



Fire Island National Seashore

Artist-in-Residence Program

Art and the National Parks

The National Parks have provided inspiration to people of all walks of life. Many artists including the Hudson River School painters, the transcendentalist writers, photographers including Ansel Adams, and composers such as Aaron Copland, have all created in response to the beauty and drama of the great American landscape. They have documented their interpretations of natural and cultural wonders and shared their visions with a populace who may otherwise have little knowledge of such places. Historic painters such as Thomas Moran, George Catlin, and Albert Bierstadt were essential advocates for stimulating the establishment of the national parks, and contemporary artists continue to work in support of the park's mission "for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations."

Fire Island National Seashore and the Arts

The rhythmic waves, high dunes, ancient maritime forest, historic landmarks, and wildlife of Fire Island make it a special place. Far from the pressure of nearby big-city life, the dynamic barrier island beach, including the Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness Area, offer solitude and spiritual renewal. When Fire Island National Seashore was established in 1964, its enabling legislation stated that the preexisting communities and commercial uses would be allowed to remain. The dynamic balance of this environmental treasure with human habitation has led to a culture steeped in artistic tradition.

Mission Statement

The Fire Island National Seashore Artist-in-Residence Program honors the longstanding tradition of art in the national parks and on Fire Island by facilitating artists to create relevant place and story-based work that brings a broader understanding of the unique elements that comprise Fire Island. The goals of this program are to provide creative and educational opportunities for artists of all disciplines to explore the qualities of the natural environment, culture, and/or history of Fire Island, and to support the mission of the NPS to promote the conservation and preservation of the park.

National Park Service Mission Statement

"The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The park service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world."

Accommodations

Artists accepted into the program will be based in rustic, national park housing located at Watch Hill on Fire Island. The house will be fully furnished, including kitchenware. Artists must provide their own groceries, sleeping bags and/or blankets, pillows, linens and personal toiletries and amenities.

Calendar for 2016

Two-week residencies will be held during the period of late May to late June and early September through mid-October. The park provides up to four two-week residencies per year:

- May 21-June 4
- June 5-June 19
- September 3-September 17
- September 18-October 2

These are considered the shoulder seasons of visitation for most visitors on Fire Island. During this time, ferry schedules and other commercial services are very limited, so it is important to pay attention to transportation and personal needs prior to your residency, as outlined below.

Transportation

Cars are not allowed on Fire Island, wherein access to the residences at Watch Hill from Patchogue is by ferry or boat only. Ferries run on a limited schedule, weather permitting. The Davis Park Ferry company schedule and prices are available online at their website, www.davisparkferry.com/index.htm. Additionally, the nearest residential/commercial community is Davis Park, located 1 mile west of Watch Hill. Limited amenities in Davis Park include a grocery store and restaurant. Check for hours of operation.

Transportation to the Watch Hill Ferry Terminal by train or car is very convenient. Parking is free at the ferry terminal, but any valuables left in your vehicle during your stay are your sole responsibility. If you choose to arrive by train, the Long Island Railroad has service from Penn Station in New York City to the Patchogue Station, which is a short, two-block walk to the Patchogue/Watch Hill Ferry Terminal.

Additional Information

- Artists should be in good health and expect solitude and damp conditions, and be prepared for insects, including ticks and mosquitoes.
- No stipend is provided, though housing is offered at no cost to the resident.
- Pets are not allowed.
- Guests are discouraged, as this is a time for artists to focus on their creative processes. Exceptions can only be made due to special circumstances and require prior approval.
- Smoking in any housing or other federal buildings is prohibited.
- Artists must abide by all park rules and housing policy.

Selection Process

A panel of professionals from diverse artistic disciplines and National Park Service representation will review applicants for acceptance into the program. Selections will be based on the criteria indicated below. The number of artists selected for each calendar year will be determined by available housing, which may vary annually.

Selection Criteria

This program is open to established and emerging artists. All applicants must be 18 years of age or older. The selection will be based upon artistic merit, Statement of Intent, and the ability to interpret Fire Island National Seashore. Proposals are to focus on the environment, culture, and/or history of Fire Island. Examples of work submitted should reflect aspects of the artist's Statement of Intent.

In Return

Selected artists will be required to participate in a public outreach program which may include a presentation or workshop during their residency and participation in a group AIR exhibition presented summer of the next calendar year. Arrangements will be made on an individual basis. Artists may also be asked to join the selection panel for the following year's Artist-in-Residence applications.

Application procedure

Artists must submit application information and materials exactly as instructed in the downloadable Application and Checklist form on this web page. Insufficient or excessive application materials, including art samples, will be cause for application rejection.

Deadline is February 5, 2016. Applications postmarked after February 5, 2016 will not be considered. Artists who were previously accepted and participated in a Fire Island National Seashore Artist-in-Residency may not apply for 3 years from the date of their last Fire Island residency to re-apply.

The National Park Service reserves the right to use images of Fire Island National Seashore artists in residence, and the work produced during their residency, for promotional purposes only. All copyright laws will be respected and no work will be reproduced for sale or profit without written consent by the artist. By accepting an artist residency at Fire Island National Seashore, the artist agrees with above terms.



Fire Island National Seashore Artist-in-Residence 2016

Application Form & Checklist

Artistic Medium: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

Email: _____

Please number dates of proposed residency in order of preference, with number 1 being your first choice. _____ May 21-June 4 _____ June 5-June 19

_____ September 3-September 17 _____ September 18-October 2

Checklist

All applications must include the following information in digital format – (flash drive, CD or email).

Do not send hard copies. Insufficient or excessive application materials, including art samples, will be cause for application rejection.

_____ Completed application form

_____ Resume including exhibits, publications, and/or performances - not exceeding two pages

_____ Statement of Intent for residency – not exceeding one double-spaced page

_____ Samples of artistic work

- Visual Artists (painters, sculptors, photographers, printmakers, mixed media artists, etc.)
6 images, jpg format, each image is not to exceed 1 MB, total email should not exceed 10 MB.
- Literary Artists (writers, poets, etc.)
3-6 samples, not to exceed a total of 6 pages
- Musicians, Composers, & Sound Artists
3 compositions not to exceed a total of 10 minutes, CD, DVD, or downloadable link
- Performance Artists, Film Makers, and Videographers
3 productions not to exceed a total of 10 minutes, DVD or downloadable link

_____ Non-refundable processing charge of \$35. Please make check or money order payable to National Park Service and add “Artist-in-Residence Processing Charge” to the memo line. Payment must be sent via USPS and postmarked by the application deadline, February 5, 2016.

Applications may be submitted by email to: fiis_air@nps.gov

or mailed to: **Postmark Deadline for application and payment is February 5, 2016.**

Artist-in-Residence Program
Fire Island National Seashore
120 Laurel Street
Patchogue, NY 11772

The Selection Committee will notify applicants of their decisions by March 11.