

2025 Artist Wilderness Connection Artist in Residency Program Fact Sheet

What is the Artist Wilderness Connection?

The goal of the Artist Wilderness Connection program is to connect artists and the public with our wildlands in beautiful Northwest Montana. AWC is a collaborative project started in 2004 between the Hockaday Museum of Art, Flathead National Forest, Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation, and Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest (formerly additionally with Swan Valley Connections). To date, 56 artists have participated in the program which consists of three components: Artist Residency, Forest Experience and Community Extension. Artists benefit from having a remote setting to focus on their art and the community benefits from the presentations the artists offer from their experiences.

The Artist Residency

The program places professional working artists in various disciplines, media and styles in remote forest cabins for five to up to 16 days followed by a public presentation related to their residency. Group collaborations are considered and encouraged.

The Forest/Wilderness Experience

The program focus connects artists with the Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wilderness Areas. The backcountry cabins in the program are located in the Flathead National Forest and the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest five to 15 miles from the nearest trailhead. Travel to the cabin is by foot over uneven ground. Artist's personal items, food and art supplies are packed in by mule and horse. Some cabins are very private, suggesting solitude, reflection and personal work; other sites offer the experience of working and/or living with Forest Service crews. The best residency experiences come from plans that allow for the unexpected and are entered into with an open mind.

The Community Extension

A Montana-based, educational public presentation accompanies each residency. It may include demonstrating an art form or techniques to the public. This could include a showing, performance, open house, workshop or training session where the public or school groups can participate and learn from the artist about the experiences gained through their participation in the program. The workshops, performances, exhibits and or other presentations communicate the values, processes, features and resources of both the artist and the wilderness setting. Program participants also donate a representative piece of their work for the Program's collection, or to help raise funds directly supporting the Artist Wilderness Connection program.

How to Apply

AWC applications are accepted online only through the Hockaday website. For questions about the program, contact Director of Education Kathy Martin education@hockadaymuseum.com or call 406.755.5268 x226. For questions regarding the google form application, please contact Museum & Programs Associate Camryn Mahnken at museumassistant@hockadaymuseum.com or call 406.755.5268 ext. 222.

For consideration, please have the following prepared for your online application:

1. Current professional artist resume or CV (submitted in Microsoft Word “.doc” or Adobe “.pdf” format)

2. Letter of intent describing (submitted in Microsoft Word “.doc” or Adobe “.pdf” format):

a. What you hope to achieve from this experience including how you will communicate your artistic vision as it relates to the Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wilderness Areas. (See program guidelines.)

b. The value of this opportunity to your artistic growth.

c. Ideas you have for a public presentation following your residency. This may include a demonstration, exhibit, performance, open house, workshop or training and could involve public, school or community groups. The presentation would communicate the values, processes, features and resources of both the artist, their work and experience and that of the wilderness setting where the residency took place. Your first AND second choice cabin location and residency dates. [Click here to learn more about the cabin locations and residency dates.](#)

d. Tell us how you heard about the AWC program.

3. Letter of reference (submitted in Microsoft Word “.doc” or Adobe “.pdf” format)

4. Four (4) examples of your work uploaded electronically during the online application process. Digital images should be taken with sufficient resolution and size to best represent your work. (Recommended: 300 dpi, no smaller than 6” high by 8” wide.)

Applications must be completed by January 10, 2025. Notification of accepted and declined applications will be sent by February 7, 2025. Residency to take place at arranged dates Summer 2025. Late applications will not be considered.

For Additional Information -

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