



Artist-in-Residence Bighorn Canyon NRA 2015

Artists have been capturing the natural world around us for eons, as a way to share and inspire others to learn more about our natural spaces. Thomas Moran's paintings and William Henry Jackson's photographs of the mysteries of Yellowstone helped to inspire congress to set the land we call Yellowstone aside as a National Park. Bighorn Canyon too, has many amazing artists and photographers that have helped to record the history of this landscape.

Artists are invited to become part of the Bighorn Canyon Artist-in-Residence program managed by the Interpretation Division. This program is new to Bighorn Canyon, but is not new to the National Park Service. It is one of the longest running programs in the National Park system. The work completed under this program contributes to the public understanding and appreciation of our national parks and creates a legacy preserved for future generations.

The following are just a few examples of other park Artist-in-Residence programs:
<http://www.nps.gov/dena/historyculture/arts-program.htm>
http://www.nps.gov/meve/supportyourpark/artists_in_residence.htm
http://www.nps.gov/romo/supportyourpark/artist_in_residence.htm
<http://www.nps.gov/home/supportyourpark/artist-in-residence-program.htm>
<http://home.nps.gov/zion/supportyourpark/artist-in-residence.htm>

The creation of this program is a directive of the National Park Service's Call to Action campaign and also Bighorn



Gateway of Light, Artist: Denney NeVille

Canyon's Long Range Interpretive Plan. This program creatively increases public awareness and participation to inspire the continued preservation of Bighorn Canyon's resources.

Details

Artists in this program will be able to discover and interpret Bighorn Canyon through their own creative projects. Writers, sculptors, musicians, composers, photographers, painters, and performing artists are all welcome to apply for this program.

The Artist-in-Residence will sign the volunteer agreement form and complete the Artist-in Residence registration form. Artists must submit a resume, list of professional works, photos of their work, and a letter of intent. The letter should include why the artist is interested in helping to preserve, through their work, Bighorn Canyon's resources.

Park staff will review the registration forms and resumes to select artists for the program. Specific dates for this program are dependent on housing availability.

Applications for the 2015 AIR season will be accepted until January 31, 2015.

Housing

Housing at Bighorn Canyon is limited, however, depending on other park demands, several options may be available (free of cost to the artist).

The artist in this program should be comfortable living and working in remote settings. On the North District, the small community of Fort Smith has a convenience store, gas station, two restaurants, a coffee shop, some outfitting services with accommodations, and a post office. Hardin, 42 miles to the north, has a hospital and all other neces-

sary services. In the South District, Lovell, Population 2,000+, is the closest community. It is 27 miles from the Trail Creek campground. A hospital, schools, supermarket, convenience stores, motels, and gas stations are available in Lovell.

A possible fall, winter or spring housing option would be at the Bighorn Canyon Research Center at Ewing-Snell Historic Ranch. This four-season, 1,300-square-foot facility includes dormitory space (with full kitchen, bath, and dining area), office space, and a conference room. In 2003, the interior was remodeled so that the building could serve as a science center with camp facilities and a classroom, but the exterior has been restored to preserve its historic integrity. Electrical power is provided by an off-grid photovoltaic and wind generation system. Artist could give art presentations from the ranch and would also be on hand to give informal tours of the ranch.

Camping at Lockhart Ranch could be a second option for artists in the south district. Artists would need to supply a camper and will need to park in a designated area. There are no hook-ups. A water and sewage dump is available in the Horseshoe Bend campground 20 miles south of the ranch. Artist could give art presentations from the ranch and if they choose to, give informal tours of the ranch.

A third option in the south district would be a dual position as both a campground host/artist in residence at Trail Creek Campground. Again artists will provide their own trailer, motor home, tent trailer, or tent. There are no hook-ups at this site. A 200-gallon water tank on a small trailer is available for the hosts. A water and sewage dump is available in the Horseshoe Bend campground 17 miles south of Trail Creek. Solar panels, two storage batteries and a wind generator have been installed for electrical generation for the host/artist's use during the summer. When not hosting, artists could give presentation at Trail Creek, Hillsboro, or other sites throughout the park. The length of this residency could be two weeks or the entire summer season. Artists would need to

coordinate with staff.

Camping at Afterbay Campground is the only housing option at this time in the north district. Artists will provide their own trailer or motor home. Electrical and water hookups are not provided. A sewage dump is available near the campground, but not at the campground site so a portable holding tank is required. Artists could give presentations from their campsite or other sites throughout the park.

Length of Residency

Residencies last for two to four weeks. The exact dates for the residency are flexible and could occur during any time of the year. However, extreme weather in the winter months could prohibit artists from being in the field.

Participation in the program

After reviewing the artist's resume, park staff will notify the artist if he/she has been selected. At this time, park staff will work with the artist to choose a date for their participation in the program and discuss the need for housing. No living stipend is given for this position. After they are selected, artist will need to complete a volunteer form before beginning their residency. This

will allow them free entrance into Bighorn Canyon during their residency and will also make them eligible for the volunteer pass, given to volunteers who give over 250 hours of volunteer hours.

Commitment to public presentation

The Artist must agree to present a minimum of at least one public program in cooperation with the interpretive division and must be willing to discuss their work with visitors informally at their work site. Opportunities for presentations and the type of presentations vary. Interpretive staff will work with the artist to provide presentation opportunities that fit with the artist's interest. Examples of public presentations could include but are not limited to:

On site programs: Artists living at a historic location or in the campground could present short on site programs or workshops.

Winter workshops: Several of the artists in residence could work with park staff to host winter art workshops for the community at one of the visitor centers.



Ewing Snell Ranch House, Photo by Ed Allen

Art display/art shows: There may be different opportunities throughout the year to display the artists' work at the Lovell Visitor Center, Crooked Creek Ranger Station, and Afterbay Ranger Station.

Artist of the Month: Selected artists will be displayed at Lovell VC and Afterbay Contact Station. Each artist will be given a page in the Artist of the Month Portfolio. It will include a photo of artist, sample of their work, short bio, and contact information for sales

Art in the Visitor Center: Artists could coordinate an artist work day/days to create interpretive panels for new displays in the Lovell Visitor Center.

Cultural Artist Workshops: Native artists could give demonstrations and present cultural programs based on their art work.

BICA Park Themes

To ensure the Artist-in-Residence program helps to relay the fundamental ideas, concepts, and inherent meanings of Bighorn Canyon, it is important that the artist understands, and that their artwork and programs reflect the Bighorn Canyon Interpretive Themes.

Theme 1: The vast, wild landscape of BICA offers modern visitors unparalleled opportunities to immerse themselves in the natural world and experience the wonders of this extraordinary place.

Theme 2: The 120,000 acres of land and water in BICA display an astounding diversity of ecosystems supporting hundreds of species of plant life, birds, fish, and other wildlife.

Theme 3: Bighorn Canyon, the river, and the surrounding environment are a vital part of the ancient and living culture of American Indians, including the Crow, Northern Cheyenne, Shoshone, Blackfeet, Arapaho, Lakota, and other tribes of the region.

Theme 4: The lives and stories of the 19th and early 20th century settlers of European descent in this region illustrate the challenges, changes, perils, and personalities of the America's "wild west" frontier, with legacies that live on in the lifeways of their 21st century descendants.

Theme 5: Through the ages and into present day, the water resources of the Bighorn River, lake and watershed represent a vital, life-giving force in a tough, challenging environment.

Theme 6: The ancient cliffs and exposed rocks of Bighorn Canyon pro-

vide a fascinating geological record of earth's changes over many millions of years, as well as significant opportunities for archeological and paleontological discoveries.

Donation Agreement

After they complete their residency, artists are asked to donate at least one piece of original work to Bighorn Canyon. Artwork that can be displayed should be given ready to display. The interpretive staff will put artists in contact with the museum specialist for the park to complete the necessary paper work for their donation. Artwork may be displayed in park sponsored art shows, in the park offices, at the Intermountain Regional Offices in Denver or at the National Park offices in Washington D.C.

Sales of Artwork

Artists will not be allowed to sell their artwork to the public during or after public presentations, but may be able to sell at the visitors centers through consignment. Sales for the consigned work will be split in the following way: 60% to the artist, 20% to Bighorn Canyon, and 20% to Western National Park Association. Artists are encouraged to share their website and contact information during or after public presentations.

Artist of the Month

Artist in Residence will be eligible to participate in the Artist of the month exhibit in the Lovell Visitor Center. Park staff will invite and schedule artist of the month participants. Artists who would like to participate must have one or two items for display, a portfolio of past work, contact information, and a short biography. A second location may be created in the Crooked Creek Contact station or the Yellowtail Dam Visitor Center in Fort Smith depending on display space.

Contact Information

For more information, call Christy Fleming at (307) 548-5406 or email her at Christy_Fleming@nps.gov



Mike Flanagan and Glenn Hopkinson painting at the Ewing Snell Ranch, Photo by Denney NeVille