

PARTICIPATION, SUPPORT

I-Park is a growing, evolving cultural and physical space – and you can help hasten the speed and enhance the quality of this process through your participation and support. If you would like to be involved with the I-Park project, there are a number of ways to do so, including volunteer/intern opportunities and financial and in-kind contributions.

Below are some immediate projects and needs:

- **Librarian:** maintaining the organization of the I-Park book, video and music library, including some aspects of the archives. Includes acknowledging and processing gifts and other new additions. Estimate: 2-4 hours per month.
- **Photo/video documentarian:** taking photos and/or video at Open Studios, Open House and at various social functions.
- **Re-organizing/maintaining the Information & Events area:** this is a resource to the artists: local information (markets, art supplies, restaurants, directions, etc.), upcoming cultural events, artists' resources (other residency programs, funding sources, etc.). Estimate: 2-4 hours per month. This function could be moved online and, therefore, maintained remotely.
- **Hosting the welcome dinner for arriving artists:** this could be a shared project with other volunteers (splitting up the duties, backing each other up, etc.). This usually takes place on a Wednesday evening once a month.
- **Sunday in the park:** lead an informative nature/site walk for guests and visitors on 3 or 4 designated occasions during the year.

Creative Projects:

- **Luminarias:** we would like to come up with some innovative ideas for floating and land-based luminarias to enhance our evening events and possibly as an element in the Thanatopolis project.
- We would like to create a **funky, new outdoor shower** for the artists. Although we have some ideas along these lines, we're open to new suggestions.

Hot List of I-Park Needs:

- an **old piano** (or two) to replace the one that gave up the ghost in our Piano Field (there is no need for the piano to be functional)
- **down comforters** (new or in good condition)
- a **12-16' boat** for the pond, Chinese junk or something similar to carry 4-8 people (could be something homemade/funky)
- **pickup and/or dump truck**, mainly for use on the property but occasionally used on the road to transport material
- **rough terrain vehicle** to move people, materials and equipment around on the property (looking for something with a large, though light, load capacity)

VOLUNTEER/INTERN OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering your time to a non-profit organization with a worthwhile mission can be educational, inspiring and fulfilling. At I-Park, you can lend your support directly to the artists in residence, you can help to enhance the I-Park physical space or you can assist the organization in more general ways.

Artists' Support

Below are some typical ways that volunteers can assist our artists and enrich their residency experience.

- **Host a meal:** whether it's our traditional welcome meal, one of our weekly dinner gatherings, preparing desert for an 'artists' exchange' evening or providing an Open Studios refreshments break. Note that hosting doesn't necessarily mean contributing the food, though it might include shopping, preparation, organizing/coordinating.
- **Transportation:** upon arrival in the area, many artists need to be picked up at the train/bus station or airport and then dropped off again at the end of their residency. Some will need to go out for food shopping, art supplies and such on a more frequent basis during their residency. Evening trips to the market are often appreciated because many artists would rather not break up their day for such. Especially at the beginning and end of each session, our need for assistance in this area increases.
- **Organize a field trip:** we like to offer the opportunity of a field trip for our artists at some point in their residency session, and this has become even more of an interest as our program has become more international in character. Share your knowledge of the region and its cultural, historical and natural attractions while spending some quality time with a diverse group of artists.
- **Direct assistance to artists:** many times, especially in the field of environmental art and with large scale installations, artists will request physical assistance with their pieces. While I-Park routinely provides support in this area, there are times when an artist requires a more sustained, or specialized, level of support.
- **Offer short-term lodging to artists:** there are times when we have special programs at I-Park that tax our facility in terms of bed and board. If you have a spare room or cottage, might you be able to house one of our artists for a few nights when the need arises?

Enhancing the I-Park Landscape

The grounds are an integral aspect of the I-Park project. We could use routine help throughout the year and also assistance prior to and during special occasions.

- **Spring clean-up:** all hands on deck for garden, trails, ponds, waterways and roadside cleanup and maintenance. Some weeding, planting, raking, wood-chipping, chainsaw work and such are entailed. This is usually scheduled for a Saturday (4-6 hours) in April, with the possibility of a second cleanup before Open House.
- **General trail maintenance:** an ongoing, endless project. Hone your 'happy stick' and debris-pile-maintenance skills while enjoying some quiet/zen time. You might even consider adopting a trail (we have about a dozen).

Creative Projects

You can also be part of the creative process at I-Park.

- **Create or adopt a garden at I-Park:** we're always looking to improve the quality of our gardens and add new ones. Put your garden design and maintenance skills to good use within the context of this special natural environment.
- **Illuminations:** we are looking for new ways to enhance our Illuminations presentations. If you have an interest in, or would like to experiment with, creative outdoor lighting concepts, fire/smoke art or environmental illusion, please let us know.

Open House

There are any number of areas in which you can assist with the organization and execution of this major public event. I-Park's volunteers and contributors have become an important force in making this event bigger and better over the years. Check the calendar for this year's event(s) and let us know about your interests and areas of expertise.

Nitty-Gritty

These are some year-round routine needs that you can help with.

- There are always more research projects than we can get around to at most any point in time, though our need for such gets quite a bit more intense in the build-up to Open House. Internet, library, field and telephone research can be done remotely and can be a big help to I-Park.
- Seasonal decorations.
- Large mailing projects.
- Distributing posters and web listings at appropriate locations prior to major I-Park events and as part of our annual promotion of the artists in residence program.

MORAL SUPPORT

These are some low-impact, armchair ways you can support the I-Park project.

- Refer talented artists whom you know or become aware of to the residency program, especially those who you feel would be a good fit, or are working in areas that are particularly appropriate for I-Park.
- Send along leads (links, articles, contacts) in areas of special interest to I-Park: funding resources that we should consider availing ourselves of, new trends in the field, like-spirited programs or individuals, new places for us to promote the program.
- Show your support to our artists and contributors by attending our annual Open House, monthly Open Studios sessions and other special events.
- Make suggestions for smarter/better ways of doing things, for new ideas we should consider, collaboration opportunities, field trip ideas.
- In general, spread the good word.

CONTACT

If you'd like to assist in any of the above, please contact the office at (860) 873-2468 or e-mail us at ipark@ureach.com) and let us know of any special skills or preferences you might have as well as your general availability: weekdays, weekends, nights, the day of Open House, etc. Please also provide your contact info (phone, e-mail) and the best time to reach you.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS/I-PARK WISH LIST

Although our list changes over time, below is a list of items we routinely need at I-Park:

- **Local produce:** if you've got an over-abundance of tomatoes, eggplant, zucchini, corn, cucumbers – you get the point – from your garden or field, think of dropping some off at I-Park. The artists will really appreciate it.
- **Wine, beer:** contributions of wine and beer are always welcome. They'll get put out for artists' dinners or at special events at I-Park.
- **Books:** on art, music, architecture, nature, garden design, landscape architecture, the creative process, artists' resources, local history, geology and archaeology, death and memorialization, individualism and solitude. Also fiction, poetry and non-fiction.
- **Periodicals:** we subscribe to about twenty different magazines, but there are many more arts-related ones that would be of interest to our residents.
- **DVD's, Videos:** especially on arts-related topics, but our residents are also into documentaries, classic film, animation, science/technology as well as drama and comedy.
- **CD's:** all kinds of music, but especially the more serious varieties: classical, jazz, opera, contemporary composition.
- **Art materials and tools:** clay, canvases, large format papers, framing materials, specialized tools.
- **Hardware:** canvas stretchers, drawing boards, painting and clay easels.
- **Bedding, linen** (new or in good condition): sheets, blankets, comforters, pillows, towels, cots
- **Furniture and fixtures:** tables (including drafting tables), task chairs, bookcases, cabinets, task lighting, reading lamps.
- **Garden tools, equipment:** including shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, wagons, dollies.
- **Land products:** corn stalks, manure, hay bales, firewood (with 3 wood stoves and 4 chimeneas, we've actually been running short lately).
- **Ladders:** of all types, we never have enough ladders.
- **Plants:** for our vegetable, spice and flower gardens, but also trees and bushes. I-Park has a fondness for willow, bamboo, cedar, ornamental grasses, pussy willows and vines of various varieties.
- **Wood:** large sections of wood (including planks, timbers and large diameter tree trunks, even rotted ones), weathered barn wood, cedar posts (even old, rotted ones) – for sculpture, installation and construction projects.
- **Miscellaneous:** flashlights, lanterns, umbrellas, large mirrors, old towels/rags.

Please check the [Hot List](#) for specific items we're in need of at this time. Also, please call the office first before making drop-offs. There may be times when, for various reasons, we are unable to accept certain items.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OPTIONS

The I-Park Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit corporation under 501(c)-3 of the Internal Revenue Code. The contribution options below are either fully or partially deductible for tax purposes. We will issue an acknowledgment of receipt for your records. Or, feel free to contact the office.

Friends of I-Park

For \$50 per year (\$75 per couple), based on a calendar year, you will:

- Be invited to all I-Park public events
- Be notified of all significant program updates
- Receive periodic I-Park newsletters

Lovers of I-Park (I♥I-Park!)

For \$100 per year (\$150 per couple), based on a calendar year, you can become a Friend of I-Park.

This entitles you to the following:

- Friends of I-Park card
- Friends of I-Park Newsletter
- Invitation to the I-Park Holiday Dinner (for 2 if you contributed as a couple)

I-Park Supporter

For \$500 per year (\$750 per couple), based on a calendar year, you are entitled to:

- All of the above (Lovers of I-Park)
- Free admission to all I-Park ticketed events (2 tickets if you are a couples supporter)
- Receipt of all catalogs, photo albums and/or videos produced by I-Park that year
- Recognition in I-Park publications and on the website

I-Park Patron

For \$2,000 per year (\$3,000 per couple), based on a calendar year, you are entitled to:

- All of the above (I-Park Supporter)
- 2 additional guest tickets to I-Park ticketed events
- Semi-private use of the I-Park facilities during 2 specially designated Sundays during the year (Patrons' Days)

Parker

For \$5,000 per year (\$7,500 per couple), based on a calendar year, you are entitled to:

- All of the above (I-Park Patron)
- Invitation to a 2-week residency at I-Park during the off-season (room, studio)

Residency Sponsorships (only 5 will be made available each year)

For \$5,000, you can sponsor an artist for a one-month residency at I-Park. The sponsorship can be announced prior to the application deadline and be used to encourage applicants working in a specific field or from a certain country or region (or possibly some other demographic group) – so long as there are at least 10 applicants that meet the sponsor's criteria, that the artist otherwise meets the requirements of the I-Park residency program and that he or she has been accepted by the relevant selection panel. Alternatively, the sponsor can choose from among the selected artists for that season after the jury process is complete. In addition to the full program support provided by I-Park, the recipient will receive a \$1,000 stipend and the sponsor will be given appropriate acknowledgment for his or her contribution.

Other Sponsorship Options

If you would like to sponsor other activities or events at I-Park, please contact the office. As examples, some of which would entail quite modest funding, you could sponsor:

- the refreshments break for an Open Studios gathering
- the Open House dinner meal
- a public speaker for an I-Park event
- a music performance at an I-Park event
- a symposium or special art or environmental project, or some part thereof, such as our Environmental Art Biennale, the Contemporary Composers Institute or the Gravel Pit Preserve project
- a new artist's studio or new building project at I-Park

General Information

You are, of course, welcome to make monetary contributions at any time and in any amount outside of the above parameters. Except as indicated above, however, and unless there is prior discussion and a written agreement, all contributions will be considered unrestricted.

If you own or manage a commercial organization providing services typically utilized by I-Park, any discounts or other accommodations you can extend would be most appreciated and will be acknowledged. If you are able, or know of other establishments that might be willing, to also offer a discount for services to those with a Friends of I-Park card (above), that would also be most welcome.

We will be thankful for your contribution of time and/or financially in whatever manner is appropriate for you. Thanks for helping to advance, and perhaps leave your mark on, this worthwhile project.