

Harlem River Artist in Residence Program Frequently Asked Questions

Application content and process:

Q How long do you estimate the application process to take? Will finalists be offered a fee to work on their final proposals?

A. We have created a two-step process to make it easy to apply. The Letter of Interest (LOI) phase is relatively simple and is focused on sharing your qualifications. The second phase for selected finalists is more involved but is focused on sharing initial project interests, **not on developing an in-depth or detailed project proposal**. Please refer to the application content on pages 7-8 on the Call for Artist document. There are no fees for finalists during the application phase of the project.

Q Is there a default format to submit video work samples through the grant application (i.e streaming link/trailer/stills)?

A. Video work samples can be submitted as an attachment in any file format (mp4, mov, avi, wmv, etc.) through the attachments portion of the grant application. The size limit for files is 10 MB (roughly 1-2 minutes for a high-resolution video file). If you would prefer to submit a video via a link (from YouTube or a personal webpage, etc.), you can copy the link into a word document and upload that word document as one of your work samples on the attachments portion of the grant application. Please name this word document as the title of the video.

Q In evaluating the LOI responses, are you privileging the artist's past art work or are you preferring applicants to demonstrate connectedness/embeddedness in the Harlem River (and reference these connections in our LOI) as the key selection attribute?

A. The questions that applicants will answer as part of the LOI phase are meant to demonstrate the artist's prior artwork (especially as it relates to the goals of this program), experience working with community engagement, and connection specifically to the Harlem River/ Bronx communities; you will have the opportunity to discuss all of these topics. They will each be treated with equal value during the assessment of the applications, so none will be more heavily weighted than the others.

Eligibility:

Q Can you clarify the requirement that “The artist(s) must live in and/or be able to demonstrate a meaningful connection with the waterfront communities of the Harlem River and the Bronx.”

A. We are looking for an artist who has or has had a significant relationship with the Bronx and specifically the communities along the Harlem River. That could include living there now or in the past, and/or a history of working with those communities. One of our major goals for this program is to not only engage the local community around issues of climate, water quality, and environmental justice as it pertains to their local waterways, but also to uplift the voices of that community by selecting an artist who has an established community connection and can represent them.

Q Will you consider artists who live/have lived/or have experience working on the Manhattan side of the Harlem River?

A. While we will consider applications from artists who fall into one of these categories, the ideal candidate will be a qualified artist who can also demonstrate a connection to the Bronx-side of the Harlem River. The questions applicants are asked to address in their LOI will give applicants the chance to expand on their connection and experience with the waterfront communities of the Harlem River and the Bronx.

Q What kind of artist are you looking for?

A. We are open to artists working in any media.

Q What are the guidelines for experience? Particularly, how much experience do you need working with the environment?

A. The ideal candidate will have experience interpreting and/or addressing environmental issues, especially those relating to water or climate, and in engaging the community around those issues.

Q Will there be preference given to artists applying with an artist organization and if that’s the case, do you have any recommendations for organizations to reach out to?

A. There will be no preferences given to applicants who are affiliated with an arts organization. The option to disclose any arts organization affiliations is an opportunity to demonstrate more of your experience, but is not a necessary requirement to demonstrate your qualifications.

Q Who are the panelists reviewing the proposal? What artistic fields do they engage in? Will they be able to engage non-traditional and uncategorizable artistic fields and forms being proposed?

A. The panel reviewing the LOIs and the second phase represent the different partners of the AIR Program, including scientists, environmental managers, community organizers, and artists. All artistic fields are welcome; projects don't need to fall in a specific field. The projects must focus on the environmental issues and water quality, and engage with the communities of the Harlem River area.

Artist group applications:

Q Will more than one artist be selected?

A. Only one artist will be selected. We are open to teams of artists applying but one team leader needs to be identified as the point of contact and participate in the program meetings.

Q What is the budget for multiple artists?

A. The funding for the program will be the same for an individual artist or an artist group.

Q Should artists applying as a group combine their resumes into one document?

A. Yes, please consolidate your CV/resumes as best as possible within the three page limit, with an emphasis on the designated team leader. You also have an opportunity to upload relevant past work and that can come from others or ideally the team as a whole.

AIR program project/events:

Q Is the goal to have the project travel to the different festivals/events (City of Water Day, Harlem River Celebration, etc.) or to find a public space and provide separate event programming for the project?

A. It will depend on the art work itself but either or both are possible. The UWFP and BCA will work with the artist and our partners in city agencies and non profit organizations to identify and secure permission to share the art and the creative process with the public starting as early as Summer 2025. The City of Water Day and Harlem River Celebration events are particular opportunities to share the art/process.

Q What is the expected time commitment for this residency? Will it be a full-time occupation for the artist?

A. The residency is expected to last 13 months. The budget is fixed and the amount of time invested in the project will depend on the artist, their proposed work, and level of experience. We anticipate that this will represent a significant commitment on the part of the artist. For the initial immersion/research and development phase, we've estimated it will require about 20 hours a week from the artist. For the next phases, the exact schedule will be determined by the artist and project team.

AIR programs in other locations:

Q Is the opportunity for NJ residents as well?

A. This call for artists is specific to the Bronx/Harlem River Urban Waters Federal Partnership location. A similar call for artists working in the Lower Passaic River UWFP location will be launching later this winter. Once open, more information will be available on our website [here](#).

Q What are the other EPA/NEA Artist in Residence program locations? How do we learn about their RFPs/Open Calls?

A. The other five program locations along with their Estuary programs include: Massachusetts Bays NEP/Mystic River Watershed; Partnership for the Delaware Estuary NEP/Greater Philadelphia Area/Delaware River Watershed; San Juan Bay NEP; Middle Rio Grande/Albuquerque; and Puget Sound NEP/ Green-Duwamish Watershed. For more information about the Artist-in-Residence (AIR) Pilot Initiative you can visit: <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/artist-residence-air-pilot-initiative>

Q Do you recommend we only apply to one of the six sites?

A. While all six programs are part of the national initiative, each of these programs is being administered independently and you will need to look at the other locations to understand their requirements, particularly if they require you to be a resident and/or knowledgeable about the specific program location.