

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) About the Artists-in-Residence Program at I-Park

[12/17/12]

## Overview

What is the essence of I-Park: does it have a particular mission, direction, focus?

The artists-in-residence program offers a quiet, retreat-like setting conducive to exploration and experimentation. Artists are free to conceive and execute new ideas or work on existing projects. I-Park has, over the years, developed a particular interest in engaging its natural and built environment with site-responsive, ephemeral investigations and works. As an artist-in-residence, you will have the opportunity to tap into this vein. But you will feel no obligation whatsoever to do so – and your interest, or lack thereof, in this field is not a factor that is taken into account during the selection process.

Is I-Park actually a park?

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

## Residency Program Basics

How many artists are in residence during your sessions?

There are usually six artists participating in each residency session.

What are the time frames of the residencies being offered?

We structure our program around four-week residencies. However, we do have one 3-week session in 2013 (May). I-Park's primary goal is to promote serious inquiries and projects while fostering a safe, comfortable and intimate sense of community. This is best achieved when the session participants arrive together, stay together as a group and then leave at the same time.

What are the dates for the 2013 residency season?

The 2013 residency program officially runs from May through November. Refer to the 2013 program calendar posted on the website for specific session dates. The calendar also highlights application deadlines, the dates for our Open Studios events – and our annual Open House. Note that the 3-week session indicated for September is reserved for the artists participating in the 2013 Environmental Art Biennale.

## Application Process, Eligibility

What kind of application process is involved?

I-Park uses the SlideRoom third party online submission system. All forms and work samples are submitted online. Each major discipline has its own application form. Within the SlideRoom terminology, each discipline is considered a separate 'program.' In fact, each 3- or 4-week residency session, by design, consists of a mix of artists from the various disciplines. To that extent, the word 'program' within the SlideRoom system is a bit misleading.

Am I permitted to apply to more than one program, can I be evaluated as an artist in more than one discipline?

You are permitted to apply to a maximum of 2 programs in any calendar year. However, in the event you were to be accepted in both disciplines, you would only be allowed one residency, though you would decide which invitation to accept. You would have to submit 2 separate applications from start to finish (the system doesn't allow for any shortcuts) and there would be 2 application fees.

Do you require letters of reference?

While we reserve the right to do so, as a general rule, the answer is no. Letters of reference may however be requested of artists who apply for one of the limited number of travel grants we offer.

Is there an age requirement?

We do not allow artists under the age of twenty-one to participate. There is no upper age limit.

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 of us, it will be your responsibility to carry the burden of the visa acquisition process through the appropriate 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.

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

During the official residency season, we are not in a position to accommodate such arrangements. However, we have begun to experiment with such 'workshop' sessions in the off-season. At this point, the earliest possible space availability would be during the winter of 2014. If a formal inter-disciplinary/collaborative program evolves from these experiments, it will be announced on the website at some point during 2013.

What is the policy on spouses or partners?

Spouses and partners cannot be accommodated at this time.

Are I-Park fellows (former residents) allowed to participate in subsequent residencies?

Fellows seeking a follow-up residency will need to submit a new application and fee and be approved by their discipline-specific jury. Those wishing to participate in a third residency, however, must then take a break of 3 seasons before being eligible again. In some instances, fellows can return sooner if recommended and approved for participation under the Invitation Program (see below). By internal guidelines, no more than 15% of the participating artists in any season can be fellows.

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 or automatically accommodate artists who declined a prior invitation. So, you will need to re-apply. However, we can waive the application fee in such cases. Due to our use of the SlideRoom system, you will need to contact the I-Park office prior to submitting your application so that we can initiate the fee waiver. Note that the fee waiver would only apply if you received an invitation or waiting list letter in 2012.

Can students apply?

Yes, students may apply and some have been accepted, but the I-Park residency program is mainly targeted to emerging and mid-career artists.

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

Date of birth information is gathered for statistical purposes, to help us determine what types of artists we're appealing to, and perhaps, those we're not attracting. If you feel strongly about leaving this field blank, you may do so. However, we would in fact appreciate this information.

## **Selection Process**

What is the general philosophy behind I-Park's selection process?

I-Park selections are based on the strength and trajectory of the artist's existing body of work, the panel's interest in the creative project(s) and inquiries being proposed and, to the extent possible, an evaluation of the likelihood of the artist achieving satisfaction within the setting that's been created at I-Park. I-Park also welcomes geographic and demographic diversity.

What are the mechanics of your selection process?

We utilize discipline-specific panels comprised of artists and experienced professionals from the arts community to adjudicate the major creative disciplines we support: the Visual Arts, Creative Writing, Music Composition/Sound Sculpture, Architecture, Landscape/Garden Design and Moving Image. Although the details of our selection process (identity of committee members, selection methodologies) are not publicly divulged, we pride ourselves on having established a process that is fair, thorough and thoughtful and that assures open-minded consideration to all who have submitted a timely and properly completed application. New panels are assembled each season to keep I-Park's perspective fresh, though some exceptional jurors are invited to serve on subsequent panels.

How important is the resume/CV?

The resume/CV is not required reading for the first round of the selection process. The panelists are essentially just looking at/listening to the work at this point. They will, however, often review educational achievements and other professional credentials and recognition in the second round. That said, I-Park is not at all dismissive of self-taught artists or those working outside the academic, commercial or cultural mainstream.

Any other important factors?

A reasonably coherent project proposal or, alternatively, an interesting concept for an investigation or experiment is usually well received. Also, a submission package that evidences commitment and depth of development and direction within one's practice will tend to be viewed more favorably than a broad survey or sampling of capabilities. Panelists also tend to appreciate brevity and restraint in applicants' responses to the questions posed in the application form.

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 (Invitation Program), artists whose work is independently admired by members of the Creative Committee or exceptional artists who are brought to the attention of selection panelists. We're very open to recommendations and appreciate referrals. And, as indicated above, up to 15% of the space may be awarded to returning artists, but only if they pass muster with their current season selection panel. These guidelines are intended inhibit favoritism and to keep the selection/admission process welcoming and fair.

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

Fellows requesting a return residency are scored alongside and on the same basis as new applicants – so their work product needs to remain competitive. Those recommended by their respective selection panels for a residency are then subject to a secondary review by staff. This review takes into account I-Park's experience during the previous residency. Subject to the 15% limit indicated above, those fellows who rank among the highest scores and who garner a satisfactory staff review will be invited to return.

What happens after the selection panels meet?

I-Park communicates with all applicants as soon as practical after the various selection panels have reported their results. If you are recommended by your respective panel 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. Invited artists need to cooperate in the timely scheduling of this conversation. This informal chat takes about 20-minutes and is primarily intended to give you the opportunity to address any of your questions and concerns, confirm that your project is feasible within the constraints of the facility and to finalize your travel arrangements. We'll also gather some basic information from you so we can make an informed and intelligent studio assignment. Finally, 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 within the intimate social setting that exists at I-Park.

When do you expect to complete your selection process?

Please check the website in March for updates on the status of the selection process.

## **Costs, Obligations**

What expenses will I need to cover?

The use of the facility and routine staff support are at no cost to the artists. However, residents will need to pay for transportation to and from the general area and any art materials required.

Will there be any specific accountability for my work product?

As indicated above, you are free to work on what you choose. And, it is not at all unusual for artists to change their initial project proposal once they get into the groove of their residency.

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 session scrapbook. This could consist of a sketch or some doodles, a few photos, a narrative, musical notations – something that comes directly from the I-Park experience. These entries are typically light and loose in nature. While I-Park has been the beneficiary of many works of art over the years, and we'd be flattered if you are moved to contribute in this way, this is not by any means an obligation. We do, however, request that artists be generous with their insights and suggestions for making the program and facility better. To that end, we ask that they put some serious thought into their responses on the end-of-session questionnaire that is to be filled out and submitted prior to departure. We'd also appreciate for our archives copies of your photos, especially people photos, that were taken while in residence.

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 the I-Park Foundation, Inc. and related parties. As part of this agreement, residents agree to abide by the program's rules and procedures as set forth in the I-Park Handbook. The completed, signed agreement must be received prior to arrival at the facility.

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.

## **Grants, Funding**

What's the story with the international travel grants?

In 2013, I-Park will be awarding four grants of up to \$750.00 to international artists (non-U.S. citizens with primary residences outside of North America) who would not otherwise be able to participate in the 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 in the section provided on the application form. After the selection process is completed, those artists who have requested, and are clearly eligible for, a grant may be contacted and asked to submit a formal request for this funding as well as 2-3 professional references. The I-Park Grant Committee will review these materials in light of the artists' jury scores as well as other relevant information in the applicants' application packages. Grants monies will be distributed early in the artist's residency based on submission of their paid receipt (grant will not exceed the cost of the airline ticket and the artist must return to their point of embarkation). Note that the discipline-specific juries have no knowledge as to who's requested a grant so this is never a factor in their deliberations or voting.

## **Lodging**

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.

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.

## **Support, Food, Amenities**

What kind of staff support is available?

The following full time positions are focused on artists' and program support: Executive Director, Residency Program Manager and Groundskeeper. In addition to the part-time chef and maintenance staff, there are several others affiliated with the program who are working on a part-time, consulting or volunteer basis in various support roles. There are no staff members on site during the evenings and on weekends and major holidays, though remote support is available.

### What about meals?

I-Park provides a basic food service at no cost to the artists. Breakfast and lunch selections are stocked in the refrigerators and pantries from which meals can be prepared by the artists at times of their choosing. On four nights of the week, the chef will prepare a group meal for the artists. While there is a set time for dinner and most artists look forward to this gathering, attendance is voluntary. 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 weeknight, the artists will typically prepare their own group meal or we mix it up either by ordering in take-out, doing a barbeque, having a volunteer prepare the meal or organizing a potluck meal or something similar (participatory). In some instances, outside guests may be invited to such meals. For Saturday and Sunday, there will be ingredients available, often including leftovers, with which group or individual meals can be cobbled together. The pantries and refrigerators are stocked with staples and the kitchen is designed and outfitted with the appliances and such for group cooking. A meal pattern quickly develops for each session that reflects the preferences of and personalities within the group.

### Cleanup, composting?

Artists are responsible for cleanup after their meals and for maintaining a reasonably neat and organized kitchen between visits by the cleaning staff. We are conscientious about composting and recycling. Housecleaning staff will attend to the entire residency facility every week to 10 days.

### 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/or 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.' I-Park pays for the prepared meals and for 'common food.' Artists are responsible for food purchases geared to their individual preferences and/or health requirements.

### What kinds of communications are available at I-Park?

We have several phones on site with two available land lines for artists' use. We have two computer workstations for common/shared use, both of which have high-speed internet connections as well as the basic Microsoft suite of programs. One of these computers is set up for Skype communications. 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. With a recently installed tower in our neighborhood, cell phone reception is now quite normalized, though we cannot claim that all services are available. We have walkie-talkies and spare cell phones that can be borrowed by artists walking or working out on the land. And, we have a loud bell that we use to call people to dinner.

### What kind of computer hardware, software and support will be available?

We have the above-mentioned shared computers on site; both are PC's. We have a large format color printer as well as a standard format inkjet printer. 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) or specialized equipment or software, 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 familiar with the current state of technology and that they will not be looking to staff for technical support or training. Residents must abide by the computer rules posted at the workstations.

Is the facility and are the grounds handicap accessible?

No, not in the true legal sense. However, we will be pleased to make reasonable facility and other adjustments for artists with special needs if we are made aware of these situations. We have successfully hosted many special needs artists in the past and urge you to please speak up if you require some special accommodation.

## **Transportation**

Can I drive my vehicle to I-Park?

No problem. We have ample parking. Trucks, vans and trailers park out back.

What public transportation resources are available if driving is not an option?

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. Most international artists coming by way of a New York (or Newark) airport will typically travel by train to either Old Saybrook (preferred) or New Haven, Connecticut. There are bus stations in Middletown, Hartford and Old Saybrook, each of which is about 30 minutes from I-Park. There are detailed directions on our website for getting from the major international airports in New York to East Haddam. However, flying directly to Bradley International, when practical, will save you several hours of transit time.

How do I get to I-Park from the airport, train or bus station and how do I get around when there?

I-Park will be pleased to pick you up an airport or train or bus station that services the local area (Connecticut). 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 am – 5:00 pm). Sometimes we ‘pool’ our pickups so there could be some waiting involved. Note that we are not staffed to do out-of-state pickups. Especially in the case of international arrivals, coordination can be tricky. We have a strict protocol for international travel arrangements. Artists are issued a set of written instructions that they must follow carefully to assure that things go smoothly. As for getting around the local area once you’ve arrived, we go grocery shopping once a week and are happy to take you along. Special arrangements can be made for unusual purchasing needs with advance notice. We can help you source local transportation options (rental cars, taxis, limousines, private drivers) if you have more intense or personalized transportation needs during the course of your residency. Except in the case of an emergency, should you have occasion to leave I-Park before the official end of your residency session, you would be responsible for your own transportation needs.

## **Studios, Equipment**

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. 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 at the beginning of each session (copy available). I-Park will attempt to accommodate specialized equipment needs, within reason, especially if this equipment is likely to have future utility. However, such requests should be made well in advance of the residency. Some customization of the workspaces may also be possible with advance discussion. You will find studio photos and specifications on the website (General Residency Program tab).

Are the studios 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 about ‘workshop’ space?

I-Park has a workshop with tools and equipment that is available to all artists, primarily for working with wood and metals. If more than one artist per session is in need of this space, a sharing or scheduling arrangement will be devised. We also can erect temporary canopies so that spaces on the land or outside the assigned studios can be used as workshop spaces.

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

Studios and bedrooms in the house are assigned by staff based on its best judgment, taking into consideration many factors. We try to match the specific personal working practices and functional needs of the artists with the particular characteristics of the various available spaces. We also need to be flexible in the face of changing circumstances (we often do not make final studio assignments until a day or two prior to the start of the session). So, while you can request a specific studio or bedroom and we will consider it, we cannot make any firm commitments in advance of the residency – and staff decisions on studio and living space assignments are final.

Does I-Park have studio spaces outfitted with equipment for photography and/or computer-generated/new media art?

In some cases, we have been in a position to assist with specialized equipment and/or software. But these days, artists typically bring along their own gear. Nonetheless, I-Park has successfully hosted many artists working in these fields. Please inquire as to your specific needs and we will attempt to accommodate.

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 the 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.

## **Nature, the Land**

How does one get familiar with the site?

A group site walk on the land is scheduled for early in the residency. While this is voluntary, most artists choose to participate. It is a good opportunity to get familiar with the basic trail system, site features as well as the general character of the natural environment. We will also provide you with a site and trail map that can be used for self-exploration.

Is it possible to create installations on the land?

Yes, subject to the approval of the Executive Director. The main considerations are site location, safety, feasibility/capability and intensity of the intervention (at this time, all installations are considered temporary). In most cases, a written proposal and sketch will be required in advance and the artist will be 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 and I-Park will either maintain or dispose of them at the appropriate time. 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.

Does I-Park provide support for such installations?

I-Park is accustomed to providing limited staff and equipment support for site installations. A modest budget may be available for materials. If you are interested in doing a major installation, you might consider submitting an application for this year's Environmental Art Biennale (Special Programs link on the website).

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

Yes, there is quite a variety of natural and man-made materials and objects, including junk, on the site that you are welcome to utilize. Just please ask permission first as there are a few things that need to be preserved, for one reason or another.

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 and related diseases. We also tend to get a wave of 'ladybugs' in the spring and early fall (harmless but annoying). 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, chipmunks, raccoons, possums, (lots of) rabbits, snakes, turtles, skunks, woodchucks, beavers, muskrats and otters. The variety of birds inhabiting the property is quite impressive. In transit, wild geese annually stop over for several months at a time to birth and raise their young. 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 into our area. In season, limited hunting is permitted on certain remote sections of the property. Residents will be advised in advance when this is going to occur.

## **Orientation, Rules, Policies**

What kind of orientation do you provide?

If you peruse the I-Park website and this FAQ, you should become pretty familiar with the basics of the program and facility. The pre-residency phone call provides you the opportunity to ask more detailed questions and you are, of course, welcome to contact the office at any time. We schedule a sit-down orientation gathering involving all the artists and staff during the first full day of the residency. The I-Park Handbook in your room and the Orientation Notebooks in the library offer even more detail about where things are and how they work. We go to great lengths to minimize the possibility of unpleasant surprises.

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 non-smoking fellow residents as well as fire safety.

### 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. 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. The best time to have a guest visit would be for the Open Studios event at the end of the residency. Artists are responsible for the proper behavior of their guests. Out of regard for the privacy and security of our artists in residence, unauthorized individuals appearing on the grounds without prior permission will be escorted off the site.

### 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 a precious gift. 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, as we have learned, it has an impact on the group dynamic. We frown on this and, except in extraordinary circumstances, we're not inclined to offer residencies to those unable to fully utilize the program as intended. An I-Park residency involves a fairly serious commitment on the part of all parties.

### Are there any specific acts or attitudes that would generate a termination of the residency?

I-Park does not condone alcohol or drug abuse, the sale or trafficking in illegal substances, habitual non-participation, the possession of lethal weapons, prolonged absences without prior notification or 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.

### Can I bring my pet?

Sorry, no pets are allowed.

## **Social Aspect, Diversions, Surrounding Area**

### Are there any social or public events planned?

Artists are encouraged to participate in Open Studios, a community event usually scheduled for the final Sunday afternoon of the residency session – and Artists' Exchange, an intimate sharing amongst the artists of their existing bodies of work and aspirations for their residencies – generally a quiet evening affair scheduled for early in the session. The following are typically woven into the session calendar as well: arrival buffet, welcome dinner, pot luck supper, bonfire out by the pond and bon voyage dinner. 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 and ambitions of the residents and their desire for social interaction and exposure to cultural happenings.

### Are there any recreational facilities on site? Is there a place to work out or go hiking or biking?

We have extensive walking trails on the property and we're adjacent to a well-maintained state park with miles of marked trails. We have some free weights and yoga mats available. There are no recreational facilities as such on site, though we have a pond that you're welcome to fish in, a few swings and there are several bikes that you're welcome to use around the facility.

Are there any other diversions available?

We have created a Common Area in the main barn that is intended as a gathering place for coffee, conversation, relaxation. Here, you'll find a television with digital cable, 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 a modest library of art and nature books and a variety of arts-related periodicals. 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 or Boston. While East Haddam is on the Connecticut River, I-Park is about a 10 minute drive away.

How remote is I-Park from commercial amenities, 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.

What's available in the local area for entertainment?

We're in the sticks, so to speak, so keep your expectations low. For major excitement, and depending on your mood, options include frog races, a trip to the local ice cream store or bowling alley, the Goodspeed Opera House, one of the local organic food markets, the historical society or a trek to one of the nearby casinos. We're about 30 minutes from the ocean (Long Island Sound) where there are public beaches. We maintain a good listing of cultural events and venues in Connecticut so that those interested can avail themselves, either individually or as a group.

## **Miscellaneous**

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 packages 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 to the post office box in Plantsville. And, you are responsible for the shipment of any articles back home at the end of your residency (packaging, coordinating with the shipper, including payment arrangements, etc.). Please don't leave items behind for us to send back for you.

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

I-Park is not open to the general public. We strive to maintain a somewhat sheltered environment (enclave, cocoon) for our artists-in-residence and to minimize distractions and disruptions. Please make prior arrangements with staff if you'd like to visit the facility. Or come to one of our Open Studios events. In either case, we'll be happy to show you around.

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 written approval, we can make ourselves available to provide a telephone reference. If someone really needs a reference, that's the best kind anyway.

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. You need to be prepared to set your own goals and organize your daily routine accordingly to achieve these goals. I-Park imposes very little organizational structure – you’re basically 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, especially in their private living and working spaces. 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 come to I-Park, this is not for everyone. Some individuals need a more broadly and predictably supportive social structure, external sources of direction and perhaps even, in some cases, a bit of commotion. You should not expect I-Park to provide these for you.

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

You should not accept an I-Park residency if the prospects for your attendance are at all in question. Check that your personal, financial, professional and visa-related affairs are reasonably in order before you commit. If an unexpected emergency or other circumstance arises that makes attendance impossible, please let us know immediately so that we may attempt to schedule someone from our waiting list into your slot. Be aware that any notification of cancellation less than 60 days prior to your scheduled arrival date will likely create a severe hardship for the program.

Is there a story behind the I-Park name?

Yes.

**Addendum, Miscellaneous (February 7, 2013)**

Does the I-Park residency support performance artists, including musicians, actors and dancers?

We do not claim to do so. However, some performance artists manage to get accepted by way of the Moving Image discipline. If you submit well-crafted, artful film or video documentation of your performance work, and have the ability to work solo during your residency (we do not permit collaborating teams for the General Residency Program), then you may wish to avail yourself of this strategy.

As a busy architect or landscape/garden designer, or other professional with an extremely demanding schedule, is it possible to participate in the program without committing to a 4-week residency?

Although we are very committed to the high creative and productive potential of the 4-week residency model, we have made rare exceptions in the past for ‘split’ residencies, where we split a 4-week session in half between 2 artists/practitioners. If you are only able to participate in a 2-week residency (nothing shorter), please indicate as such in the blank (Other) space at the end of Question 21 on the application form. Although we cannot promise such scheduling, we will make every effort to accommodate. Note that the May session is a 3-week session.

For architects and landscape/garden designers and landscape architects in particular: what kinds of expectations do you have in terms of the types of projects that would/could be undertaken during an I-Park residency – and what types of projects might be of interest to the selection panel? You're not expecting actual physical works on the land, are you?

For a comprehensive response, go to the General Residency Program page on the website and click on the Related Link: Architecture, Landscape/Garden Design Residencies.

As a playwright, I cannot effectively present my work, in particular for my Preview File, within the space restrictions described in the application instructions. What do you suggest?

We agree – and that was an oversight. Please use the space provided in Question 13 on the Writing Upload Details form to indicate that you are a playwright and have approval to submit double the number of pages provided to creative writers in general. Staff will wave this through and communicate this instruction to the selection panel.