



Think - Create - Act: USDA Forest Service Urban Artist Collaborative Residency Program 2022

Call for locations

Summary: Think - Create - Act: USDA Forest Service Urban Artist Collaborative Residency Program 2022 is a virtual residency program hosted by the USDA Forest Service in partnership with the Nature of Cities. This call is for locations, organizations, or teams interested in partnering in the 2022 program. Partners can include scientists and/or practitioners interested in working with and advising Artist Residents in works of collaborative imagination in their urban environment.

Program Aims:

- We build understanding of and engagement with urban social-ecological systems through arts.
- We facilitate trans-disciplinary collaboration between artists, scientists, and land managers.
- We 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 place-based urban research and practice 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.

The program's mission is to promote understanding of and engagement with urban ecology through art and artist collaborations with scientists and practitioners. Specifically, the Think - Create - Act Program seeks to build creative explorations of new knowledge by facilitating artists' engagement with land managers and researchers to better understand, represent, and communicate about urban social-ecological systems through works of art and imagination, as well as curating events and public engagements that explore ideas that emerge from creative works.

We seek artists and science-practitioner partners interested in creating work of collaborative imagination about urban environments, and investigations of new knowledge that may emerge from the frontiers where art, science, and practice meet. The creation of new work during the residency is welcome, but not a requirement: we intend artist residencies to be periods of exploration which do not necessarily result in the production of new work immediately during the residency. We also intend artist residencies to be periods of exploration, new learning, and innovative modes of communication for the scientist/practitioner partners. Scientist/practitioner outputs from the program might, but not necessarily include scientific papers or public outreach programs inspired by the collaborations. In addition to the artist residency program, we organize virtual and in-person public events, including exhibitions, seminars, webinars, and workshops.

See more at our website: <https://ufsarts.com>.

Program details:

- **Residency Term:** one year. Artists remain an “affiliate” afterward, with opportunities to attend annual all-hands-meetings to share updates and progress on work, continue networking and exchange ideas.
- **Cost per partner to participate:** \$5,000 total, including the costs of running the program and a \$3,000 stipend paid directly to each artist.
- **Artist selection process:**
 - As a whole, the program is open to all forms of art, all media, including social practice art, but local partners may narrow their call to certain forms.
 - The program seeks to engage a wide range of diverse perspectives, including diversifying our artists participants and science-practitioner teams and engaging with diverse publics, including those that are not traditionally engaged in natural resource management and conservation.
 - Partners have three options for selecting their artist resident:
 - **Local team nominates the artist:** Program advisory committee + local selection team reviews/approves.
 - **Closed call:** artists are invited to apply by local teams - advisory committee + local selection team reviews applications and selects the resident.
 - **Open call:** full process with Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) audit. One crosscutting advisory team made up of all partners makes the selections.
- **Theme for 2022:** Issues/ themes connect to the priorities and missions of USDA Forest Service and USFS IP.
 - In general: “**caring for the land and serving people**” is the overarching theme including urban nature, forests, trees, food systems, stewardship, conservation, land management.

- Within this broad theme, partner locations may tailor a sub-theme to their needs.
- We are interested in engaging with a broad range of “wicked” or complex urban social-ecological challenges, including but not limited to issues around climate change and climate justice.
- **TNOC/FS program deliverables:**
 - Administration of the program.
 - Broad support of the select process.
 - Ongoing support of the artists and the partner teams in their work together.
 - Organization of all-hands-meetings, workshops and networking.
 - Support from TNOC to publish and publicize the work of the residencies.
- **Artist deliverables:**
 - The residency is intended as a period of exploration and development for the artist.
 - The residency does not require that new work be created, but new work is welcome.
 - Artists are expected to participate in mutually agreed meetings with their teams and the all-hands-meetings of the whole cohort of resident artists.
 - Formal deliverable is content on TNOC in form suitable to the work.
- **Science-practitioner team deliverables:**
 - Participation in the crafting of the call and selection process.
 - Mentoring the chosen artist.
 - Teams are expected to participate in mutually agreed meetings with their artist and the all-hands-meetings of the whole cohort of resident artists.
 - Formal deliverable is content on TNOC in form suitable to the collaboration.
 - Other outputs relating to the collaboration, such as scientific papers, policy briefs, public events, workshops, or outreach strategies, are optional but encouraged; the program would support such outputs in whatever ways are useful.
- **Program structure:**
 - 1 artist - 1 science-practitioner pairing (these teams can be scientists, practitioners, or both). The partner team is responsible for other networking with additional partners locally and beyond. It is ideal if there is a primary contact person and active collaborator with the partner organization.
 - Program is entirely a “virtual” residency at the global scale
 - Locations are encouraged to have in person meetings and connections, including artist visits to the partner organization and partner visits to the artist’s studio.

- For residency in New York City there is an option for a physical residency at the NYC Fort Totten Urban Field Station
- **What locations are eligible to participate?**
 - Locations with an existing relationship to the USDA Forest Service - including staff, partnerships, programs
 - Locations must include at least one science-practitioner team willing and interested to engage in this process and with a practice relevant to the theme of “caring for the land and serving people”