Site-Responsive Art in 2023

Like clockwork, I-Park has been hosting its Site-Responsive Art Residency & Biennale every other year since 2007. At a recent Interdisciplinary Curatorial Panel meeting, a proposal was made to structurally change things up for 2023. Instead of our traditional 3-week residency consisting solely of site-responsive artists, a decision was made to open up the opportunity to all of I-Park's 2023 General Residency Program invitees. While a lot of thought and effort has gone into developing this makeover, we are considering this an experimental program. Below is the analysis and some of the details.

- Only artists who receive a 2023 invitation notification from their discipline-specific selection panel will be eligible to participate. The discipline-specific selection panelists will score all General Residency Program applications based on the customary criteria with no regard whatsoever for the applicant's potential skills or interest in site-responsive art.
- If you are interested in this opportunity, you are welcome to create a site-responsive artwork at any point during your residency – or not. At no time along the way do you need to commit to this – and if you start to work on a project, you have no obligation to complete it. You are free to enjoy I-Park's unconditional give of time, space and fellowship in the same manner as over 1100 artists have done over the years. Or you just might want to toy with a site-responsive work as a side gig to see where it might lead, while focusing your primary energy on your initial intentions for the residency.
- Our 22-year experience in this field has shown us that, organically, each General Residency Program session yields one or two site responsive artworks. Assuming this pattern holds in 2023, that means we're expecting to see 9 or 10 new site-responsive artworks next year (six General Residency Program sessions with 7 artists per session).
- As an incentive to encourage even more interest in this practice, I-Park will assemble a separate curatorial panel that will, at the end of the 2023 residency season, award two $5,000 prizes and two $2,500 prizes for the most engaging new works created.
- For those interested in this opportunity, there will no application process – this is an open invitation. The only paperwork involved will be the customary one-page Site Installation Agreement.

How is this different from the traditional structure of the Site-Responsive Art Residency & Biennale?
- Artists will have a 4-week, rather than a 3-week, residency in which to develop their works
- The timeliness of staff support will likely be enhanced because the artists will be spread out over the course of the entire season as opposed to our having to tend to 10 – 20 artists all at once
- The 2023 artists will have more leeway in terms of site-selection, will not have a strict durability requirement and will not be obliged to produce an end product for a deadline. Hopefully this will result in less pressure and more space for experimentation

This structure honors the spirit of our customary discipline breakdown by session: 3 visual artists, 2 composers and at least one writer and at least one architect or landscape designer. There will, however, be an optional, confidential 3-question survey in the General Residency Program application form that will help us gauge the applicant pool's interest in participating. Survey results will not be shared with the selection panelists or prospective curatorial panel.

More details to follow after the status notifications have been released in March, 2023.