

OPEN CALL: NaturePLACE Arts Residency - Coconino County, AZ

Deadline : 28 Feb 2025

The NaturePLACE: Collaborative Arts Program, formerly 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, etc.) are welcome to apply.

Theme: *Water is Life, Waters for Life*

We are seeking Indigenous perspectives and artist practices to engage with the landscapes of the [Kaibab National Forest](#), the [Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni—Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument](#), and [Tusayan-Montane \(formerly Ten-X\) Campground](#), around the topic of water. The landscape of the National Forest consists of Ponderosa pine forest, mixed small conifer, and grasslands as well as [several sacred springs and seeps](#), which are vital sources of water. Water is a compound that ties all beings and communities together and permits life to flourish. Yet, fresh water is also precious and finite, with sources under threat.

We are looking for proposals from artists or artist collectives that engage Indigenous ways of knowing and being, including but not limited to art, music, foodways, workshops, and craft. Artists are encouraged to reflect on the landscapes in and around the Kaibab National Forest, by exploring critical questions on water rights, responsibility, and resilience on sacred landscapes. Additionally, artists are invited to consider the past, present and future celebration, use, and stewardship of water in the region and ways to engage people within the National Forests beyond conventional recreational opportunities. For more details see artist contribution section below.

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 discipline 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)

The mission of the Forest Service is Caring for the Land and Serving People. The motto of the Kaibab National Forest is “Walking the Land Together.”

The science/practice team members may include the Partnership Coordinator, Recreation Manager, Monument Manager, Tribal Liaison, and Natural and Cultural Scientists from the Kaibab National Forest.

The Tusayan Montane Campground may serve as a venue for products or workshops. The nearby communities are (largest to smallest) Flagstaff, Williams, Tusayan, and Jacob Lake/Fredonia.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older - emerging artists and artist collectives or organizations are encouraged to apply
- 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:

- 1 position open
- 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
- Collaborative development support from a science or natural resources management team member group, selected by the artist
- 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.
- Engagement with the public, planned in collaboration with the agency team,

is strongly encouraged, for example through workshops, demonstrations, or artist talks. Must be free to the public and interact with at least 10 people virtually or in person. Can happen over multiple events.

Examples are, but are not limited to:

- artist talk at a venue such as Coconino Center for the Arts or Grand Canyon National Park,
- showing art work at a trailhead in the forest,
- hosting a workshop at a cabin in the forest or in a city or town location where people can connect with the natural surroundings,
- demonstrating your art form and describing it to others while out in nature,
- designing a mural and having visitors help paint it,
- developing art along the Tusayan Montane Nature Trail that blends in with the surroundings and then leading a walk to visit the locations.

How to apply:

Submit a complete application to [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 with any questions or comments.

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

