

A Realistic Look At Residencies  
by Allison Luce

Consider: Will this be a worthwhile investment of my time and resources?

Anticipated Beneficial Results from an Artist Residency:

- Participation in a new artistic community
  - Community outreach, sharing your artwork with others in a different country, state, etc.
  - New exhibition opportunities
- Meeting a new network of colleagues/ friends
  - Learn about other recommended residencies
  - Get to know people well on residencies
- Exchange of technical expertise with peers
  - Technical advice from colleagues
- Change of scenery/ change of artwork/ new place leads to new thoughts & ideas
- Learn about how your artwork relates to other artists
  - Learn about other artist's practices & trials & successes
- Opportunity to Push artwork forward
  - Burst of productivity without distraction
  - May be the only time of year without interruptions/ distractions
  - Artists tend to work very hard/ long hours during residencies

Things to consider when choosing a residency:

- Cost-
  - What is the total cost of the program?
  - Some programs award fellowships, others do not
  - Some programs are expensive, others are moderately/inexpensively priced
  - Some programs are highly competitive/ others just want someone who can pay the fee
- Family obligations
  - Can you leave? Who will watch the kids, dogs, etc. in your absence
    - Who will mow the lawn, pay the bills, etc.?
- Work schedule
  - Are you able to take a leave from your job, travel during the summer?
- What is the living situation
  - How many people will be there?
  - Will you be lonely or overwhelmed by the other people/artists?
- Are you flexible?
  - Are you high maintenance?
  - Can you adapt to new environments easily?
  - Do you make new friends easily?
- Do you thrive in new environments or do you prefer the safety of your home studio?
  - Do you like to travel?

It takes the sacrifice of your family and friends in order for you to go on a residency program. It is not something you can do by yourself. You need a network of people who are supportive of your artwork in order to be successful

Residency & Grant Opportunities  
Resources

Compiled by Allison Luce

This list is for informational purposes only and should not be considered exhaustive or conclusive. This is not an endorsement or recommendation of the following institutions. The reader should conduct his or her own research prior to making a decision.

Artist Resources:

Res Artis- source for artist residencies

<http://www.resartis.org/en/>

Alliance of Artists Communities

<http://www.artistcommunities.org/residencies>

College Art Association

<http://www.collegeart.org/>

Cranbrook Academy of Art

<http://www.cranbrookart.edu/library/research/residencies.htm>

Rhode Island School of Design

<http://risdcareers.com/grants/residency-resources/>

NEA

<http://arts.gov/grants/apply-for-a-grant>

NYFA

<https://www.nyfa.org>

Resources and opportunities

Local/ State Arts Councils

Provide grants for individual artists and organizations