

Frequently Asked Questions about the Desert Fellowship

How many artists will there be?

Only one artist is selected per Fellowship. Having facilitated a handful of residencies with varying structures, we've noticed that when artist cohorts are brought together, the residency focus can easily become inward-facing rather than community-centered. We've landed on the Desert Fellowship structure because we've found that hosting only one artist at a time represents the best use of staff time and resources, encouraging our visiting creatives to immerse themselves in rural life and build connections across Cuyama Valley communities.

Where will I stay?

Desert Fellows stay in a private room in our main office building (we call it the Flagship building). While you'll have your own living and studio spaces, you'll share a kitchen and bathroom with our staff and Shelton Hut campers. Although we often host additional guests in our Flagship dorms, we do think it's important to note that you may be the only one staying in the main building at night. Most people feel safe in our buildings at night, but we're happy to talk over anything else we can do to help you feel comfortable.

Can I get around without a car?

Yes. Because New Cuyama was built as a company town, the townsite is compact and relatively walkable. If you need to go to one of the other townsites (Old Cuyama or Ventucopa) or visit someone living within the valley but outside of townsite limits, we can arrange to have one of our staff members drive you in our van or a personal vehicle. See our [map of New Cuyama](#) to better understand how you might get around and between the townsites.

What tools and materials do you have available?

Check out our [Tools Inventory](#) for a list of the tools and related equipment we have available. In addition to these items, we also have basic art and office supplies (including laser and inkjet printers and a xerox machine) and access (on a case-by-case basis) to screenprinting equipment via tenant business [High Desert Print Co.](#)

Where can I buy food?

Our local C & H Market has a limited stock of basic foods, though it can be a bit expensive, so we recommend you stock up on groceries before you arrive. We also try to schedule in at least one grocery / supply run over the course of your Fellowship to nearby, more urban areas like Santa Maria, Taft, or Bakersfield, which have the regular

grocery chains and places like Home Depot, Lowes, etc. If you need anything outside of that grocery run, you can usually ask someone on our staff or someone in town to pick something up for you—one of us will probably be passing through one of these more populated areas at least once a week.

Where can I buy supplies?

If you need any art- or building-related supplies, our local hardware store, Old Cuyama's Do it Best, carries the basics and can order anything to be shipped to the store. If you need more specialized supplies, you can always order and have things shipped to our address: 1000 Perkins Road, PO Box 271, New Cuyama, CA 93254. If you'd like supplies to be available upon your arrival, complete your pre-arrival Materials Request Form, and, pending approval, we'll have them ready for you when you're here.