



Request for Proposals:

Seven Below Arts Initiative's 2009 Artist-in-Residence Program

The Seven Below Arts Initiative was established to foster artistic development and to support arts education in the state of Vermont. We are pleased to request proposals for our **eight-week residencies** at The Barn near Burlington, Vermont. The residencies are designed to provide artists with a peaceful, inspiring, and supportive environment for individual and/or collaborative new work. The residency program is open to artists at any stage of their career and working in various **visual arts** media.

Eligibility

The ideal applicant should be an artist with a history of rigorous work, excellent communication skills, and enthusiasm for interacting with other artists and the public. Although we cannot subsidize travel to Vermont, we encourage the participation of artists from outside New England as well as locally.

Accommodations

Residents will live and work at **The Barn**, a uniquely restored property on 65 acres offering magnificent views of Mt. Mansfield and the Green Mountains. The 200-year-old Alan Irish Barn was reconstructed in 1996 and served as the recording and rehearsal facility for Phish, Trey Anastasio, and other musicians. In 2006, to support the activities of the Seven Below Arts Initiative, The Barn was retrofitted to provide living and workspace for up to **three artists in residence** at a time. The Studio Manager is also in residence and maintains separate housing.

The Barn is rustic and its surroundings are mountainous and remote. The Barn is located 30-40 minutes outside of Burlington, Vermont's largest city, and approximately 7 miles from the nearest market or convenience store. Residents are strongly encouraged but not obligated to bring their own vehicles to The Barn, and all residents should have a valid driver's license. For those residents who do not have their own vehicles, limited shared transportation (e.g., 2-3 rides into Burlington per week) can be arranged with the Studio Manager.

The Barn includes three semi-private bedrooms (one room for each artist), one kitchen, one bathroom, and extensive common space. On the main floor, The Barn can accommodate painting, drawing, installation, and other "clean" working practices. A large portion of this open floor is divided into three studio spaces that are separated by dividers, configured to offer a separation of workspace as well as room for collaborative work. The workspaces are not sound proof. In general, prospective residents should be prepared for a communal living and working environment. Indoor/outdoor sculpture bays are better suited to heavier, more industrial work and are equipped with only the basic hand tools and equipment for working in sculptural media. Residents who use specialized equipment are encouraged to bring their own. Amenities include a landline

telephone, DSL Wireless Internet, and limited cell phone service. The Barn is not air conditioned.

In addition to The Barn, residents will have limited access to Burlington City Arts studios (photography, printmaking, kiln, and clay) located in downtown Burlington at the Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts (FCVA), a 5-floor visual arts center, and at BCA's Print and Clay Studio. For more information on these facilities, please visit: www.burlingtoncityarts.com/studios/. Residents are also welcome to utilize the media resource room at the FCVA, including computers equipped with high-speed Internet.

Note: To protect the privacy of The Barn and its owners, all residents must sign a basic confidentiality agreement. This agreement also specifies that the use of illegal drugs is prohibited while on the property. Residents will receive a copy of the agreement upon acceptance into the program.

Public Outreach

Residents will be asked to share their artistic process with the local community in the form of Public Outreach. These projects may be conducted individually, in collaboration with other residents, or with members of the community. Public Outreach is composed of three main parts:

1. Artists are required to demonstrate the results of their time through an Artist Talk within the last two weeks of the residency.
2. Residents will receive 1-4 visits from youth and other groups during the course of the residency, and should be prepared to receive and share their work with these groups. Some visiting groups will include at-risk youth.
3. Residents will work with the Studio Manager to post information and images of their ongoing projects on a biweekly (every two weeks) basis on the BCA sponsored "In Process" blog. (You must be able to photograph your work and convert it to a JPEG to send digitally while at the barn)

Residency Dates

Session #1: May 31 - July 26, 2009

Session #2: August 2 - September 27, 2009

Application Deadline: Postmarked by February 2nd, 2009. Decision (on or around): **March 27th, 2009.**

**Residents are required to be on premises at least 7 of the 8 weeks, or minimum of 49 days out of 56.*

Artists in Residence will receive:

- \$2000 stipend.
- Living accommodations, including semi-private bedroom, shared kitchen and bathroom (total of three residents per session).
- Individual studio space and access to shared workspace.
- Access (as available) to studios of the Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts.
- Discounts with partnering downtown merchants for duration of residency.
- Studio Visits from the Firehouse Gallery Curator.

Application Requirements

To apply by **United States Postal Service**, please submit the following to:

Seven Below Arts Initiative,
Attn: Christopher Thompson
Firehouse Gallery Curator
Burlington City Arts
149 Church Street, City Hall
Burlington, VT 05401

By UPS or FedEx

Seven Below Arts Initiative,
Attn: Christopher Thompson
Firehouse Gallery Curator
Burlington City Arts
135 Church Street, City Hall
Burlington, VT 05401

All submission documents must be submitted digitally in Microsoft Word format on CD **and in hard copy form. All documents must include a header with your name, session(s) applying to, Email, phone number, address, and website (if applicable) on **each page**. All Images should be included on CD with all Word documents.*

1. 12 images of work made within the last five years. Images should be in JPEG format only and labeled to correlate with a numbered image list including name, title, date, medium, and dimensions in Microsoft Word format. Time-based practices may be submitted by providing a website with high quality video footage, or on a separate DVD. DVD's must be submitted in multiples of 9.
2. A typed proposal of up to one page outlining your goals during the residency. Please include:
 - Both physical and conceptual descriptions of the work that you hope to complete during the residency.
 - How your previous work informs the work you hope to make.
 - Why you think The Barn Residency is a good fit for your artistic practice and approach.
 - Any specific goals you hope to accomplish during your residency.
3. An outreach proposal (1 page maximum in length) that includes the following:
 - A brief outline of a proposed Artist Talk and proposed date and time for presentation that is scheduled during the last two weeks of the Residency. (See questionnaire.)
 - Youth & Other Visits
In what ways would you engage visiting groups at The Barn?*

- Biweekly Blog Entry
How could you best share your work at The Barn with the outside community in this format?

* If you have other ideas to engage the local community via a public outreach project, please describe. Please refer to the BCA Seven Below webpage: <http://www.sevenbelowarts.com/> for examples of public outreach by former residents.

4. A resume including exhibition history, professional experience, and academic history.
5. The names, occupations, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of two people who are familiar with your work and yourself. These people should either have a professional, academic, or artist-in-residence association to you. We will contact these references regarding your submission.
6. A completed questionnaire included in this document.

** Seven Below will notify all applicants by e-mail when applications are received. Please do not contact us regarding your submission unless you do not receive a confirmation e-mail, or unless you have not heard from us by the notification date. Materials will not be returned.*