

Fran Ryan Center

Artist in Residence Information Packet

The Purpose

The Fran Ryan Center's Artist in Residence (AiR) Program offers a 16-week studio residency open to emerging and mid-career artists, aged 50 and older, who reside in Central Ohio. This residency seeks to provide concentrated, uninterrupted time and space for individuals to develop new projects and advance their creativity. The Fran Ryan Center's AiR Program aims to empower artists to take risks, embrace challenges, and achieve personal artistic goals.

About the FRC

The Fran Ryan Center (FRC) in Columbus, Ohio is a creative arts center with programming for all ages and skill levels, with a particular focus on programs for seniors (50+). Located in a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility in Old Towne East, the Fran Ryan Center offers something for everyone! Our facility features:

- Eight specialty creative art studios, including ceramics, digital art, drawing & painting, fiber art, glass, lapidary, model railroad, and woodworking
- Three multi-use classrooms, full commercial kitchen and dining area, equipped fitness center, group fitness room, and 1.4 acre greenspace with a walking loop
- 4,500 sq ft consignment store for senior (50+) artists

The Fran Ryan Center, located at 865 E Capital St, is owned and operated by the Columbus Recreation & Parks Department (CRPD).

About the Program

The Fran Ryan Center's AiR Program is open to visual and performing artists, writers, and musicians. Selected artists will receive a project stipend, studio space, access to creative facilities, art-making resources, and opportunities to expand their artistic scope by taking up to two free in-house classes or workshops during their residency. Throughout the 16-week period, the Artist in Residence will interact and collaborate with artists of all disciplines, serving as a catalyst for further inspiration and innovation.

The FRC seeks to support artists who demonstrate an uncompromising drive to create highly technical new work with significant potential to engage diverse communities and facilitate cultural and community impact. The FRC AiR Program strives to champion senior artists with a distinctive vision and authentic voice who are deeply considerate, imaginative, and communicate a unique perspective through their work.

- Winter/Spring Residency: January 4 – April 24, 2027
 - FRC Closed Dates: January 18, February 15

Residency Overview

The AiR program is a 16-week, self-directed studio residency at the Fran Ryan Center. The AiR program includes a focus on four themes: Nature, Wellness, Creativity, & Community. Applicants who submit project proposals which focus on one or more of these four pillars will be given priority. Diversity and inclusion are core focuses of the City of Columbus and Fran Ryan Center. To promote accessibility, applicants may submit completed applications in writing or by video using the link [here](#).

One artist, aged 50+, will be chosen by a panel of experts. In addition to an unrestricted \$2,000 project stipend, the residency provides a safe space for artists to develop ideas, try new processes, and receive support from the FRC arts community.

Throughout their residency, artists will regularly engage with and educate students attending classes, as well as visitors, tour groups, and CRPD staff members. Selected artists will develop a new project or body of work in their chosen disciplines and share it with the community through a variety of programming, which may include talks, demonstrations, classes/workshops, outreach at CRPD community centers, or a final exhibition. Weekly “open door” hours will be posted to encourage engagement with FRC students and visitors. Bi-weekly check-ins with the FRC administration will be scheduled to observe progress and address needs or requests. The AiR is expected to commit to the entire 16-week residency. No partial residency commitment will be accepted. The AiR will provide feedback about the residency in pre- and post-surveys. FRC AiR program intends to create a long-lasting relationship of support after the completion of the residency, which may include offering future opportunities to serve as an AiR panelist and/or teach classes at the FRC.

Amenities

- Dedicated 308 sq ft ‘FRC AiR Studio’ space on the second floor, outfitted with blinds for privacy, lockable storage for personal supplies, and ample space to work, create, or collaborate
- Access to specialized art studios (based on need for specific art discipline, and approval of administration). Studio hours arranged in advance with FRC administration
- Elevator and individual restrooms in close proximity to the FRC AiR Studio
- Opportunity to enroll in two FRC classes (one per session) at no cost
- Select supplies available through the City warehouse at no cost
 - ⊖ An up-to-date list of supplies from the CRPD warehouse will be provided 2 weeks before the AiR assignment begins.
 - The FRC submits warehouse supply requests every 2 weeks. Requests can be sent to the FRC administration.

****The FRC cannot offer housing or room and board accommodations at this time.****

Eligibility and Guidelines

All Fran Ryan Center Artist in Residence Program applicants must meet the following guidelines:

- Be at least 50 years of age and reside in Central Ohio

- May not be an employee or retired employee of the City of Columbus
- May not be enrolled in any degree-granting program from the time of application through the end of the residency period
- Artists must focus on the creation or development of new work
- Upon selection, and before beginning residency, the FRC AiR must pass a background check

Application Process

A Juried panel will be given time to independently review and score applications before coming together to deliberate and select three to five final candidates. The final candidates will interview with the AiR Program Coordinators, and an awardee will be chosen. Awardee will be allowed time to consider and accept the offer before the Winter/Spring 2027 FRC AiR is officially announced. *Diversity and inclusion, artistic voice, and the four pillars of Nature, Wellness, Creativity, and Community are core elements of the FRC Artist in Residence Program and applicant submissions are scored in part based on the presence of these criteria.*

Submission Requirements

- A current resume or CV (PDF only)
- Artist statement (500 words max) (PDF only)
- A short bio (250 words max) to be used for promotional purposes. (PDF only)
- Narrative or Proposal for work to be conducted during the residency (up to 1000 words). Please include ideas or examples for a public program or community outreach. (PDF only)
- Portfolio submission.
 - Visual artists: include up to ten images of relevant artworks. Additionally, up to five detail or installation views may be included if necessary. All images must be a minimum of 1,200 pixels on the shortest side. Each file submitted must be under 30MB in size.
 - Performing artists and musicians may submit up to five links to video samples online (three-minute maximum each)
 - Writers may upload up to ten pages of writing in standard formats.
 - Please include a separate document (PDF only) with a numbered list of work samples with relevant information to corresponding artworks, including title, medium, size, date of completion, link (if available) and an optional description (two sentences max).

Example:

- 1. *Water Lillies*, 1906, oil on canvas, 35" x 37"

- Files should be named and numbered to correspond with information list. Please title each file in the following format: Lastname_Firstname_1_Artwork Title.

Example:

- Monet_claude_1_Water Lillies.jpg

Apply online at the Fran Ryan Center website:
www.columbusrecparcs.com/facilities/franryancenter

Application Timeline

Application Window: August 3 – September 11, 2026 - Applications accepted through online portal

Application Review: September 21 – October 2, 2026 - Applications reviewed and scored independently by juried panel members

Closed Panel Deliberation: October 5-9, 2026 - Juried panel only, no applicants in attendance

Interviews: October 19-23, 2026 - In-person interviews with top three to five candidates and AiR Coordinators. Awardee personally contacted with AiR offer.

Acceptance Period: October 26-30, 2026 – AiR Coordinators notified of Awardee's acceptance of offer. Applicants not chosen will be contacted via email.

Awardee Announced: November 9, 2026 - Awardee called; published via CRPD communication channels (social media, weekly newsletter, FRC website, media release)