



Artist Residency Program Guidelines

North Vancouver Recreation and Culture (NVRC) is committed to the arts as an essential element in building a vital, creative and healthy community. Through the Artist Residency program, NVRC aims to support creative development and engage community participation through the arts.

Program description

Contributing to the growing vibrancy of our neighbourhoods, the Artist Residency Program seeks to inspire participation and relationship-building where art (the process of creating together) is a catalyst for individual and community engagement. Key principles of the program include:

(1) Supporting creativity

The Artist Residency Program provides access to space, covers material costs, and funding to artists.

(2) Supporting artistic development

Artistic exploration is key to supporting the arts and culture community.

This can take many forms, and the focus is on supporting the artist in their development.

(3) Building community by making art together

Community-engaged arts practices are cooperative and participatory; they focus on shared exploration, creation and relationship-building rather than on the transmission of technical skills from artist to participant.

(4) Ensuring that participation in the arts is accessible

Participation in community-cultural development projects is open to all, regardless of age, sex, ability or economic status. Programs are designed to be welcoming to and to encourage the participation of those publics that have traditionally been underserved or that are marginalized within our communities.

Program structure

The NVRC Artist Residency Program does not offer a live-in residency. The program is only open to artists who live or work in Metro Vancouver, BC, Canada.

The NVRC cannot offer exclusive use of a single studio space. However, we do offer free use of any rooms or spaces that are available, and that can be scheduled at one or more of the Recreation & Cultural facilities or other designated spaces in North Vancouver. Some locations may provide limited storage space. However, storage is not guaranteed.

The Artist Residency Program aims to support artistic development and build community sense of place through a collaborative art experience that is part of the residency's give-back to community component. This may take a form proposed by the artist. We have seen readings, an art workshop, community dance, demonstrations, and short performances.

The intention is for the artist to have this experience inform their work and impact the development of their craft. Staff support is provided to coordinate and promote this activity.

In addition to space, materials and artist fees are provided but are approved based on the length of the residency and availability of program funds.

Artists are required to have a clean police information check and hold insurance. If you require information on how to obtain insurance, staff can assist you.

Guiding principles

The NVRC Artist Residency Program is based on shared principles of community-engaged arts practice and community cultural development. Its purpose is to contribute to the health of the community by supporting arts development and connecting artists and community members in a creative process that mutually engages all parties in issues of shared interest.

Community-engaged arts

There is no single, right way to make community-engaged art. In practical terms, however, a considerable number of successful projects fall into two broad categories:

- **Cooperative creation:** the Artist creates an opportunity that enables participants to contribute from their own experience, and to work together with the artist in a process of collaborative creation that informs the artist's work.
- **Scripted encounters:** the artist creates a partially pre-scripted, often performance-based project, participation in which brings community members to new and fresh understandings of their creative self.

In each case, an artist or artists lead(s) a project where the participation, experience and skills of community members are an integral part of the creative process.

Community cultural development

The key goals of community cultural development are:

- to encourage the development of artistic works
- to support artists working in community contexts
- to encourage and support artistic projects which leave a physical and/or social legacy in the community
- to inspire participation and relationship-building through the arts
- to engage communities and people as creators, producers, performers and active audiences

Eligibility

The Artist Residency Program is open to artists and/or artist collectives who live or work in Metro Vancouver, BC, Canada. Artists must be 19 years or older and be legally allowed to work in Canada.

The program is open to artists working in all disciplines, including but not limited to: dance, digital media, graphic, literary, multi-media, multi-disciplinary, musical, photo, performance, theatre and video arts, poetry and photography.

Selection process

A staff selection panel will review and shortlist applications. The initial review is based on the following criteria:

- Strength and creativity of past work
- Experience in relevant disciplines
- Inventiveness of approach: this can involve risk-taking
- Commitment to working collaboratively with community members in North Vancouver
- Connection to issues of identified community interest
- The impact this experience might have on creative development

Expectations

Where selected, the artist will enter into a contractual agreement with the North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission.

NVRC's role

- Facilitate, fund and support community-engaged arts practices through the Artist Residency program
- Provide program management and oversee all residencies
- Manage the financial administration of the program
- Work with programming staff and artists to assess, coordinate and provide appropriate support
- Liaise with other NVRC staff and municipal staff and artists as needed
- Set up a schedule with the artist and book spaces as required (e.g. dance studios, multipurpose rooms, community centre rooms, etc.)
- Work with artists to identify supports, materials, equipment and services required to complete the project
- Facilitate opportunities for networking with/access to facility users and local community groups
- Manage communication to ensure all staff are updated and aware of the project
- Coordinate with Marketing and Communications staff for NVRC promotion — website, social media, newsletter, etc.
- Coordinate communications with facility staff

Artist's role

The artist's role and responsibilities include:

- Develop a project that can be completed within the agreed fee schedule and materials budget
- Provide a short bio and headshot for NVRC promotions
- Develop and maintain a project blog and/or documentation
- Provide regular project updates to NVRC Cultural Services staff
- Complete the project or projects within contracted timeframe
- Ensure the project includes at least one community “give-back” experience(s)
- Provide a final report within 3 weeks following the residency completion date
- (Final reports can be submitted via email as a written piece, audio or video piece no larger than 3MB or via a link)

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