



Dark Matter Residency – Call for Applications

Elastic Arts Foundation invites applications for the Dark Matter Artist Residency

Applications Due: March 6, 2023

The Dark Matter Residency provides Chicago based, emerging performing artists of color with a space for development, presentation, and visibility within the Chicago arts landscape, and a robust network to develop their work and careers. The 10-month paid residency provides space, a platform, documentation, and a stipend (see below for compensation structure). During the residency, performing artists have access to Elastic Arts – a 2,500 sq. ft space in Logan Square – for rehearsals, exhibitions, recordings, and performances.

We seek performing artists from a diverse range of performing arts disciplines including—but not limited to—music, performance art, dance, drama, poetry, film, multimedia, and puppetry. *Our ability to accommodate visual artists is limited, as we do not have studio space. However we do have a small gallery that is part of our performance space in which visual art can be exhibited.*

Objectives

- 1. to offer emerging artists of color with the opportunity to grow as professionals and artists;**
- 2. to encourage the creation and presentation of challenging work that addresses the issue of disparate representation of people of color in the arts, the foundations for this inequity, and ways to overcome it;**
- 3. to present excellent art and performance to our audience.**

The Dark Matter Residency Program

Residents will join a community of creative artists beginning with their Dark Matter Residency and continuing into the Dark Matter Residency alumni network. They will cultivate new work, evolve, and co-conspire with this ever-expanding Dark Matter and Elastic Arts community.

Resident-planned events at Elastic:

All Resident Artists will present (2) events at Elastic Arts as part of our Dark Matter Series in which they will perform/exhibit their own work and/or curate other artists at our space.

Outreach engagement events:

We believe that community engagement and outreach - making the arts accessible for everyone to enjoy, learn about, and participate in - is crucial for the sustainability of excellent art and instrumental in inspiring social change. Resident Artists will have opportunities to perform for audiences in other areas of the city through Elastic's community outreach programming; they may be invited to perform in other presentations as well.

Locations for activation may include the areas below:

- North Lawndale - Stone Temple Baptist Church community garden
- South Shore - South Merrill Community Garden
- Englewood - The Canvas Lot
- Avondale - Solidarity Triangle

Compensation and additional supports

Residents will receive a \$1,000 stipend for participating in the program, payable in two installments. Additionally, Residents will receive a \$400 budget for each of their two (2) public performance events at Elastic Arts. This can be used for items such as artists fees for collaborators or materials needed for performance. Finally, residents will be invited to participate in at least one but up to two community outreach engagement events, each of which will have an additional \$400 budget available.

Additional compensation will be available for participation in AfroFuturist Weekend (amount to be determined based on the nature/extent of work presented).

All events will be documented by a professional videographer who is a founding partner of the Dark Matter Series. This documentation will be made available to the artists to enable them to market their work and help them advance their careers.

Established Engagements at Elastic Arts:

Dark Matter residents will be asked to attend the **Elastic Arts annual Benefit event on May 13, 2023**. They will also be asked to participate in relaxed meetings with Dark Matter curators and Elastic Staff - **Feedback Kickbacks**: unstructured sessions of exchange and mutual feedback on Dark Matter events, the residency, the state of the arts landscape in Chicago vis-a-vis artists of color, and other issues that emerge over the course of the program.

The Dark Matter Residency will include participation in the annual **Dark Matter Series Afrofuturist Weekend Festival on October 4-8, 2023**, in which artists of color will be invited to come from other cities to present their work alongside Chicago artists, including the Dark Matter Resident Artists, and potentially collaborate with them.

Through the content of their work, through their engagement with the community, and through their feedback with each other and with us, the Resident Artists will help us to address some questions that are crucial for our organization to become a leader in the movement for racial equity in the Chicago arts landscapes.

- How can we use our collective resources and common goals to strengthen our artist community?
- How can we better serve artists of color?
- How can we better engage audiences of color? And more profoundly, what are the social and institutional structures that result in the disparate representation of artists of color in the Chicago arts landscape? And how can we obliterate those structures?
- How can we envision a more positive future for artists of color?

Selection

The residency will invite applications from artists who propose to sonically, performatively, ritually or otherwise artistically engage the relationship between art and advocacy, the representation of local and translocal communities, the contemporary upheaval of urban demographic geographies, and/or the intersection of ethnicity/race, space, and economic power. It will seek projects that encourage open participation by local communities and invite dialogue among them.

Residents will be chosen by a committee consisting of Elastic Arts' Executive Director, the Dark Matter Curators, other curators at Elastic, and one former Dark Matter Resident.

Time frame

The residency itself will cover a period of roughly 10 months from May, 2023 through February, 2024.

Timeline of events

* Underlined events indicate required Resident participation/availability

- **Feb. 6** – Application launch
- **Feb. 7** - Participatory Music Coalition jam / Dark Matter Information session at Elastic (optional)
- **Feb. 21** - 2022 Resident Naydja Bruton's Timbre jam session (optional)
- **Mar. 6** – Application due
- **Mar. 6 - 31** – Application review period (4 weeks)
- **April 3 - 7** – Finalist interviews
- **April 10-14** –Residents selected and notified
- **May 2** - Resident Orientation (7PM)
- **May** – New cohort announcement (Also at Annual Benefit, May 13)
- **May 13** - Elastic Arts Annual Benefit
- **Beginning in June** - Free outreach/community engagement events (monthly)
- **July 22** - DMR Feedback Kickback
- **October 2-8, 2023** - Afrofuturist Weekend Festival
- **November 18th** - DMR Feedback Kickback
- **Nov. 2023 - Feb. 2024** - Resident events continue
- **Feb 2024** – Black Liberation Month events, Wrap Up / Reflections

Dark Matter Alumni Engagement

As the residency program continues to grow, we are committed to building opportunities for resident alumni engagement. It is our express intention to continue a reciprocally invested relationship between and among Elastic Arts, Dark Matter curators and residency alumni.

Questions

Questions can be directed to Paige Brown, Dark Matter Residency Coordinator, at paige@elasticarts.org