

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Westerly Library & Wilcox Park

HISTORY

Westerly Library and Wilcox Park is a private non-profit owned and operated by the Memorial and Library Association. The Association was established in 1892 to commemorate the volunteer soldiers and sailors who fought in the Civil War. Designed by Longstaff & Hurd, architects from Bridgeport, Connecticut, Westerly Library opened its doors in 1894 through the initiative of local industrialist-inventor, Stephen Wilcox. Mr. Wilcox donated the land on which the library is situated, as well as \$25,000 to be matched by citizens of the community.

The original parcel of land for Wilcox Park was donated in 1898 by Harriet Wilcox in memory of her husband, Stephen Wilcox. Harriet envisioned the area as a walking park to be enjoyed by the hard-working citizens of Westerly and Pawcatuck. Wilcox Park is considered a Medallion Park by the ASLA and has been a nationally significant listing on the National Register of Historical Places since 2004.

An addition to the library building in 1901, financed by Harriet Wilcox, housed further library stacks as well as a large art room that showcased the Wilcox's sizeable collection of 19th-century American and European landscape paintings, including works by Jasper Cropsey, Arthur Fitzwilliam Fair, and Leon Perrault.

In 1928, William D. Hoxie, nephew of Harriet Hoxie Wilcox, commissioned the plans for another addition. The building program was designed to add a children's room, and once again, space was dedicated to an art gallery. The Wilcox's art collection was moved to the new 1500 Square foot gallery, while more library stacks filled its former home.

In recent history, area artists have brightened the gallery with their talent. We provide the space, and the artists provide a new exhibit every month complete with publicity, opening receptions, and an increase in unique visitors.

AIR PROGRAM

Vision

Westerly is a growing arts community. There are already a number of anchors in Westerly to support the arts including the United, Knickerbocker, the Artists' Cooperative Gallery of Westerly, the Chorus of Westerly, the Hoxie Gallery, Colonial Theatre, Granite Theatre, all helping to increase awareness and appreciation of the arts.

In the heart of downtown Westerly and part the arts community, Westerly Library and Wilcox Park believes the Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program further nurtures our arts community through cooperative support and education; it will provide artists an opportunity to work on and share their art, and encourage creativity and artistry in all community members and visitors.

Purpose

Westerly Library & Wilcox Park's AIR program is designed to encourage the creative, intellectual and personal growth of emerging and established artists. It is expected that artists have sufficient skills and experience to work independently in their studio area. The residency is designed to allow artists to take risks and pursue new projects and ideas, free from everyday pressures.

It is expected that each resident at The Cottage use this gift of time and space to actively pursue artistic research through rigorous studio practice.

The Artist-in-Residence (AIR) expands Westerly Library and Wilcox Park's impact on local art and culture, offers public engagement, promotes communal connections, and provides creative and educational opportunities for the community while supporting cultural and artistic exchange.

Outcomes

Each artist is expected to:

- Hold scheduled studio hours in The Cottage when possible and/or
- Present their work during a public talk and/or an onsite open studio event towards the end of the residency and/or
- Hold at least one class or workshop during the residency period open to the public
 - Classes can range from hands-on instruction to general information about the art form and can be geared toward a specific age range or open to all

RESIDENCY APPLICATION PROCESS

Submission Requirements

A five-member jury of representatives from the Association, experts from the professional art world, and, when applicable, related guest stakeholders who will benefit from the collaboration with the Association and the artists.

Artists 21 years of age and older may apply. Artists selected for this program may be at all stages in their careers and work in one or more of the following media, including but not limited to: drawing, painting, illustration, fiber arts, sculpture, ceramics, photography, video, music, fiction and nonfiction writing, and poetry. Artists working in other mediums are encouraged to apply and will be considered based on limitations of the studio. Applicants will be required to undergo a background check.

Westerly Library and Wilcox Park does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, spirituality, national origin, age, gender preference, or sexual orientation.

Selection Criteria

- Quality of work/artistic merit
- Well defined project proposal

- Ability to teach and conduct workshops or presentations
- Readiness to engage with and benefit from the residency experience
- Artistic medium
- Dates of previous residencies of similar items or topics, where applicable
- Special needs, costs, or requests associated with space use or workshops
- Overall community interest
- Historical prominence or significance of the artist's work
- Relevance to library and park programs
- Willingness to engage with the public

Strong submissions will include a well-written work plan, artistic statement, and recent work samples; articulate what is exciting, different, interesting, or innovative to the process/work; address compelling or relevant topics; and have a well-thought-out vision that leaves room for flexibility and innovation.

Submissions should be sent electronically either by e-mail or by sending a link to a folder uploaded to a cloud drive such as Google Drive, Dropbox, or iCloud. The e-mail address can be found on the downloadable application.

Residency Stipend

A stipend is provided based upon the duration of the residency.

- \$1500 stipend for 8-week residency
- \$1125 stipend for a 6-week residency
- \$750 stipend for 4-week residency
- \$375 stipend for a 2-week residency

Residency Fees/Expenses

- Half of the stipend will be provided when the artist arrives on site and half will be provided at the conclusion of the residency provided all agreed upon program requirements have been met.
 - Should there be a need to pay for repairs to The Cottage, residents will be provided with an itemized expense list which may be deducted from the remainder of their stipend.
- Should the residency/stay be in collaboration with a partner organization, the above stipend may not be apply.
- Artists are responsible for their own personal living expenses, supplies, and any other related cost of producing work that may be incurred while in the program.
- Travel and shipping expenses to and from Westerly Library and Wilcox Park are the responsibility of the artist.

Expectations and Requirements

- Artists will reside in The Cottage in Wilcox Park. The Cottage is accessible for residents with limited mobility.

- It is equipped with a furnished living room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and workspace.
- The residency provides utilities and wireless internet.
- The Cottage will act as the artists' living space, possible workspace, and possible exhibition space.
- Workspace may be outdoors or in another nearby arts facility.
- Exhibition space may be in The Cottage, the library's Hoxie Gallery, or a nearby facility.
- Artists are required to attend a meet and greet with staff at the start of each residency.
- Artists are required to track/submit their hours worked.
- Artists are required to adhere to all relevant policies during their residency.
- Artists will send 3-5 images of their work to the Marketing and Communications team each week of the residency to be shared on Westerly Library and Wilcox Park's (and collaborator) social media.
- Artists will send digital representation of their work done while in residence no later than 6 months from the last date in residency.
- Artists are required to complete a post-residency feedback questionnaire.
- Upon accepting the residency, artists must provide headshot, bio, and paperwork as requested.
- Optional: Artists will participate in a post-residency video interview speaking on their experience and sharing images of their work/work-in-progress.
- For more information and guidelines about the Artist-in-Residence program, [click here](#).