

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

2017 Site-Responsive Art Program: Residency & Biennale

[September 10, 2016]

What is your definition of site-responsive art? What kinds of works are you looking for?

I-Park views site-responsive art as most impactful when the works are developed, and then experienced by viewers, in-situ. The term 'site-responsive' is construed broadly to encompass multiple aspects of the project site: natural, built, social, narrative – and sensitive to the various dimensions of time. This type of art is not limited to any particular medium or creative discipline and the program is accommodating to inter-disciplinary collaborations. A crucial element of a successful submission will be your ability to convince the selection and curatorial panels, through your previous work samples and the power of your project proposal, of your ability to identify an intimate connection to some meaningful aspect of the project site.

What scale and intensity of physical intervention are you willing to consider?

All projects must be ephemeral in character. That is, we must have the ability to erase them, or allow natural forces to erase them, from existence at the appropriate time. We do not want the installations to fundamentally or permanently alter the terrain or ecosystem. And, when the decision is made to de-install (we take responsibility for de-installation), we want to be able to do so without great expense or effort. It is not the intention of I-Park to create a sculpture park at this time. The general rule is that we wipe the slate clean each spring to allow the land to recover – and to make it fresh again for new eyes and ideas.

What sites will be available for the program?

Prior to the residency, I-Park will define the project site and mark out a looping trail along which the works will be sited, or presented, as the case may be. There will be some allowance for temporary connector trails. The basic trail will offer a variety of site features, structures and settings and will be designed to be reasonably accessible for visitors. To get a general feel for the landscape and facilities, you're invited to peruse the videos on our [Sense of Place](#) webpage and to review the documentation of previous I-Park programs in this series.

What is the basic structure of the selection process?

All submissions will undergo a First Round evaluation by an independent, multi-disciplinary selection panel. This review will focus on the applicant's Brief Project Recap and their primary media files. The First Round will yield a list of finalists who will then be re-evaluated in great depth by a larger group consisting of the original selection panelists and 2-3 members of I-Park's 2017 Inter-disciplinary Curatorial Panel. This larger group will determine which artists to invite. Notifications will be made to all applicants as soon as possible after this process has been completed.

Are there any eligibility requirements for the program?

Artists who participated in 2015's Ephemeral Art in the Landscape Residency are not eligible for the 2017 program. Also, artists cannot participate in both the 2017 General Residency *and* the Site-Responsive Art Residency. While you may apply to both programs, you can only participate in one. All artists must be over the age of 21.

Will there be communications with the invited artists prior to the start of the residency?

Yes. Updates will be sent to the invitees and there will be at least one one-on-one phone conversation prior to the start of the residency session. Office staff will, of course, be available during normal business hours to field inquiries. There will also be an in-depth orientation meeting and site walk at the beginning of the residency.

Am I able to apply as part of a collaborative team?

You may submit a group application but be aware that the artist's stipend will need to be shared among all the participants. The team leader will fill out the application form with his/her personal information as we need to have a single point of contact and one person with whom to coordinate logistical and financial arrangements. We can accommodate 2-person, and possibly 3-person, teams. However, due to limited lodging facilities, collaborating team members may need to accept 'alternative' lodging arrangements on or off-site.

What are the financial arrangements for the participants?

I-Park is offering an artist's stipend based on three travel zones. The travel zones are based on your point of embarkation and must be reasonably consistent with your primary residence. There will be no additional reimbursement of travel or other out-of-pocket expenses associated with the program. Fees are denominated in U.S. dollars and payment will be made by check or wire-transfer.

- Local: \$2,200 – this refers to the following U.S. states and districts: Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, the District of Columbia and Maryland.
- North America/Other: \$2,500 – this refers to all remaining U.S. states in North America – plus Mexico and Canada.
- International/Other: \$3,000 – this covers all other nations and the U.S. state of Hawaii.

When will the payments to the artists be made?

I-Park will issue you a payment of \$1,000 against your stipend during the first week of the residency, subject to your completion of the tax form(s) required by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. The balance will be paid prior to departure assuming that all project, paperwork and financial (if any) obligations have been met.

Are artists required to participate in the residency program or can they simply come in advance of the Biennale to install their pieces?

Artists are required to be present during the residency period. The residency is an integral component of the Site-Responsive Art Program. The residency is scheduled for 3-weeks in order for the artists to have time to study their surroundings and to create works of integrity that are truly site-responsive. Our hope is that the shared experience will foster inter-disciplinary exchanges and perhaps even some collaborations.

Are the artists required to be present for the Biennale weekend and will they have any specific obligations on that day?

Yes. The artists are required to be present during the Biennale weekend. There will be a private viewing of the works on Saturday, June 3, 2017 in conjunction with I-Park's fundraising reception, to which the artists are invited as our honored guests – as well as a second, the public, exhibition on Sunday, June 4.

Besides developing a new piece for the exhibition and the above, what other responsibilities will I have?

Of course, the staff would appreciate your respect and cooperation, your adherence to our policies and as much advance planning and communication as needed so that our support can be as organized, efficient and pleasantly delivered as possible. We will look to you for gentle treatment of the facility and considerate regard for the I-Park grounds.

We will expect that you bring with you a mature and flexible frame of mind. This is a short residency with an aggressive schedule. Please consider the scope of your project wisely. There may be the need, for any number of reasons (site/safety/environmental constraints, lack of time or resources, etc.), for you to reduce the scale, or otherwise modify, your original plan.

We expect that you will cooperate with our documentation initiatives (video, audio, photos) and that you will share your own documentation with us. There is a short questionnaire that we'll ask you to complete at the end of the residency. Finally, we request that you credit the I-Park Foundation in future presentations of the work product you created for the Biennale.

Will there be a written agreement associated with the program?

Yes. The agreement defines the artist's obligations as well as the obligations of I-Park. A link to this document will be posted on the program webpage when complete.

Is there an approval process before I can start working on the site?

Yes. We will be looking at location/accessibility, the amount of land/space that will be disturbed, the scale of the proposed works, any environmental or safety issues that might arise during installation or afterwards, conformance with applicable local ordinances and ease of disassembly, disposal and reclamation. Our primary goal, within program guidelines, is to help remove physical and technical obstacles and to otherwise facilitate the realization of your project.

How many artists will be involved in the program?

We expect that there will be between 10 and 12 participants.

Will I be able to change my project after it's been approved?

Absolutely. However, you will need to re-submit your plan to the Project Manager for approval prior to starting, or re-starting, work at your site.

What happens to the works after the Biennale?

In deference to the integrity of the artist's vision, I-Park commits that it will not modify or re-locate any installation without the artist's express permission. De-installation will be at the sole discretion of I-Park management. You will be invited to contribute, or return, any re-usable materials to I-Park so they can be utilized by future artists for new installations.

What kinds of materials, tools, equipment and utilities will be available?

There is an abundance of natural materials available for your use. The site consists of primarily native, mature hardwood forest with pockets of special ecosystems: native grassland meadows, a pond, wetlands, stream tributaries, small hills and numerous trails leading into the extended landscape.

There is also a selection of metal and organic 'junk,' concrete masonry elements, odd lots of lumber and an array of construction/building materials that can generally be shared at no cost to the artists. As for tools, we have the basic ladders, wheelbarrows, chain saws, hand trucks and dollies as well as power, hand, gardening and maintenance tools. We will have a pickup and/or a small dump truck as well as an all-terrain vehicle reserved for the session, though the vehicles will need to be operated by I-Park personnel. Some sites presently have electrical power – some could have power extended to them. None of the sites on the land will have permanent access to 220-volt demand. I-Park has become known for its resourcefulness and generosity in terms of making specialized equipment available for artists' needs. Please check with the office in advance if you have any unusual equipment or tool requests.

Are there any limitations on the types of materials that can be used? How extensively can we disturb the grounds (e.g., tree-cutting, excavations)?

In making decisions like this, we balance environmental sensitivity, safety and the artist's aesthetic and practical needs. Please ask for permission before taking or disturbing things from the surroundings. Unless what you're proposing is exceptionally aggressive, you'll receive a prompt, fair-minded response so you can keep moving.

How much physical and mechanical assistance can I expect?

We are prepared to offer limited assistance at times when you need an extra pair of hands, some local transportation or technical advice. However, we do not provide long-term or ongoing support. Assistance requests must be submitted 24 hours prior to your need. We will do our best to accommodate you within a reasonable timeframe.

What are the living conditions like at I-Park?

You will be assigned private sleeping quarters either in the main residence facility (a renovated historic two-story house) or in one of the private artists' studios. Each resident will also be assigned a shared bathroom. Kitchen facilities are shared by all the residents. We provide lodging, meals, bedding, towels, laundry facilities, internet access at the main campus and a small library.

Will there be workshop and/or studio spaces available?

Although artists are not typically assigned private studio spaces, we will set-up and make available some studios as shared workshop and/or rehearsal spaces. If the need arises, we are prepared to set up one or more canopies to create temporary work spaces out on the land.

What is the situation with respect to meals?

A sit-down dinner is prepared by our chef on weekday evenings, Monday through Friday. A vegetarian option will be offered but we are unable to accommodate individual dietary requests.

For all additional meals, you will be responsible for your own preparation. We will stock the refrigerators and pantries with basic food supplies, including the week's leftovers, so there will be an ample reserve for help-yourself continental breakfasts and lunches. These supplies will generally consist of ingredients for sandwiches, salads, soups or other light fare.

I-Park provides the above meal plan (i.e., food in the shared areas of the refrigerators and pantries) at no cost to the participants. Those who would prefer something different than, or in addition to, these offerings will need to purchase their own provisions at their own expense. I-Park will provide transportation once per week to the grocery store for this personal shopping. The artists are responsible for all post-meal kitchen cleanup.

Am I permitted to invite guests during the residency?

Overnight guests are not permitted. Certainly guests are most welcome at the Biennale public exhibition on Sunday, June 4, 2017. With advance notice and permission, daytime visits can generally be accommodated during the residency.

What kind of structure and audience do you anticipate for the Biennale?

Promotion of the Biennale will be targeted primarily to the cultural and academic communities in our region. This year's Biennale will be integrated with the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's annual Connecticut Trails Day. The private viewing on Saturday will be a guided walk whereas the public opening on Sunday will offer a self-directed experience for our guests.