



2019 Request For Proposals: Boston Harbor Islands Artist In Residence

THEME: EDGES AND SPACES BETWEEN

Boston Harbor Now, the National Park Service (NPS), and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) are excited to announce the call for proposals from artists whose practice will use the theme of *Edges and Spaces Between* as a point of departure to engage with the natural environment, community assets, activities, and history of Boston Harbor. Projects will be selected by a juried process. The Harbor is a place where land and water meet, and we are seeking projects that explore the richness of the stories that exist in the margins of physical space and in Boston's social fabric and iconic historical sites.

WHO CAN APPLY

People interested in using art and culture to activate and animate Boston's iconic harbor islands, public lands and social fabric. People who love parks and have an understanding of the dynamics of park processes and public space. Opportunities are open to artists of any medium, including writers, poets, photographers, new media artists, dancers, choreographers, filmmakers, 2D fine artists, architects, designers, musicians and composers. Collaborative groups are also welcome to apply, although accommodations for island residencies are limited to 2 people.

HONORARIUM

Boston Harbor AIRs will receive a \$1,500 stipend. The work and research of the awarded artists will be maintained on Boston Harbor Now's website in coordination with the artists.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply online [here](#). Link can also be accessed on our website <http://www.bostonharbornow.org/recreation/>

Info Session: Thursday, January 31, 2019, 7:00-9:00 pm at the Milky Way in Jamaica Plain.

The info session will be preceded by a special evening of music and reflection from the 2018 Artist in Residence on the Boston Harbor Islands, musician Kera Washington. 7:00-7:45 - concert; 7:45 - 8:00 - Q&A with artist; 8:00 - 8:30 - info session about the artist in residency program; 8:30-9:00 informal networking.

Deadline to apply: Friday, February 15, 2019 at 11:59pm

For questions contact art@bostonharbornow.org

PROPOSAL DETAILS: Boston Harbor Islands Artist in Residence (AIR) program

The largest recreational open space in Eastern Massachusetts, the Boston Harbor Islands are minutes from downtown Boston and surrounding communities, offering views of the city, remarkable history, and recreation opportunities. The Park attracts more than 500,000 visitors annually and provides important wildlife habitat areas.

Key points about the Islands Residency:

- Artists will have free water transportation from Boston to the harbor islands and back, and free inter-island transportation to Lovells, Peddocks, Grape or Bumpkin Islands until Labor Day.
- Artists will share their work with the public on one or more open studio days, engage the public in the artistic process, and share progress towards the end of the residency.
- Public engagement must be thoughtful and planned and communicated with park staff. During open studio day, volunteers (or park staff if available) will help with setting the context for the work as appropriate.
- Outside of the workshops, artists are encouraged to consider public involvement as part of their process.
- All work must be dismantled and removed from the island and the end of the residency.
- Artists must accept full responsibility for their art and members of their group.
- Artists must bring their own tools and equipment. Access to larger tools and equipment (wheelbarrow, ladder, etc) can be requested as part of the application process but this does not guarantee the use of these items.
- Spectacle and Georges Islands in August are very busy, with hundreds of visitors daily.
- Spectacle and Georges Islands in September are less busy. Artists would have more of a peaceful experience and more opportunities to experience the island quietly.
- Participation in 1 hour staff training in May is required to inform park interpretive staff about your project so that they are prepared to talk to the public about your work.

As part of the application, Boston Harbor Islands AIRs will be required to sign an agreement which details the following rules of conduct per [Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation](#):

- No digging on any state property.
- Alcohol is prohibited.
- The islands are carry on/carry off: all trash must be brought off island with you by the end of the residency. There are no trash cans on the islands.
- There are no open campfires allowed.
- Charcoal or fuel cooking stoves are allowed at designated camp or picnic sites.
- Cutting, removing, defacing, or otherwise causing damage to any natural or man-made object is prohibited.
- Respect Wildlife. Watch animals from a distance and never feed or follow them.
- Bicycle riding, amplified music, bonfires, firearms, fireworks, any explosive devices are prohibited.
- Service dogs are permitted on all islands. Pets are restricted for resource protection and visitor safety.
- Boat captains have discretion to deny passage for any violation of rules and regulations.

Artist accommodations:

- Basic camping may be available in a yurt on Peddocks and Spectacle Islands. The yurts have 2 beds, and the artist may choose to commute daily or sleep there. Bathrooms are in the visitor centers, about a 2 minute walk from the yurt. If requested, a camp stove and camp kitchen will be provided for cooking. There is water and electricity available on the islands but not in the yurts themselves.
- Rustic camping opportunities on Lovells, Grape or Bumpkin are available Wednesdays - Sundays until Labor Day with a DCR camping permit, which we can help facilitate. There is no electricity or water on these islands.
- A private bedroom with access to a shared restroom and kitchen is available above the Visitor Center on Georges Island and may be available depending on the nature of the artist's proposal. Secure studio space on Georges is not available at this time.
- There are concessions on both Spectacle and Georges Islands that sell food, drinks, and snacks from late morning through mid afternoon. In September, concessions are open on the weekends only. On all other islands, artists would need to bring their own food.
- If staying on an island is not feasible, taking day trips during the residency is an option.

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE (subject to change at the discretion of event organizers)

- November 16, 2018: RFP Release
- Thursday, January 31, 2019 from 7:00-9:00pm: Info session at the Milky Way in Jamaica Plain, preceded by a special evening of music and reflection from musician Kera Washington, 2018 Boston Harbor Islands Artist in Residence. 7:00-7:45 - concert; 7:45 - 8:00 - Q&A with artist; 8:00 - 8:30 - info session about the artist in residency program; 8:30-9:00 informal networking.
- Friday, February 15, 2019 at 11:59pm: Artist's Project Applications due.
- Late February: Jury meets to select artists.
- Early March: Organizers follow up with artists regarding any questions.
- March: Artists are selected and notified
- April/May: Site visit to proposed sites with stakeholders and artists.
- July: Arts and Culture Boat Cruise
- July- September: Residencies
- Fall 2019: Group exhibition of works/performance/readings, etc with all AIR's to share what was created and explored during the residencies, and to celebrate the RFP launch of next years projects.

GENERAL RULES DURING ART MAKING ACTIVITIES

- Alcohol is prohibited.
- Cutting, removing, defacing, or otherwise causing damage to any natural or man-made object is prohibited.
- Artists may not use any materials or processes that are detrimental to the environment or unsafe for the public.
- Leave no trace: With exception made to artists working with paint in pre-approved sites, artists should plan to create work that is temporary, with no lasting impact. Work must be set up/taken down in the same day with artists present at the site.
- Some accommodations are ADA accessible - reasonable accommodations available upon request.

REQUIRED APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS:

- Video and/or written descriptions detailing your plans. Questions listed below are in the online application form as separate questions:
 - Concept:
 - How would your proposed project activate public lands, Boston's iconic historical sites, and/or social fabric?
 - What artistic products do you plan to create?
 - How do you envision connecting with the Islands and how might that influence the direction of your work?
 - How will your work respond to the theme of *Edges and Spaces Between?*
 - Process
 - Describe your **studio practice**.
 - Describe the **process** as you envision it unfolding to create the work you are proposing.
 - Describe how you see **public engagement** playing out and how it will influence the work.
 - Describe how you might structure a public workshop experience. Describe the general audience/user group.
 - Logistics:
 - What is your preferred duration for your residency? Do you have particular dates that you would request from mid July through mid September? Please note that dates and residency stays may be negotiable with DCR staff.
 - What locations would you be particularly interested in activating through your art?
 - Depending on the nature of your practice, you may want to submit images, audio, video, and/or written work. You will be asked to upload your CV and your choice of the following:
 - No more than 10 sample works, submitted as a single pdf with multiple pages and an image list describing the sample works
 - Time-based work samples such as audio or video that are 3 minutes or shorter.
 - Written work samples, limited to 3 page excerpts or less.

2019 SELECTION COMMITTEE INCLUDES:

- *Lucas Cowan, Public Art Curator; The Greenway*
- *Luis Cotto, Program Manager at Mass Cultural Council*
- *Celena Illuzzi, Youth Employment and Development Specialist for National Parks of Boston*
- *Carolyn Lewenberg, Boston Harbor [Re]creation*
- *Denise Sarno-Bucca, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)*
- *Courtney Sharpe, Director of Cultural Planning, City of Boston*
- *Rebecca Smerling, Director of Programs and Special Projects, Boston Harbor Now*
- *Kera Washington, 2018 Boston Harbor Islands AIR; Director, Yanvalou Drum & Dance, Wellesley College; Music Teacher, Boston Public Schools; Leader, Zili Misik*
- *Cynthia Woo, Director, Pao Arts Center, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center*
- *Boston Harbor Island Caretakers as appropriate, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)*