



Artist-in-Residence Bighorn Canyon NRA 2017

Artists have been capturing the natural world around us for centuries, 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 aside that land as a National Park. Since 2014, Bighorn Canyon has hosted many amazing artists and photographers that have helped to record the history of this landscape. In 2017, we are hoping to host five more.

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 not new to the National Park Service. It is one of the longest running programs in the National Park system, and the work completed under this program contributes to the public understanding and appreciation of our national parks, creating a legacy preserved for future generations.

The creation of this program is a directive of the National Park Service's Call to Action, Bighorn Canyon's Long Range Interpretive Plan, and a way to creatively increase public awareness and participation to inspire the continued preservation of Bighorn Canyon's resources. But more importantly it is a time for artists to slow down, experience the canyon and make a lasting connecton with the place. We have also found that the artists help staff renew their connection to the park by sharing their perspectives. Each



Gateway of Light, Founding AIR Denney NeVille

artist sees the park in a different way and vistas employees take for granted can become beautiful through that change of perspective.

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, culinary and performing artists are all welcome to apply for this program.

Artists must submit a resume, online link or photos of their work, and a letter of intent. The letter should include why the artist is interested in helping to preserve Bighorn Canyon's resources through their work.

Park staff will review the applications and assist in the selection of artists for

the program. Specific dates for this program are dependent on housing availability.

Applications for the 2017 AIR season will be accepted until January 31, 2017.

Housing

Housing at Bighorn Canyon is limited and artists in this program should be comfortable living and working in remote settings.

The North District, located near the small community of Fort Smith, has a convenience store, gas station, some outfitting services with accommodations, and a post office. Hardin, 42 miles to the north, has a hospital and all other necessary services.

The South District, near Lovell, WY, (Population 2,000) has a hospital, schools, supermarket, convenience stores, motels, and gas stations.

A possible housing option for all seasons is the Crooked Creek Ranger Station. Artists will be given a small private bedroom and bathroom in the station. The kitchen area is a shared space with staff. This area has a warming plate, microwave and refrigerator. The park also supplies potable water at this location. As a ranger station and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) check station, it can be a busy place during the summer months, especially weekends.

Camping at Lockhart Ranch or Ewing/Snell Ranch could be a second option for artists in the South District during spring, summer, and fall seasons. Artists would need to supply a camper and park in designated areas. There are no hook-ups or water at these locations. A water and sewage dump is available at the Horseshoe Bend campground during summer months. Artist could give art presentations at the ranches and if desired, provide informal tours of the sites.

A third option in the South District would be to stay in either the Horseshoe Bend or Trail Creek campgrounds. Artists choosing Horseshoe Bend would be given a site with water and electrical hook-ups. At Trail Creek, artists would be able to choose their site. This is a primitive site, so there are no hook-ups. A 200-gallon water tank for the campground host is located at Trail Creek and would be available for the artists' use as well. A water fill station and sewage dump is available at the Horseshoe Bend campground 17 miles south of Trail Creek. Artists will provide their own trailer, motor home, tent trailer, or tent.

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.

Length of Residency

Residencies last for two 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 application, 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 selection, artists will need to complete a volunteer form prior to 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 individuals who provide 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 informally discuss their work with visitors at their work site. Opportunities for presentations and the type of presentations vary. Interpretive staff will work with artists to provide presentation opportunities that fit with the artists' interests.



2014 Sketch and Art Hike with AIR Michelle Spinei



2016 Fabric Artist Sue King made silkscreened textile post card that visitors hand colored with water color pencils.



Lockhart at Night, 2014 AIR Lynn Richardson

BICA Park Themes

To ensure the Artist-in-Residence program helps to promote the fundamental ideas, concepts, and inherent meanings of Bighorn Canyon, it is important that the artists understand, 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 America's "wild west" frontier, with legacies that live on in the lifeways of their 21st century descendants.



2015 AIR Amanda Palmer demonstrating block printing during the Find Your Park Through Art event

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 provide 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 provided in display-ready format. In 2017 Bighorn Canyon will complete a new Artist-In-Residence Gallery in the auditorium at the Bighorn Canyon visitor center. Artists' works will be rotated through this gallery. Bighorn Canyon has also been working with Plaza Diane in Powell, WY, to host an Artist-In-Residence art show every other year. Additionally, the Wyoming State Museum has asked for work to be hung at their museum in Cheyenne. Bighorn Canyon continues to work on building partnerships in the art community so these works can be shared. Artists may have their works displayed in other park-sponsored art shows, in the park offices, at the Intermountain Regional Offices in



Daniel Crowe, 2016 AIR painting at Dayboard 9

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 ways: 60% to the artist, 20% to Bighorn Canyon AIR program, and 20% to Western National Park Association. Artists are encouraged to share their website and contact information during or after public presentations.

Contact Information

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



Devil Canyon, 2016 AIR Patricia Cummins