



Artist-in-Residence Program - Request for Proposals

The mission of the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus is to create extraordinary experiences that champion the wonder and joy of childhood. Since 2017 the Artist-in-Residence Program at the Children's Museum has opened its doors to professional artists in order to...

- Enhance the role of the Museum as a center of cultural and artistic investigation for families and children.
- Make emerging artists' work more accessible to the public.
- Provide new avenues of art exploration for guests.
- Connect young children to the power of artmaking and art as an expression of identity, experience and community.
- Lastly, create and contribute an original piece, exclusively for the Museum, to enhance the campus!

The Artist-in-Residence Program is open to professional artists working in a variety of media including, but not limited to, painting, sculpture, installation, photography, clay, textiles, illustration and digital media.

Summary of Artist Commitments

1. Participate in training and orientation at the Children's Museum to meet the staff and understand the Museum's pedagogy, programs and facility.
2. Work on-site in the Museum's Artist-in-Residence Studio at least once a week for 2 - 4 scheduled hours, engaging children and families in the art-making process.
3. Complete 60 hours of on-site programming and open studio activities throughout the 12-week program.
4. Create a piece of art that will remain part of the growing community art collection at the Museum.
7. Remain available and/or accessible for troubleshooting and repairs (if needed) while the piece created for the Museum is on display.

What the residency offers you:

- Access to the studio during the Museum's normal hours of operation, when available.
- An opportunity to create a program unique to you.
- Opportunities to showcase your artwork and methods to Museum visitors.
- Drop-in studio time where children and families can work one-on-one with you and your art form.
- A stipend of \$1,000 per month for the residency.
- A materials stipend for supplies needed for the leave-behind piece, to be agreed upon but not to exceed \$1,000.
- Support for fabrication and installation of the leave-behind piece.

How to apply:

Completed applications must be submitted via email. Work samples should also be submitted electronically, via email, or Google Drive. **All applications for the 2025 residency year are due October 15th. Interviews will begin in October and November.** Please submit completed applications to:

Alex Vargas
Art Programs Coordinator
303-561-0121
Alexv@cmdenver.org

Applications must include:

- Name, address, contact number, email address.
- Cover letter, including a paragraph detailing why you are interested in working with the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus.
- Resume or curriculum vitae. Please include experience you have working with children and/or families.
- A one-page narrative presenting the idea/concept for your leave-behind piece, and how your project will support the themes of arts, culture, community, family. Please describe how your project will engage directly with our daily visitors and school groups.
- A one-page narrative of potential topics for process-oriented daily open studio activities to be facilitated to Museum guests and/or school groups.
- Work samples or proposal images (maximum 5 hi-res images) including the title of each piece.
- Social media handles and artist website, if applicable.

The Selection Process

Artists will be selected by a panel organized by the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus. Decisions are based on artistic merit, proven experience working with children and families, and proposed projects or ideas and how they relate to the themes of arts, culture, community, identity, family and communication. The Museum encourages creativity; however, work must not require heavy machinery or major construction. All artists will be notified after the selection process is complete. The Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus reserves the right to interview candidates and observe instruction before making a decision. *Please note: Due to the sensitivity and requirements of working with children, artists must clear a background/criminal check prior to their residency acceptance.*