



Dark Matter Residency – Call for Applications

Elastic Arts Foundation invites applications for the Dark Matter Artist Residency

Applications Due: Monday, March 18th 2024

The Dark Matter Residency provides Chicago based, emerging BIPOC performing artists 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 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 the ever-expanding Dark Matter and Elastic Arts community.

Resident-planned events at Elastic:

All Resident Artists will present (2) events at Elastic Arts 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
- Austin - Columbus Park
- Bronzeville - Lil Hardin Armstrong Park
- Avondale - Solidarity Triangle, Koz Park

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. 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 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 18, 2024**. 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 from the perspective of 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 2-6, 2024**, in which BIPOC artists 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 Residency Coordinator, 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 6 months from June 2024 through December 2024.

Timeline of events

* Underlined events indicate **required Resident participation/availability**

- **Feb. 6** – Application launch
- **Feb. 16** – **DMR Virtual Information Session with Q&A (2PM CST)**
- **Mar. 18** – Application due
- **Mar. 18 - April 12** – Application review period (4 weeks) **APPLICATION REVIEW**
EXTENDED! Updates to come
- **April 15-19** – Finalist interviews
- **April 21-26** – Residents selected and notified
- **May 7th** - Resident Orientation (7PM)
- **May** – New cohort announcement (Also at Annual Benefit, May 18)
- **May 18** - Elastic Arts Annual Benefit
- **Beginning in June** - Free outreach/community engagement events (monthly)
- **July 20** - DMR Feedback Kickback
- **October 2 - 6, 2024** - Afrofuturist Weekend Festival
- **November 16th** - DMR Feedback Kickback
- **Nov. 2023 - December. 2024** - Resident events continue

***PLEASE NOTE: Timeline is subject to change**

Dark Matter Residency/Series events and performances

- Below is a list of opportunities to attend performances by current Dark Matter Residents and other Dark Matter Series performers. Attendance is voluntary, but recommended to learn more about the types of events programmed and the work of the various artists supported by the Series and Residency
 - **Feb. 17** - [Dark Matter Series event with 2024 DMResident Panty/Azieb/Oui Ennui](#)

- **Feb. 21** – [Sharon Udoh Dark Matter Residency Capstone Performance](#), “Songs for Someone Loyal”
- **Feb. 27** – [Jarius King Dark Matter Residency Work-In Progress showing](#)
- **March 16** - [Dark Matter Series w/ Alysha Monique and the Family Divine/Nubian Traxx](#)
- **March 23** - Muso/Carissa Lee Dark Matter Residency Capstone Performance

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 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 and can also be submitted with information session registration.