

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

2019 Site-Responsive Art Program: Residency & Biennale

[February 1, 2019]

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. A crucial element of the residency is the contemplative site selection process – some consider it a dialog with the site. At I-Park, this type of art is not limited to any particular medium or creative discipline and the program is accommodating to inter-disciplinary investigations. To get a sense of what’s possible, you are invited to check out our [Sense of Place](#) video page and our [Retrospective Survey of Site-Responsive Art](#) slideshow. You are also welcome to look back at the works created for our [2017](#), [2015](#) and [2013](#) biennales.

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 from existence, or allow natural forces to erase them, at the appropriate time. We do not want the installations to fundamentally alter the terrain or ecosystem. And, when the decision is made to de-install (we take responsibility for this), we need 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 new 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 installed, 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.

What is the basic structure of the selection process?

All submissions will undergo a relatively quick first round evaluation by an independent, multi-disciplinary selection panel. This review will focus on the applicant’s Preview Media File, which showcases a prior project realized by the applicant, and their Brief Project Recap, which sets out some rough parameters for a 2019 project. 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 plus 2 or 3 members of I-Park’s 2019 Inter-disciplinary Curatorial Panel. This group will evaluate the additional work sample (and if submitted, an optional third sample) and the totality of the artist’s submission. From the pool of finalists, the exhibition will be curated.

How many artists will be involved in the program?

We expect to fund between 8 and 12 projects.

What are the key elements of a successful submission?

You need to satisfy the reviewers, 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. You must also convince them that you have the experience and ability to realize your work within the tight time frame and other constraints of the program.

What if I have only one prior work sample to offer?

In this case, you should submit an existing, or a new or hypothetical, project proposal, developed in some considerable detail as if the work had been executed. You will need to explain this in question 8 of the 2019 SRA Project Proposal Form.

Are there any eligibility requirements for the program?

Artists/designers who participated in 2017 and 2015 Site-Responsive Art programs are not eligible for the 2019 program. Also, artists cannot participate in both the 2019 General Residency Program *and* the 2019 Site-Responsive Art Residency. While you may apply to both programs, you can only participate in one. Also, all artists/designers must be over the age of 21 and have reasonably good English language skills.

Will there be communications with the invited artists prior to the start of the residency and is it possible to visit the site in advance?

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. In some instances, the curatorial panel may have questions that would best be discussed by phone or video call. I-Park staff will, of course, be available during normal business hours to field inquiries. As for visiting the site, you are welcome to do so. Just make advance arrangements with the staff as we are not open to the general public.

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 – an individual with whom to coordinate logistical and financial arrangements. We can accommodate 2-person, and in some cases 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 a \$3,500 artist's stipend and reimbursement of economy grade travel costs for each project. Travel costs will be reimbursed upon the submission of a paid receipt, though in the case of airline tickets, it's best to get approval before booking your flights. 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, documentation and outstanding 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 element of the program. The residency is scheduled for 3-weeks in order for the artists to have time to study their surroundings and create works of integrity that are truly site-responsive. Our hope is that the shared experience among the artists will foster inter-disciplinary exchanges and a sense of community.

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, September 21, 2019 in conjunction with I-Park's annual fundraising gala, to which the participating artists are invited as our honored guests – as well as the public exhibition, the biennale, on Sunday, September 22.

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

While all the works will be ephemeral, it is hoped that the physical installations will be reasonably intact for 60 – 90 days. Also, it is required that artists/designers creating time-based works (video, performance, sound art) will leave behind archival documentation so that the public can experience these pieces during subsequent viewings, if not in-situ at least in an onsite gallery setting.

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.

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 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.

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 work, any environmental or safety issues that might arise during installation or afterwards, conformance with applicable local ordinances and ease of disassembly, disposal and reclamation. That said, our primary goal, within program guidelines, is to help remove physical and technical obstacles and to otherwise facilitate the realization of your project at its highest level.

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

Yes, 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 written 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 with the artists at no cost. 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. We also have some small generators. None of the sites 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, tools or material requests.

Subject to the availability of future funding, we will develop a budget for materials and a system for equitably making this resource available to the artists. We will know better how this budget is coming along later in the season.

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, technical and mechanical assistance can I expect?

We're prepared to offer limited assistance at times when you need an extra pair of hands, some local transportation and technical advice. However, we do not provide long-term ongoing support. Artists should also be prepared to do their own research. Assistance requests should be made at least 24 hours prior to your need. We will do our best to accommodate you.

What is the situation with lodging 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. We provide lodging, meals, bedding, towels, laundry facilities and internet access at the main campus and most of the studios. The kitchen, common area and library facilities are shared by all the residents.

Will there be workshop and/or studio spaces available?

We have a well-appointed workshop that is a shared resource. Although artists are not typically assigned private studio spaces for this program, we will set-up and make available some studios as additional 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 Monday through Friday. A vegetarian option will be offered and we will make reasonable efforts to accommodate individual dietary requests. However, we cannot guarantee that all such requests can be fulfilled.

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 public exhibition on Sunday, September 22. 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. The private VIP viewing on Saturday will be a guided walk whereas the public opening on Sunday will offer a self-exploration experience for our guests.

We're looking forward to your proposals!