The Big Picture

The Sanctuary's Visiting Artist Residency program is an opportunity for artists of all types to spend 1 to 3 months living and working on the Redwood Coast of northern California. Located in downtown Arcata, the Sanctuary is a community arts center and non-profit organization based in an historic building that was constructed in 1916 to be the Arcata Women's Clubhouse. Today, it is a bustling music venue, art gallery, community center, and artists' workshop, with lab facilities including printmaking, ceramics, textiles, woodworking, music recording, bicycle repair, gardening, homesteading, and more.

Visiting residents may freely explore their creative practice during their time at the Sanctuary, making use of the in-house facilities, exploring the diverse community of Arcata, or venturing further to the beaches, redwood forests, and mountain trails that dapple our coastal bioregion. Past residents have activated the Sanctuary's facilities with recording sessions, book-making projects, pop-up art shows, and the production of prints, ceramics, and performance pieces. In addition, residents have utilized the Sanctuary's gathering spaces to make offerings to the larger community, through educational workshops, concerts, dinners, and dance parties.

Whether looking inward to cultivate one's personal practice, or expanding outward to draw connections between people and place, it is our hope that artist residents will draw on the Sanctuary’s mission statement: The Sanctuary is dedicated to creative growth through artful living. We encourage people to teach, inspire and know each other.

The Details

Schedule: Visiting residencies are available each month from February through November. We are looking to schedule residents for the duration of 1 to 3 full calendar months, with some flexibility.
Cost: The residency fee is $200, which is used to cover operating costs and utilities.

Stipend: Residents who create a community-minded event, workshop, or artwork can qualify for a small stipend. There are a limited number of stipends available for the 2019 season, and artists interested in receiving one should include a project proposal in their application.

Accommodations: Residents will reside in the South Room, a small curtained-off space with a double bed, storage for clothing and supplies, and a window. Artists have 24-hr access to all lab facilities during the stay, including the communal kitchen, where the Sanctuary's five long-term residents collaborate on purchasing and preparing food. There is one small refrigerator in the building, and a grocery store two blocks away.

Participation: Residents are strongly encouraged to participate in the Sanctuary public events throughout their stay, including the weekly Taco Tuesday potluck, Saturday Open Lab hours, and the monthly Arts! Arcata open house, on the second Friday of each month. Participation in these events will help build relationships with the community, and are an important component of this residency experience.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should write a letter explaining their art-making practice, what they hope to gain from a residency at the Sanctuary, which months they would be available to participate, contact info (phone/email) and three samples of past work or ongoing projects.

Letters can be sent via email to:

art@sanctuaryarcata.org,

or sent via mail to:

1301 J Street
Arcata, CA, 95521

Applications will be accepted until the end of the day on Nov 31st. Applicants will hear back from Sanctuary staff no later than December 15th.