

Monument Lab Artist Residency

PROGRAM BRIEF

PREPARED FOR

Monument Lab 2023-2024 Artist Residency Program
Theme: Exchange
Open Call for Applications

PREPARED BY

Monument Lab
July 12, 2023

Contents

- Artist Residency Program Overview & Structure** 1
 - Program Description 1
 - Artist Resources 3
 - Artist Deliverables 3
- Application Eligibility & Submission** 4
- Selection Process** 6
- Key Dates** 7
- FAQ** 8
- About Monument Lab** 11

1. Artist Residency Program Overview & Structure

Program Description

Monument Lab is hosting its first-ever artist residency program for Philadelphia public artists. Through the theme of “exchange,” our goal is to support emerging public artists evolve their practice and prepare for future large-scale monument commission opportunities while building stronger relationships within and across the city’s neighborhoods. Selected through an open call, two Philadelphia public artists will each be supported to create a prototype project that will be exhibited at the end of the year-long residency. Additionally, Monument Lab artist residents will each receive a \$10,000 artist stipend; \$20,000 in production funds; \$7,500 for neighborhood-based workshops hosted with a partner organization; and mentorship and wrap-around support from Monument Lab and a network of advisors. Lead support for Monument Lab’s Artist Residency program is provided by the William Penn Foundation.

Program Vision

Monument Lab's Artist Residency program was established in 2023 to support and prepare Philadelphia's emerging public artists for future large-scale monument commission opportunities while building stronger relationships within and across the city's neighborhoods. Through the theme of "exchange," the program provides early-to-mid career public artists resources, support, and networks of collaboration. Artist residents will be enabled to: experiment with monumental materials and methods; reinforce and build relationships within and across Philadelphia neighborhoods; gain exhibition experience and mentorship; and join Monument Lab's growing communities of local, national, and transnational monument changemakers. Through this residency, Monument Lab seeks to contribute to the ecosystem of emerging monument changemakers, who can grow their practice through place-based relationships.

Selection Criteria:

- Demonstration of an existing public art practice.
- Demonstration of existing relationships and previous projects within a given Philadelphia neighborhood through an organization, business, or another form of localized collective.
- Demonstration of vision for ways the residency will benefit the artist's practice in public art and monument making, including experimenting with specific new materials, techniques, scales, and/or technologies.
- Demonstration of alignment with Monument Lab's mission, vision and values.

Artist Resources

Each Artist Resident receives:

- \$10,000 artist stipend to explore creative outlets and support experimental and engaged monumental practices
- \$20,000 production budget to create a prototype project, engage in methods of exchange with neighborhood-based organizations, and prepare for future larger-scale commissions
- \$7,500 in support for neighborhood partners and programming
- Wraparound mentorship from Monument Lab's staff, board, and network of art and public engagement advisors
- Field trip(s) to Monument Lab fabricators and artistic partners
- Invitations to exclusive Monument Lab workshops, programs, and convenings throughout the residency term
- Closing Exhibition of prototype projects in Philadelphia neighborhoods, organized by Monument Lab

Artist Deliverables

Over the residency period, residents are responsible for:

- Production of one (1) prototype project, displayed in a closing exhibition
- Implementation of at least three (3) neighborhood-based monument workshops with a partner organization
- Monthly engagement with Monument Lab staff and resources

2. Application Eligibility & Submission

Application Eligibility

You are eligible to apply if you:

- Are at least 18 years of age
- Identify as a visual artist with a public practice
- Reside in the Greater Philadelphia Area (defined as Philadelphia, Chester, Montgomery, Delaware and Bucks counties)
- Desire to further develop your artistic practice in public art toward large-scale commissions
- Have relationships with Philadelphia neighborhood-based organizations, small businesses or localized collectives

Note: The residency cannot be used for work completed prior to the notification announcement.

You may not apply if you:

- Do not reside in the Greater Philadelphia area
- Are under the age of 18
- Do not identify as a visual artist with a public practice

How to Apply

Please [click here](#) to complete the application by **Tuesday, September 12, 2023**. All file attachments must be in pdf format to be considered and include the following:

1. C.V. / Resume
2. Up to five (5) work samples

Application Support

Monument Lab staff will host an informational webinar on **Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 6:00 pm ET** for interested applicants. A captioned recording of the webinar will be available online for those unable to attend. For additional application support, please contact residency@monumentlab.com.

3. Selection Process

The Open Call will be live from July 12 — September 12 at 5:00 pm ET. Following the close of the Open Call, a jury of advisors will review applications and make a recommendation to Monument Lab’s leadership for which two (2) artists to offer the residency. The jury consists of Philadelphia-based leaders in the fields of museums, community engagements, and visual arts. Artists will be notified in late November of their application status. The residency will begin in January 2024.

4. Key Dates

2023

- **July 12**
Launch Open Call
Application portal live
- **September 12**
Close Open Call
Application portal closed
- **Late November**
Artists notified of application status

2024

- **January**
Artist Residency Begins
- **December**
Artist Residency Concludes

FAQ

How does Monument Lab define “Greater Philadelphia Area”?

Artists are eligible to apply if they live in the greater Philadelphia area, defined as the five counties in and around the city. This includes Montgomery County, Delaware County, Bucks County, Chester County and Philadelphia County. Please be sure to note your Philadelphia neighborhood connection in your application. Residency projects will be produced in collaboration with a neighborhood the artist already has a connection or relationship.

What is the timeline for the Open Call, announcement, and residency term?

The Open Call is live from **July 12 - September 12, 2023**. Monument Lab and a group of advisors will review all submissions. Artists will be notified by **late November 2023** as to the status of their application. The residency term will span **January - December 2024**.

What are the requirements for the names of reference?

Each applicant must submit **two (2) names of reference** from an organization, small business or localized collective in the Philadelphia neighborhood with which they intend to collaborate. References will be contacted for applicants of final consideration.

Will there be an interview stage in the application process?

No. Monument Lab has convened a jury of leaders from Philadelphia’s arts and cultural sector to review applications and make a recommendation for the 2024 cohort. This review will be based on each applicant’s resume, work samples and neighborhood letter of reference. Interviews will not be offered to applicants.

How do you define “emerging public artist”?

An emerging public artist has a track record with producing public art, including installation, activation, engagement, murals, projections, wheatpasting, and other forms. We define “emerging” broadly – that said, we are especially interested in candidates who have yet to receive major awards and commissions, sit outside of normative institutional support networks, and have taken place-based approaches toward establishing their public practice. In other words, we are looking to support public artists to experiment, expand, and elevate their practice.

I haven’t ever done a public art project before, am I eligible?

Candidates are expected to have a basis of artistic public practice. Selected artists will have a developing track record of installing in and/or engaging with public spaces.

I’ve done several public commissions before, am I eligible?

Yes, you are welcome to apply. The goal of this program is to prepare artists for large-scale public commissions. We would like to hear in your application what specifically you wish to work through or refine within your residency.

Are artist collectives welcome?

Yes! Artist collectives are welcome to apply, so long as **at least one (1) member lives in the Greater Philadelphia area**. Please elect one person to apply on behalf of the group. Also please note that the stipend, production and programming amounts remain the same for individuals and collectives

I’m a multimedia artist. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes! Monument Lab welcomes artists who work across all media. When submitting past work samples, please note the option for audio / video files.

What is the relationship between an artist-in-residence and a potential partner?

Artists in-residence will be expected to partner on programming with a neighborhood-based organization, small business, or localized collective across at least three workshops during their residency. The goal is for artists to develop their public art practice in coordination with neighborhood constituents serving as a “brain trust.” To support this goal, the residency comes with \$4,500 for neighborhood workshops, and an additional \$3,000 payment for a partner organization’s collaborative time and effort. For the application and the required names of reference, we encourage artists to consider engaging neighborhood organizations with whom they already have relationships.

I’m having difficulty with the application. What additional resources are available for applicants?

Monument Lab is hosting a virtual information session on **Wednesday, July 26th from 6:00-7:00 pm ET** where artists can ask questions about the program, application process, etc. To learn more, please visit monumentlab.com/events. In addition, Monument Lab will hold an in-person information session on **Thursday, September 7th** at our offices in Center City, Philadelphia. Check back for more details soon. In the meantime, any questions and concerns can be directed to residency@monumentlab.com.

About Monument Lab

Founded in 2012, Monument Lab is a nonprofit public art and history studio that is among the country's leading voices making generational change in how monuments live in public. Monument Lab envisions a society where monuments are dynamic and defined by their evolving meaning and works with partners to both critically engage these inherited symbols and imagine the next generation of monuments. Monument Lab staff have led projects across the world through curated citywide art exhibitions, site-specific commissions, media production, and participatory research initiatives. The organization is headquartered in Philadelphia, PA.

Connect with Monument Lab at www.monumentlab.com.

Vision Statement

Monuments must change.

At Monument Lab we envision a society where monuments are dynamic and defined by their meaning, not by their hardened immovable and untouchable status.

To illuminate how symbols are connected to systems of power and public memory, we engage critically with our inherited monument landscape and work joyfully with artists, organizations, and movements to imagine the next generation of monuments.

By disrupting the status quo of how monuments are made, preserved, and interpreted, we hope to contribute to a future society defined by joy, regeneration, and repair.

Monument Lab is a member of the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CHW CESU) Network.