on a new, large music studio. We are also planning to refurbish the old red barn on the property to make way for some large visual arts studios.

Can I bring my pet?

No live pets are allowed.

What is the weather like at I-Park? What kind of clothing should I pack?

New England is known for the unpredictability of its weather. The mean temperatures for this area as well as the average lows and highs are as follows (as measured in degrees Fahrenheit):

Apr.	46 (34 – 58)	July	71 (58 – 82)	Oct.	50 (36 – 64)
May	57 (44 – 68)	Aug.	68 (56 – 81)	Nov.	41 (30 – 51)
June	65 (52 – 77)	Sept.	61 (48 – 74)		

Are there any insect problems that I should be aware of?

Ours is an area, like much of the Northeast, where ticks are prevalent. You are advised to educate yourself on the precautions you can and should take to minimize the risk of contracting Lyme disease. We also tend to get a wave of Asian ladybugs in the spring and early fall. Other than that, the insects are pretty civilized and unobtrusive, though, to city dwellers, their evening cacophonies can take some getting used to.

Are there wild animals in the area that I might want to know about?

You will regularly come upon deer and wild turkeys. Of course, we have the typical frogs, squirrels, raccoons, possums, (lots of) rabbits, snakes, turtles, skunks, woodchucks, beavers and otters. The variety of birds inhabiting the property is quite impressive. In transit, wild geese annually stop over for several months to birth and raise their young. We know there are foxes in the area but doubt you would ever come into contact with one. We have reason to believe that fisher cats are making inroads in our area. On occasion, hunting is permitted on certain remote sections of the property. Residents will be advised in advance when this is going to occur.

Are there any recreational facilities? Is there a place to work out or go hiking or bicycling?

We have extensive walking trails on the property and we are adjacent to a well-maintained state park with miles of marked trails so walking is our main outlet for exercise. We have some free weights and yoga mats available. There are no recreational facilities as such on site, though we have some ponds that you're welcome to fish in – and we've been getting good reports from our artist anglers. There are some local areas that are conducive to biking but they are at some distance from I-Park. We're about 40 minutes from the ocean (Long Island Sound) where there are public beaches.

Are there any social or cultural events planned?

It has become a tradition at I-Park for resident artists to host Open Studios, including musical performances and readings, toward the end of the residency session. I-Park itself attempts to organize one group meal per week, with a semi-formal bon voyage dinner planned for the end of the session. We have at times experimented with film showings and virtual concerts as well as topical discussions presented by I-Park associates and guests. We are also open to consideration of project-sponsored field trips if there is group interest. The key is to strike a sensible balance between the work schedules of resident artists and their desire for social interaction and exposure to cultural happenings. We typically discuss this issue at our orientation meeting and attempt to come up with a modest calendar of events that conforms to the interests and priorities of that particular group. We try to make available a good listing of cultural events and venues in our area so that those interested can avail themselves, either individually or in groups. Attendance at all social functions is entirely voluntary.

Are there any other diversions available?

There is a television with digital cable. We have digital radio, a VCR and DVD player and a stereo system. We have a stock of movies (decent) and CD's (pitiful, plan to bring your own) available to play. We have created a Common Area in the main barn that is intended as a gathering place for coffee, conversation, relaxation. We are in the early stages of building a library of art and nature books. Of course, we have some board games, cards and such.

Where in Connecticut are you located?

We're in the eastern part of the state, about 30 minutes from the train station in Old Saybrook, which in turn is about two and a half hours from either New York City or Boston. While the town of East Haddam is on the Connecticut River, we are in the eastern part of town, about a 10-minute drive from the river.

Can I have a vehicle while at I-Park?

No problem. Please park in your assigned space. Trucks, vans and trailers park out back.

What other transportation options are available?

The closest airport is Bradley International, sometimes called Hartford/Springfield, which is about a one-hour drive from East Haddam. The T. F. Green airport in Warwick, Rhode Island is another option. Coming from New York City, artists taking the train will either arrive in Old Saybrook (preferred) or New Haven. There are bus stations in Middletown, Hartford and Old Saybrook, each of which is about 30 minutes from here. Although we do not do out of state pickups, we can help with suggestions for getting from the major international airports to East Haddam (detailed directions available on our website), though there are some direct international flights into Bradley. Of course, rental cars, taxi and limousine services are available in the area.

What kind of selection process do you have?

We utilize a five-person committee comprised of artists and experienced professionals from the arts community to judge the visual arts, with smaller committee groupings to evaluate works submitted in the following areas: creative writing, music composition, moving image, architecture and landscape architecture/garden design. Our selection committee members, criteria and methodology are not publicly divulged. However, we pride ourselves on having established a process that is fair, thorough and thoughtful and that assures open-minded consideration to all those who submit a properly completed application. As might be expected, selection committee members tend to reflect the project's values: we do look for evidence of seriousness and we like to be presented with a reasonably coherent project proposal (sparing use of graduate school art-speak is refreshing) or, alternatively, a concept for an interesting investigation or experiment. And while we certainly look at educational achievements and other professional credentials, we are not in any way dismissive of self-taught artists.

In terms of my chances of acceptance into the program, is there a level playing field?

You should be aware that we allocate up to 15% of the available residency space to invited artists, artists whose work is admired by members of the selection committee or exceptional artists who are brought to the attention of committee members. We're very open to recommendations and appreciate referrals. An additional 15% of the space is typically set aside for returning artists. That leaves at least 70% of the space open for those responding to our open call. This is intended to keep the selection/admission process open and fair.

Are I-Park fellows allowed to return in subsequent sessions or years?

Within our guidelines, yes. Because of heavy demand for return residencies, however, artists will need to submit a new application and fee along with a new project proposal – and be approved by their discipline-specific jury. Artists are eligible to return the year following their initial residency but must take a break of 3 years before they again become eligible. At times, former residents can return sooner if recommended and approved for participation under the Invitation Program, so long as this doesn't break our 15% rule. Another instance where sometimes an earlier return is allowed is where the artist's previous residency was for only 2-weeks.

Is the selection process different for artists requesting a return residency?

Somewhat. Artists requesting a return residency are scored alongside new applicants and so their work product needs to remain competitive. Former residents who are chosen by the selection committee are then subject to a secondary review by staff. This review will take into account our experience during the previous residency (seriousness, cooperativeness, level of participation and such). Those former residents with the highest scores, and taking into account the staff review, and subject to the 15% limit indicated above, will be invited to return.

In my application materials, is it best to show the full range of my creative skills or would I have a better chance showing depth and commitment to a particular (singular) direction in my art?

In our experience, those application packages evidencing a depth of development in a particular direction tend to be better received by our jurors, although there have been some notable exceptions. Of course, you should always submit your best work, especially as it relates to your proposed residency project or field of investigation. Typically, 'uneven' submission packages (in terms of work quality) give rise to hesitation or confusion during the selection process. In any event, do not submit more work samples than are necessary to fairly represent your capabilities and do not exceed the submission limits outlined in the application form

What if I was on the waiting list from last year or was accepted for a residency last year but was unable to attend? Do I need to re-apply?

Due to the increasing number of applications for I-Park residencies, we can no longer carry-forward artists from the previous year's waiting list. So, you will need to re-apply. However, we are happy to waive the application fee in such cases. Because of our third-party online application system, however, you will have to contact the I-Park office first so that we can initiate the fee waiver.

Is there a written agreement associated with the residency?

Yes, there is short agreement that defines the obligations of the parties and limits the legal exposure of I-Park and related parties. As part of this agreement, residents agree to abide by the project's rules and procedures as set forth in the I-Park Handbook. The completed agreement must be received prior to arrival at the facility.

What kind of staff support is there?

I-Park employs a full time residency program coordinator and a full time facilities manager. The founder is presently serving as Executive Director. In addition to maintenance staff, there are several others affiliated with the project who are working on a part-time, consulting or volunteer basis in various support roles. The program coordinator generally sets aside 'office hours' during the weekday, scheduled time to attend to artists' routine and special requests and inquiries.

What happens after the selection panels meet?

After you are recommended by the selection committee for a residency, you will receive a letter inviting you into the program. Your final acceptance, however, is subject to your agreeing to the terms of the residency, as spelled out in the residency agreement, and your participation in a short telephone conversation at some point prior to the residency. Artists need to cooperate in the timely scheduling of this conversation. The chat takes about 20-minutes and is primarily intended to give you the opportunity to address any of your lingering questions and concerns, confirm that your project is doable within the constraints of the facility and finalize your travel arrangements. We'll also gather some basic information so we can make an informed and intelligent studio assignment and we'll want to establish that basic social, including language, skills are in evidence such that we are comfortable that you can communicate and function in the intimate social setting that exists at I-Park.

Do you require letters of reference? Do you do searches or investigations for information beyond what is called for in the application form?

No on both counts. However, in the case of potential grant recipients, when we are considering requests for 8-week residencies and/or when there are instances where we become aware of information that causes us concern, we reserve the right to request references and otherwise take steps to satisfy ourselves that the artist is well-suited for the residency experience at I-Park. As a top priority of the organization, we need to take into account the well-being of the participants in our sessions. Certainly, the final decision to offer a residency is at the sole discretion of the I-Park Foundation and an invitation can be withdrawn at any point prior to or after the artist's arrival at the facility.

Can I expect a letter of reference after my residency at I-Park?

The general answer is no. We are not presently staffed to handle this. However, subject to your approval, we can make ourselves available to provide a telephone reference. If someone really needs a reference, that's the best kind anyway.

How about a letter acknowledging participation in your program?

Assuming it's the case, we can issue a basic statement that your residency was completed satisfactorily and with all obligations fulfilled.

Are there any specific acts or attitudes that would generate an automatic termination of the residency?

The Artists' Enclave does not permit alcohol or drug abuse, the sale or trafficking in illegal substances, habitual non-participation, the possession of unauthorized or lethal weapons, prolonged absences without prior discussion, the allowing of unauthorized persons onto the grounds and the breaking of any federal, state or municipal laws or regulations. In particular, we have a zero tolerance policy with respect to causing risk of injury to others, environmental contamination, sexual harassment and stealing.

Will there be any specific accountability for my work product?

You are free to work on what you choose. And, it is not unusual for artists to change their initial project proposal once they get into their residency.

Are there non-monetary ways of contributing to the I-Park project?

In fact, yes. We have a small written piece spelling out some of our needs and there is now a list of volunteer projects posted in the Opportunities section of the website. All of these items and services go directly to support resident artists and some indirectly do so by enriching the I-Park environment.

Are there any work programs offered?

We have recently established a modest volunteer program (see separate write-up). However, we do not have any formal, paid work programs at this time. If you are interested in being involved with the I-Park project, check the Opportunities section of the website for any available openings.

Is there a story behind the name 'I-Park'? What does it mean?

If you are accepted into the program and come to stay with us, we will tell you the story – possibly.

Is I-Park actually a park?

In its present form, it is a fairly wild and natural (and quite beautiful) piece of property that has a park-like feel to it, more so the case in recent years.

Is there any information available on I-Park other than what's on the website?

If you call or e-mail a request, we can mail you a copy of our I-Park and residency programs brochures.

Is your facility handicap accessible?

No, not in the true legal sense. However, we will consider making reasonable facility accommodations for handicapped artists when necessary and when asked to do so. We have successfully hosted physically handicapped artists in the past and will be happy to do so in the future. Please do speak up if you have a special need in this regard.

When do you expect to complete your selection process?

For our standard multi-disciplinary program, we hope to complete the selection process and communicate our decision to all applicants by late February, though delays beyond February are possible. We will have later results for our Architecture, Landscape/Garden design and Expressiones programs.

What if I am scheduled for a residency and have to cancel?

You should not accept an I-Park residency if your attendance is at all in question. You should have confidence that your personal, financial, professional and visa-related (if applicable) affairs are reasonably under control so that you will be in a position to attend. If an unexpected emergency or other circumstance arises that makes attendance impossible, however, please let us know immediately so that we may attempt to schedule someone from our waiting list. Be aware that any notification of cancellation less than 60 days prior to your scheduled arrival date creates a severe hardship for the program.

Do you have a specific policy with respect to diversity in your program?

Although we appreciate the value of designating 'diversity' as a goal to strive for in an artists' residency program, we do not use this factor as a basis for acceptance into our program. We have summarized our selection philosophy at the end of this FAQ.

Are any grants, stipends or travel allowances available?

Other than the previous mentioned travel grant for international artists (see above), no.

Do the resident artists have any obligations other than the expenses mentioned above?

We ask that artists evidence their stay, leave their mark so to speak, by creating one or two pages of original work on paper for the I-Park scrapbook. This could consist of sketches, photos, a narrative, musical notations – something that comes directly from the I-Park experience – nothing too heavy (and we're not fishing for testimonials). We treasure the many gifts of art works given over the years. While we hope you might be moved to contribute in this way, it is not an obligation. Furthermore, we request that residents be generous with their insights and suggestions for making the program and facility better. To that end, we ask that they put serious thought into their responses to the end-of-session questionnaire that is to be filled out and submitted prior to departure. We'd also appreciate copies of photos, especially people photos, taken while in residence, if at all possible.

What do you do with the works contributed to your archives?

At this time, many pieces are on display in the common areas of the facility and others become part of the archives collection in the library. We have in the past sponsored gallery exhibitions in the surrounding area for certain contributing artists and plan to do so in the future. We are studying a proposal to present an I-Park retrospective exhibition in New York City at some point during 2011, the tenth anniversary of the I-Park residency program. We do not at this time intend to sell any of the pieces nor is this likely in the future.

I-Park selections are based on the strength of the artist's existing body of work, the perceived importance of the creative project(s) and inquiries being proposed by the artist for his/her residency and an evaluation of the likelihood of the artist achieving success and satisfaction in the environment we have created at I-Park. We welcome candidates from varying backgrounds, with varying belief systems and of differing age groups.