

## Access Arts : : Artists-in-Residence Program

### **Overview:**

Access Arts / School of Service, a nonprofit organization in Columbia, Missouri, was founded in 1971. Its mission is to provide creative learning experiences for all people, regardless of age, income or ability. Programs center on classes, workshops, and community outreach efforts. Classes are offered in the areas of Ceramics, Fibers, Metals/Jewelry, Printmaking, Drawing, Painting and Digital Photography. Classes in additional media are offered on an as-requested basis. There are also a variety of workshops and community outreach events conducted throughout the year.

At Access Arts, our Artist-in-residence program is intended to be a mutually-beneficial arrangement where artists have the chance to explore their craft, and our students have access to a working artist.

For artists who have received advanced training and education, we provide time and space and facilities for a more focused studio practice. The artist has the opportunity to develop their work, access to a built-in audience, and a chance to strengthen their demonstration and teaching skills.

In return, artists are expected to teach classes, help represent Access Arts in the community, and to be available to assist the program in other ways. Specific responsibilities will depend on the individual and which program they participate in, and are outlined in the documents linked below. Residencies are available in most of the programs offered by Access Arts, but particularly in Ceramics and Fibers, the two largest programs.

### **Program Structure and Benefits:**

Unpaid residencies are available for three months, six months, or one year. Extensions are possible. Residencies are offered as available, and start times will vary throughout the calendar year. Residencies must span the entire time frame of classes in session, and so dates must be approved by the Executive Director.

Benefits include:

Use of a shared and locked studio to work on personal artwork

- Experience teaching a diverse, eager group of students
- Opportunity to present demonstrations and participate in public art forums
- Inclusion in an active, tight-knit local arts community
- Materials used for individual artwork will be included as outlined in each specific medium's A.I.R. description (i.e. materials available for ceramic artists differ from those for fiber artists).
- Materials used for projects for the direct benefit of Access Arts (such as making work that is then donated to Access Arts) will also be included
- Wireless Internet connection in all studios (artists must provide their own computers/tablets, etc.)
- Yearlong residents are eligible for a solo exhibit at Access Arts

**Requirements:**

In exchange for the benefits listed above, artists will work 10 hours per week for Access Arts. The Executive Director will supervise the artists in the program and assign their responsibilities.

Duties could include:

- Teaching classes
- Creating and offering workshops
- Assisting others in teaching or conducting workshops
- Helping maintain clean, safe studios
- Representing Access Arts at in-house activities and community events
- Other tasks, as needed for the betterment of Access Arts

As representatives of Access Arts / School of Service, Artists in Residence are expected to present the School in the best possible light. As Access Arts Ambassadors, artists should:

- Contribute to the reputation and growth of Access Arts
- Adhere to the policies and practices of Access Arts
- Have a positive attitude
- Accept responsibility for assigned duties
- Be self-directed and able to work independently
- Have a flexible schedule
- Practice safe work habits
- Maintain a clean workspace
- Participate in community events
- Be available for regular meetings of the Resident artists
- Be available to answer questions posed by visitors to the studio
- Be open to collaborating with other staff/faculty/board members/volunteers as opportunities arise

Artists will be required to fill out weekly activity sheets, giving an accounting of hours and activities. Overtime hours from one week can be applied to the following week's requirement.

Monthly performance reviews will be conducted by the Executive Director. Artists can be dismissed from the program upon the recommendation of the Executive Director and the approval of the Artists-in-Residence Committee. Evaluations will be based on participation, completion of assigned duties and procedures, and dedication to the creative process.

Artists are responsible for their own housing and living expenses. They also are responsible for the cost of any supplies or materials associated with the production of their artwork that are not included in the list of benefits for that medium.

The artist will be expected to donate an item of work to Access Arts at the end of his/her residency. Use of that item is at the discretion of the Access Arts Board of Directors.

Private sales and participation in other arts outlets is allowed and encouraged by Access Arts.

**To Apply:**

Applications for an Artist-in-Residence position are available on the School's website ([www.schoolofservice.org](http://www.schoolofservice.org)) and can be submitted at any time throughout the calendar year. Applications must be submitted to Access Arts at least six weeks before the desired start date of the residency.

Artists for the program are selected on the quality of their work and the level of their community involvement. The ideal candidate should have an MFA, be pursuing such a degree, or able to demonstrate competency in a particular area of art.

Artist-in-Residence applications will be reviewed and selected by the Artists-in-Residence Committee. The committee will include two members of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director, and the Head Instructor of the specific department the artist is applying to.