

**OPEN CALL:** NaturePLACE Arts Residency– Baltimore, MD

**Deadline : 28 Feb 2025**

The NaturePLACE: Collaborative Arts Program, formerly the Urban Field Station Collaborative Arts Program, is currently accepting applications for the 2025 cohort of its Arts Residency Program. Artists working in all forms of artistic expression (visual, writing, social practice, music, performance, film, woodworking, etc.,) are welcome to apply.

**About NaturePLACE**

NaturePLACE (**P**eople, **L**andscapes, **A**rts, **C**reativity, **E**cologies) is a hybrid virtual, community-centered residency program hosted by the USDA Forest Service in partnership with [The Nature of Cities](#). A collaborative transdisciplinary program where artists are paired with natural and or social scientists, land managers, or practitioners to work together, drawing on knowledge from their disciplines respectively to explore social-ecological systems. Works of art may result, but the aim of this program is to foster transdisciplinary collaboration, mutual understanding, diverse representation, and enhanced communication, above the production of a final work or project. (See Program Aims for more information)

**Theme: Nature Connects Us: Baltimore, Nature, & You**

- *Why does nature matter to you?*
- *Where do you find nature?*
- *What place in nature feels like home?*
- *How do you care for nature and how does nature care for you?*

We are seeking an artist interested in collaborating with the [Baltimore Field Station](#) around these questions, tied to exploring and understanding people's relationship to and with nature. This call for artists is inspired by the USDA Forest Service's Campaign "[Nature Connects Us](#)," which centers individuals and their unique experiences with national forests and grasslands by exploring a sense of place. We aim to apply these exploratory questions about relationships to urban nature in Baltimore to further build relationships with communities in a way meaningful to them. See more about the "Nature Connects Us" campaign [here](#).

**Science/Practice Collaborators:**

***Baltimore Field Station Team- USDA Forest Service***

The Baltimore Field Station is involved in research, projects and programs related to environmental justice, urban wood reuse, environmental stewardship, and long-term forest ecology and management.

To read more about the work of the Baltimore Field Station, click on one of the links below:

- [Urban Silviculture Training Program](#)
- [Baltimore Urban Wood Project](#)
- [Urban Forest Patches](#)
- [Urban Trees and Air Temperature Change](#)
- [Stillmeadow PeacePark](#)
- [Crime Reduction through the Removal of Vacant Buildings](#)

Lead collaborator for the NaturePLACE Program in Baltimore is **Lenwood Hayman**, a Program and Partnership Coordinator with the USDA Forest Service Baltimore Field Station.

### **Eligibility:**

- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older
- Applicants can be established in any discipline
- Proposals must address the theme; we are open to diverse interpretations.
- Applicants must reside in or have a strong and active connection to the location upon which they are basing their proposal.

### **Residence Program Overview:**

- 12 months residence, commencing in June 2025.
- Virtual residency, but on-site in-person work is encouraged
- Honorarium of \$3,000 USD + project development support from the NaturePLACE team
- Featured content opportunities on [The Nature of Cities](#) website, if desired

### **Artist's Contribution:**

- Work collaboratively with the selected partner team member throughout the artistic process. Will include meeting with a point person from this team regularly, as needed.
- Check-in periodically with the NaturePLACE organizers as needed to support your progress.
- Create a piece of virtual content (essay, photo series, blog, etc., as suits the ideas) for The Nature of Cities exploring the ideas embedded in any resulting artistic work that resulted from the collaborative efforts during the residence. This content can be authored in collaboration with Agency Teams.
- Participate in a joint exhibition of work with other resident artists, if mutually agreed.
  - Works shown may be from any period in the artist's career that relate to the key ideas explored in the residency. The creation of new work during the residency is welcome but not a requirement.

### **How to apply:**

Submit a complete application to the [NaturePLACE Program Portal](#) by **28 February 2025**. Please follow the prompts in the online application form carefully to ensure you select the desired location you are applying for. Applicants will be notified of decisions in May with the program beginning June 2025.

### **Program Aims:**

- Build understanding of and engagement with social-ecological systems through arts.
- Facilitate trans-disciplinary collaboration between artists, scientists, and land managers.
- Curate events and public programs that explore ideas emerging from these collaborations.

Our Artist Residency program exists in collaboration with (1) a network of Urban Field Stations and other locations supported by the USDA Forest Service and in collaboration with municipal, state, nonprofit, and academic partners across the United States and internationally; and (2) a group of global collaborators with USDA Forest Service International Program. These networks, in partnership with [The Nature of Cities](#) and others, aim to bring new perspectives, unique planning and design ideas, and creative problem solving from the arts and humanities to advance our collective understanding and management of social-ecological systems.

### **Application Checklist:**

- Letter of interest** – 800 words max.
  - Include a statement that describes your proposed topic or approach for the duration of the residency.
  - Tell us what attracts you to a collaborative residency like this, and what guided your selection of Participating Agency Teams
- Examples of previous work**
  - Please label the submission file with last name, date (dd-mm-yy), in a format that suits the artistic work (e.g. up to 5 images, up to 5 pages of text, or a link to up to 5 minutes of audio/video)
- The names and contact information for at least one reference** of people familiar with your work.
- Resume or CV**

### **Application Review Criteria:**

- Demonstrate artistic merit
- Propose an innovative perspective on the theme

- Align with the program's goal, which is to explore new knowledge and perspectives about social-ecological systems and natural resources management
- Reveal new possibilities for collaboration between artists, scientists, and land managers
- Have a solid connection to the physical locations of the call

**Rights and Responsibilities:**

- Artists retain all intellectual and moral property rights over any artwork created during the residence.
- Any artwork created by a resident artist (including copyright and intellectual property) are fully retained by the artist (with the exception of the next item).
- Residency artists provide NaturePLACE and collaborating partners with an unlimited royalty free license in perpetuity to use artworks and images of art works for any non-commercial purposes related to the program.
- All intellectual property rights of the research and data of the agency teams is held by the teams.
- Co-created work will be credited to all participating team members.

Please email [NaturePLACE@thenatureofcities.com](mailto:NaturePLACE@thenatureofcities.com) with any questions or comments.

Check out [our website](#) to see the work of past cohorts and learn more about the program.