



How to Apply for an Artist Residency

For Photographers, Artists,
Writers, Filmmakers

Why Attend a Residency?

Attending an artist residency is an important step to:

- Create new work.
- Focus unencumbered by daily distractions.
- Interact with other like-minded artists or photographers.

Residency Applications

- Applying for an artist residency can be a hard process.
- Most require:
 - An artist statement
 - Work samples or visuals.
 - Resume. Some, such as [Yaddo](#) and MacDowell, require letters of recommendations.

Here are eleven tips that are helpful when applying for an artist residency.

1. Have Faith in What You Want

- Start with having faith and believing in what you want.
- Attending a residency is just another step in fulfilling this.
- The process is competitive and stressful.
- Keep focused on completing the application and believing in yourself.
- Try to put aside any doubts and stay positive.

2. Plan Ahead

- A common issue is procrastination.
- Plan ahead by checking deadline due dates every month.
- Be aware of what could be necessary for an application.
- Keep your resume up to date.
- Add new images so you don't have to scramble.

3. Have Materials Ready

- Some information can be ready before you start.
 - Resume/CV
 - Generic artist statement.
 - Your visuals.
- A residency has specific image requirements so have visuals that you can quickly change.
- You can reuse images, resumes and some project plans submitted before.

4. Know The Due Dates

- Get extra clear when the application is due.
- Include due dates in a calendar program.
- Avoid writing dates on paper, if possible: it can get lost, misplaced or forgotten.

5. Research The Requirements

- Know beforehand the requirements of the residency application.
- Do you need:
 - Letters of recommendations.
 - Video reel
 - Composition excerpt.
- Make a list of what you'll need and start getting them ready.

6. Call and Speak to Someone

- Call the artist residency and speak to someone.
- Ask questions, such as:
 - How many people apply.
 - What are they really looking for.
 - What makes a successful application.
- You'd be surprised how much good, important information you can get by a simple phone call.

7. Ask for Recommendations, If Necessary

- If recommendations are required, ask for them well in advance.
- Give time for your writers to prepare their letters.
- You may need to ask several friends or colleagues.
- Prepare a draft proposal early to give to your recommenders.
- Give them a few bullet points to make it easier for them.
- Ask people that know you: fellow artists, teachers, curators or others.

8. Read Again the Requirements

- Before you start the application, re-read the requirements again.
- Always look at the requirements again before your start.

9. Set Aside Time

- It takes time to complete an application.
- If you have all your materials ready, it could take one to three hours.
- If not, plan on spending five to ten or more hours preparing for your residency application.

10. Complete the Application Early

- Complete the residency application a few days early.
- Waiting the last minute might give you an adrenaline rush.
- You never know what problems could pop up, complete your application early.

11. Go on to the Next One

- Once complete, congratulate yourself and go on the next application.
- Forget about it for the moment.
- Try to think about what else you can do.
- Get ready for the next one!

Questions?

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