

Deering Estate Artist-in-Residence Program (AIR) Handbook

AIR Program Mission Statement

The Deering Estate Artist-in-Residence (AIR) Program supports artists across visual, literary, performing, and cross-disciplinary arts, continuing Charles Deering's legacy. The program offers opportunities for emerging and mid-career artists willing to explore new bodies of work or practices to create, collaborate, and engage with the Estate's rich historic, cultural, and natural environment. Established in 2006, The AIR program has hosted over 100 residencies that span a diverse range of contemporary and traditional practices and continues to foster creativity, collaboration, and community engagement in a unique setting.

The Deering Estate is dedicated to preserving and protecting the natural, archeological, architectural, and historic legacy of the Estate. We accomplish this by using wise stewardship in the management and utilization of the Estate's sensitive resources, while educating and enhancing public appreciation of the unique characteristics of the site through compatible use.

Program Overview

Residency Options: Studio residencies and non-studio residencies.

Duration: Studio residencies and non-studio residencies are 2-12 months long and are contingent upon completing the AIR responsibilities.

Eligibility: Open to local, national, and international artists aged 18+. Artists must provide their own accommodations, transportation, and materials. Artists should not be enrolled in a Bachelor's degree program at the time of residency.

All artists are invited to participate and attend various special events held on the Estate and actively participate in our on-site or outreach educational programs catering to all ages, abilities, and interests.

Residency Types and Responsibilities

1) Studio Artist-in-Residence Responsibilities

- Devote at least 30 hours per week to the residency and report all hours monthly to the AIR program manager.
- Participate in educational programs and special events.
- Contribute a minimum of 10% of art sales made during residency at the Estate to the Deering Estate Foundation when invited by the Deering Estate curator and Foundation.
- Submit a final project report with supporting media.
- Adhere to the Estate's preservation guidelines to ensure activities respect its historic and natural elements.
- Clear description of intended studio work aligned with the Estate's mission to preserve and protect the natural, archeological, architectural, and historic legacy of Charles Deering.

- Onsite workspace access from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, enforced daily.
- A minimum of 30 hours per week will be dedicated to artistic practice. These hours are reported at the end of each month.
- Public interaction during regular hours, special events, and programming related to practice (workshops, readings, screenings, or performances).
- Studio spaces are valued from \$1,000 to \$1,500 monthly.
- Maximum residency term: 3 consecutive years with re-application required annually.

2) Non-Studio Artist-in-Residence Responsibilities

- Devote at least 30 hours per week to the residency and report all hours monthly to the AIR program manager.
- Participate in educational programs and special events.
- Contribute a minimum of 10% of art sales made during residency at the Estate to the Deering Estate Foundation when invited by the Deering Estate curator and Foundation.
- Submit a final project report with supporting media.
- Clear description of proposal aligned with the Estate's mission.
- Onsite workspace access from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, enforced daily.
- Minimum of 30 hours per week will be dedicated to residency goals.
- Flexible access to Estate resources (classrooms, theater, outdoor areas).
- Public engagement through programming related to practice (workshops, readings, screenings, or performances).
- Recommended pre-application site visit for research.
- Maximum residency term: 3 consecutive years with re-application required annually.

AIR Benefits

- Access to classrooms, performance areas, archives, eight protected natural habitats, historic houses, theater, and exhibition spaces.
- Networking and collaboration opportunities with other artists.
- Promotion via Deering Estate's platforms (website, social media, press releases, and events).
- Potential participation in exhibitions like Deering Contemporary and Contemporary Currents.
- No studio rental or utility fees.

- Inclusion in all communications with the cohort and program manager via email, WhatsApp, and monthly newsletters.
- Monthly artist highlights featured in the community newspaper and social media outlets.

AIR Regulations

Parking and Studio Access Policies:

- Parking is not permitted inside the premises. Artists can bring their cars through the service gate for load-in and load-out purposes but must park outside the gates in the open parking lot.
- Artists should adhere to the **Leave No Trace** policy; no object, material or organic matter indigenous to park grounds should not be removed or altered by an artist. Additionally, no object, material or organic matter invasive to park grounds should be left on or attached to park grounds by an artist, **unless given specific instruction to do so.**
- Entering studios before or after designated hours requires 24 hours advance notice to the AIR program manager.

All studios are accessible by ALL PARK STAFF; therefore, valuables should not be left in the AIR Studios, the Communal AIR Studio, or on park grounds by an artist. Leaving valuables unattended may result in damage or theft, which Deering Estate will not be held liable for.

- Violating parking or studio access policies compromises the integrity of the program and may result in disciplinary actions, including possible expulsion.

Natural Areas Access:

- Artists engaged in research or exploration activities involving hiking, kayaking, or using the Estate’s equipment and facilities must complete a Hike and Float Plan and submit it to the Conservation Specialist and AIR Program Manager 48 hours in advance.

Long Term Volunteer (LTV) for Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces at Deering Estate:

- Florida Statutes 943.04351 requires a criminal history background check for all individuals or groups volunteering at parks, playgrounds, daycares, or other areas where children congregate.
- Volunteers must pass the background check prior to starting activities. Those unwilling to comply will not be permitted to volunteer.
- As an AIR, you are classified as a “Long-Term Volunteer.” LTVs engage for more than one week annually and must undergo a VECHS Fingerprint Check conducted by the Employee Relations Department (ERD).

Historic Structures:

- The use of loose materials such as rocks, soil, or sod is prohibited in Richmond Cottage. Balloons or any use of glitter (loose or affixed) are also not permitted.
- Items such as nails, staples, tape, post it notes, adhesives, rubber bands, or string may be harmful to the historic structures, artifacts, or plants. Nothing should be in any way attached or connected to the architectural elements including walls, floors, doors, windows, gates, etc.
- To be on the safe side: **Ask before you attach!**

Application Process

- Call opens on **June 1st** and closes on **August 31st**.

Requirements:

- Resume/CV, artist statement, and biography.
- Letter of intent detailing alignment with the Estate’s mission.
- Work samples.
- Proposal for non-studio residency or description of intended studio work.
- Applications are evaluated by a jury panel based on artistic quality and alignment with the Estate’s mission.
- Recommended read: [The History of a Storied Florida Historical Site | Deering Estate](#).

Costs


- No fees for studio rental, utilities, or Estate access.
- Artists are responsible for housing, transportation, materials, and other personal expenses.
- No cash stipends or scholarships are provided.

Location: Deering Estate, 16701 SW 72 Ave., Miami, FL, a historic site on Biscayne Bay with over 450 acres of natural and architectural heritage.

Facilities: Air-conditioned studios, classrooms, outdoor work areas, and restroom facilities.

For inquiries or application details, contact:

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