

OPEN CALL: UFS Arts Residency – Baltimore

The Urban Field Station Collaborative Arts Program (UFS Arts) is currently accepting applications for the 2024 cohort of its Virtual Arts Residency Program. Artists working in all forms of artistic expression (visual, writing, social practice, music, performance, film, etc.,) are welcome to apply.

Theme: Exploration of urban forest patches

This year, the Baltimore-based residency is aimed at co-producing an artistic exploration of [urban forest patches](#). This might include, but is not limited to, the ways in which urban forest patches and natural areas can yield community and ecological benefits such as social cohesion, physical, mental, and spiritual health, climate resilience, improved environmental justice, biodiversity, youth and family engagement, workforce development and/or jobs, and more. All interested applicants are encouraged to explore the current work underway at the USDA Forest Service [Baltimore Field Station](#) and at [Baltimore Green Space](#) via the websites and specifically these resources related to forest patches:

- [Protect the Forest Patches that Protect Baltimore](#) and [Forest Patch First Aid](#)
- [Natural Turned National Infrastructure: Urban Forest Patches in the 21st Century](#)
- [Stillmeadow Peace Park and Forest: An Experiment in Rehabilitation of a Degraded Urban Forest](#)
- [Silviculture in the City: Urban and Climate Adapted Management Strategies for Forested Natural Areas in the Northeastern U.S.](#)

About UFS Arts Residency Program

The Arts Residency Program 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 disciplines respectively to explore urban 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 science/practice team (“partner team”) includes the USDA Forest Service [Baltimore Field Station](#) and [Baltimore Green Space](#).

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older
- Applicants can be established in any discipline
- Proposals must address the theme; we are open to diverse interpretations.
- Applicants must reside in Baltimore or have a strong and active connection to the location upon which they are basing their proposal.

Residence Program Overview:

- 12 months residence, commencing at the end of January.
- Virtual residency, but on-site in-person work is encouraged
- Honorarium of \$3,000 USD + project development support from the UFS Arts 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 UFS Arts 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 desired.
 - 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.

How to apply:

Submit a complete application to the [UFS ARTS Program Portal](#) by 1 October 2023. 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 early December.

Program Aims:

- Build understanding of and engagement with urban 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 urban 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 (ddmmyy), in a format that suits the artistic work (e.g. up to 5 images, up to 2500 words 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 urban 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
- Support our diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. See our [DEI Fact Sheet](#).

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 UFS Arts 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 UFSarts@thenatureofcities.com with any questions or comments. Check out <https://ufsarts.com/> to see the work of past cohorts and learn more about the program.