Prudence Island Artist-in-Residence Program

MISSION: We provide artists in all disciplines the opportunity to spend time and be inspired by the natural ecosystem of PI and to learn about the environment on the island as well as its history. We hope that through learning about NBNERR and its mission and through the artwork they create while on PI, Artists-in-Residence will inspire people to experience the island in myriad ways.

Goals:
1. Create artist residency on Prudence Island at the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
2. Attract a cross-section of individual artists (the Residency cannot accommodate groups).
3. Educate participating AiR on the Reserve's mission, program sectors, and activities
4. Provide opportunities for participating artists to share their work with the Reserve, Prudence Island community, and broader community in and beyond Rhode Island
5. Conduct on- and off-island events to showcase participating artists' work and raise awareness of the Reserve's mission and activities
6. Facilitate exchange and networking among Residency alumni
7. Network with other Nature Reserves in the US and potentially internationally to raise awareness of environmental concerns and preservation
8. Serve as a pilot for the creation of similar programs throughout the national NERR System

Location:
The Residency is based at the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NBNERR), South Prudence Island in Portsmouth, RI. The Reserve is a state-federal partnership between NOAA and RI Department of Environmental Management, and comprises 4400 acres on Prudence Island. NBNERR is part of a national network of 29 reserves whose mission is to practice and promote coastal and estuarine stewardship through innovative research and education, using a system of protected areas.

NBNERR facilities include a visitor’s center / laboratory / office building, an education / classroom building and outdoor pavilion, and two dormitory structures that have 3-4 bedrooms, bathrooms, full kitchens, and laundry facilities. Most areas of the NBNERR campus are ADA compliant. There is no dedicated art space and the artist must bring all materials and supplies needed to generate their work. Access to the island is by ferry only. The Prudence Island ferry leaves from Thames St. in Bristol (schedules vary seasonally).

Residency types:
There are two types of residencies, each lasting for approximately one year starting in the spring/summer.

Solo residency
One artist per cycle is invited to stay in the Reserve’s accommodation on the south end of the island for 1-4 days at a time over the course of the residency year. The timing and duration of each stay on the island is dependent on the season and other scheduled programming at the Reserve.

Group residency
Three individual artists will, as a group, stay in Reserve accommodation four times throughout the year (once per season, to be accompanied by the AiR program director, who will facilitate logistics, coordinate meals, etc.

Opportunities and expectations:
- Artists are not obligated to propose a specific project or product for their residency. The residency is meant to be a retreat that provides time for reflection, inspiration and experimentation.
• There are opportunities for artists to attend education or research activities happening at the Reserve during their stays, but are not obligated to do so. There are also several self-guided outdoor learning activities and other materials available at the Reserve’s Education Center.
• NBNERR provides opportunities for participating artists to learn about the history and ecology of Prudence Island and the mission and functions of the Reserve itself. Participating artists will be invited to spend time with NBNERR staff and participate in activities in each of the four sectors of Education, Training, Research and Stewardship.
• AiR will be asked to provide 2-4 hours of volunteer/stewardship time during their residency period. A range of activities are available, or the artist can suggest their own in consultation with Reserve and Residency program personnel.
• Alumni artists will be asked to be available to interact with current and prospective residency participants and to serve on the program selection committee.

Material Support:
• NBNERR will provide a limited amount of ferry travel between Bristol RI and Prudence Island (round trip fares with a standard size car are $62; walk-on fares are $10.80 round trip).
• AiR will have the use of Reserve dormitories during their planned stays and under a standard lease agreement.
• AiR are not permitted to bring children or pets for residency-related stays at the Reserve.
• No public transportation is available on the island, and many roads are unpaved. AiR are therefore need to have a valid driver’s license and their own vehicle (car, bicycle)
• For artists who come to the island without their own vehicle, rides between the Prudence Island ferry depot and Reserve facilities (approximately 3 miles each way) can sometimes be coordinated with Reserve staff but are not guaranteed.
• Transportation of the AiR to/from the ferry depot in Bristol, RI will be facilitated by the Residency program but is not guaranteed.
• Artists will be responsible for bringing their own bed linens, food, art supplies and other necessities and incidentals.
• The Residency provides housing, utilities, and phone service within the U.S. Internet service is spotty on the island, and Wi-Fi access is not guaranteed at the Reserve. Artists are responsible for their own personal living expenses, supplies and any other expenses related to the cost of producing work that may be incurred during their residency.
• Participating AiR are welcome to do personal fundraising for all expenses related to their time as an Artist-in-Residence (e.g., through RISCA, GoFundMe, etc.)

Outcomes / Outputs:
We will ask each visiting artist to design their own community contribution with feedback/approval of the AiR director. This could take the shape of a workshop, a demonstration, a talk, an open studio, or a performance or exhibit in a public space off the island.
• A “meet-the-artist” event on Prudence Island hosted by NBNERR, where work would be showcased
• An off-island event / show where the artist’s work could be showcased
• The artist’s residency and work will be featured on the Reserve/AiR program website/blog

Deciding if an AiR program on an island nature reserve is right for you:
• Take a day trip and scope it out! PI is a 30 minute ferry ride off the coast of Bristol (check out this NBNERR link: http://nbnerr.org/recreation)
• Contact Sheryl Kopel, the AiR director for a virtual or in-person chat: PIArtistResidency@gmail.com