Homestead National Monument

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Artist-in-Residence Program

19th century painters such as Thomas Moran stimulated the establishment of national parks by documenting the unbelievable landscapes of the American West. Through their work, today's artists help us make meaningful connections to our national parks. Writers, composers, and visual and performing artists are invited to live and work in the peaceful prairie setting of Homestead National Monument of America.

Overview

The opportunity to live and work in Homestead National Monument of America benefits the selected professional artist, and those who will enjoy their artwork today and in future generations. The Artist-in Residence program at Homestead National Monument of America offers professional visual artists (fine art painters or sculptors, fine art photographers* or other fine art visual media) the opportunity to spend a period of time working on their artwork and **potentially** living in park housing.
** Fine art photography does not include basic documentary work or scenic postcard and calendar type images. Photographs submitted should express a unique creative vision, and be fine art in presentation and style.*

New Program in 2009

2009 is the first year of Homestead's Artist in Residence program. Residency dates can vary from 2 weeks to 3 months beginning in July through September 2009. Program period can be split. Proposed dates are to be identified as part of the submitted package.

Outcomes of a Residency

1. The willingness to share your inspiration with others is a central tenet of the Artist in Residence Program. The resident artist shall present a minimum of two public programs during the residency. These presentations shall be based on the artist's work, experiences, and interests, and may include art workshops in your medium, artist demonstrations, etc. Your presentations should be developed in consultation with park staff, and should be appropriate for general park audiences.
2. The participating artist will donate an original work representative of his or her medium which embodies the values of Homestead's interpretive themes (see below). Any donated artwork must be received within one year of the residency. All expenses for materials and for delivery of the artwork to the park shall be the responsibility of the artist.
3. Artists shall permit park staff to photograph artwork created during the residency, and programs given during the residency. The artist shall sign a photo release to the National Park Service for use of images of the artwork from the residency, and images of activities associated with the residency. Donated artwork and/or associated images will not be used for commercial purposes, but may be used for education or interpretation by the National Park Service or Eastern National.
4. The artist will exhibit two pieces of work at the Education/Heritage Centers during the 2009 calendar year.
5. RV pad is available with full hookups, or park housing may be available to the resident artist.

Interpretive Themes of Homestead

The Artist-in-Residence Program is designed to interpret the park's many natural and cultural resources through the unique creative vision of each artist chosen. The park's most important interpretive themes have been defined to help focus interpretive efforts:

A. The Homestead Act was successful in its intent to encourage settlement of the American West, but did not succeed in achieving the goals of the law as
B. The restoration of the tallgrass prairie provides the opportunity for the visitor to visualize and interact with the historic landscape, which early settlers encountered, and which rapidly vanished due to the settlement precipitated by the Homestead Act.
C. The Homestead Act represented a significant departure from previous land policies.
D. The Homestead Act reflects the re-focus of the government's programs

E. The Homestead Act encouraged European immigration to the United States and its results are still evident in the communities of the Great Plains.
F. The Homestead Act hastened the relocation and dissipation of American Indians and permanently altered their way of life.
G. The Homestead Act changed the American social structure through its egalitarian nature, allowing women, African-Americans, non-citizens, and other disenfranchised individuals to establish homesteads and own land.
H. Human needs and circumstances of the land led to accelerated technological development in the areas of agriculture, transportation, and communication.
I. The schoolhouse symbolizes American cultural centers and the sense of community that formed because of homesteading and related settlement patterns.
J. As homesteaders experienced success and added to their land holdings, cooperation with neighbors became critical to their continued success; however, with technological advances, this element began to disappear.
K. The Homestead Act was presented as an opportunity to obtain the "American Dream" of owning your own land and determining your own future.
L. The still intact 160-acre Freeman homestead provides the opportunity for the visitor to compare the ideal pioneer starter farm to the typical starter farm and to modern agricultural practices.
M. Cultivation of the West significantly enhanced the development of our nation, yet resulted in the alteration of existing ecosystems.

Calendar for 2009 season

Entries will be accepted with postmarks dated on or before **May 15, 2009** (or accepted via email by that date). Selectees will be notified by **June 1, 2009**. Applications postmarked (or received via email or fax) after this date will not be considered.

How to Apply

• Volunteer Application for Natural Resource Agencies (Form #OF301_06_07.pdf)

Requested information:
• Statement of Purpose: Please explain what you hope to accomplish during your residency at Homestead, how the stay will contribute to your artistic development, how you will incorporate at least one of the park's interpretive themes in your work, and what you will contribute to benefit the park. (No more than one page).
• List of desired residency dates and length of time
• List of exhibitions and/or teaching experiences
• Samples of works (do not send originals): Send prints or digital files (.jpg preferable) of 6 different images. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, if you would like print samples returned to you. Submit the items and information via mail, email, and/or fax. Any application with incomplete or excessive materials will not be considered.
Mail: Homestead National Monument of America, 8523 West State Highway 4, Beatrice, NE 68310-6742
Email: Allison_La Duke@nps.gov
Fax: 402-228-4231

Selection Process

Selection is based on artistic merit as demonstrated by the examples submitted, the ideas expressed in the statement of purpose, the feasibility and potential public interest of proposed public programs, and the willingness to accept the conditions of the national park residency opportunity. A panel of National Park Service representatives chooses the artists and alternates.