

Program goals and outcomes

The goal of the artist in residence program at Mount St. Helens Institute is to foster creative work that is inspired by the unique ecosystem of the blast zone and that explores the connection between humans and this volcanic environment. This unpaid residency provides time and space for self-paced work and reflection in a majestic natural setting.

This program is for visual artists, writers, musicians, dancers, or other creatives who wish to inspire visitors, students, and teachers through their artistic expressions.

The Artist in Residence will work in partnership with our Youth Education and Events team- we encourage those who want to celebrate the young artists who visit us on field trips to apply!

Timelines:

Application opening: January 15th

Application closing: March 1st (decisions by May 1st)

Length of stay: 4-7 days

Available sessions:

6/18- 6/25- [Base Camp](#)

7/9- 7/16- [Family Adventure Camp](#)

7/16- 7/23- Pulse Ecology Gathering

7/23- 7/30- [Sky and Star Party](#)

7/30- 8/9- [GeoGirls Camp](#) (a longer session)

8/20- 8/27- [Base Camp](#)



Application and review/selection process

We invite both emerging artists and practicing professionals. We look forward to receiving and reviewing your application materials. The selection process is informed by peer review, and based on the applicant's field(s) of practice. Each complete application is considered individually, and finalists will participate in an interview process. We strive to host residents from a diversity of backgrounds and practices. All applicants will be notified by email 8 weeks after the application window closes.

MATERIALS NEEDED TO APPLY

1. Completed application- [apply here!](#)
2. Resume (.doc, .docx, or .pdf file) with filename "2025_Artist in Residence_Resume"
3. Work Samples - Include examples of your most current work as it relates to your application, using formats that best support the unique nature of your work (such as documents, images, files, links to performances). If you have questions about which or how many work samples to share, or how best to share them, please contact us by email at apply@mshinstitute.org or phone at 360-207-1777.



Artist accommodations

The artist will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the landscape of the blast zone by camping in our campground, complete with crater views. The campground is rustic, with access to our learning center a short ~5 minute walk away. The learning center has running water, flush toilets, and a kitchen that is shared with our program operations. We have extra tents, sleeping bags, and sleeping pads that can be utilized by the artist. This is a rugged and beautiful environment! Applicants should consider if this camping experience will suit them.



Some meals will be provided as shared meals with our program participants, and outside of scheduled programs, the artist is welcome to coordinate with our chef for the use of the kitchen. The learning center also provides an indoor workspace with tables, chairs, and crafting supplies from our education programming.

Constraints/Rules

- Your creative project must relate to nature in a specific way
- Artists must be 18 years of age or older
- Collaborative teams of up to 3 people may apply
- No pets allowed (inquire with us if you have a service animal)
- Our campground is not ADA accessible- contact us about other accommodations
- Background check required (we host youth programs)



Expectations of artist (donation, presentations, etc)

- At least one public presentation during visitor center open hours (between 10AM - 4PM daily June - October), coordinated with Forest Service staff. This brings the program full circle and serves to share the artist's experience and connect a broader public audience to public lands through the artist's direct experience.
- Donating at least one piece of artwork that can be displayed or used in the Science & Learning Center or for Mount St. Helens Institute/USFS outreach and education programs
- Participate in at least one Mount St. Helens Institute education program, offering a workshop, lesson, reading, performance, etc. to our program participants.



Artist in Residence 2025

Support from MSHI

- Artist promotion on MSHI website & social media platforms
- A public venue to share your work and connect with others
- Meals during our events and programs
- At this time, this is an unpaid residency



Questions? reach out to Rae Hutchinson at rachel@mshinstitute.org.

Mount St. Helens Institute operates under a special use permit from the US Forest Service and is honored to work on the Traditional Cultural Property, ancestral and present-day lands of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. Mount St. Helens Institute is an equal opportunity provider.

Learn more about the Mount St. Helens Institute and our programs including summer camps, field seminars, and guided hikes at www.mshinstitute.org.