

FOREST ISLAND

artist residency



FOREST ISLAND PROJECT:

RESIDENCY & PROGRAMMING

MISSION

To establish the Town of Mammoth Lakes as a distinctive rural cultural nexus, a hub of intellectual capital and a source of creative pioneering. To promote elevated dialogue and local opportunity by drawing together and linking the immediate community with national and international cultural innovators through a residency program and public programming stemming from it. To develop and integrate with new facilities while creatively repurposing and reanimating existing structures within the town as part of an effort to grow opportunities for local inhabitants and thus visitors. To cultivate local organic partnerships with the intention of evolving the community in the direction of these goals.

UNIQUE POSITIONING

While a remote rural mountain community, Mammoth Lakes is uniquely positioned in its geographic proximity to three of the most major cultural centers in the United States – San Francisco, San Diego and most significantly Los Angeles. The opportunity to create an exchange of culture and knowledge, their most valuable resources, however, has not been effectively explored. The flow of exceptional individuals from these cultural centers who spend time in or are dedicated to the Eastern Sierra needs only to be tapped and cultivated. The recent completion of digital 395 adds an additional component of unexplored potential regarding connectivity and outreach.

RESIDENCY

The Forest Island Residency program is proposed as a twice yearly (spring and fall) three-week residency for innovative cultural contributors – artists, writers, scientists, comedians, athletes, filmmakers, tech experts, inventors, entrepreneurs, musicians, bands, architects, designers and civic specialists – intended to facilitate conceptual cross-pollination and to bring enlightening and inspiring critical dialogue to the town of Mammoth Lakes.

The program should support the highest levels of creative, critical thinking in a variety of fields, fostering a sense of community amongst its participants and within the local community at large through public programming appropriate to the participants' skills (public presentations, screenings, readings, exhibitions, community projects, etc.)

Similar programs include: [Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity Residencies](#), [Anderson Ranch Artist in Residence Program](#), [Tahoe South Artist in Residence](#), [A Ship In The Woods Residency](#), [Sass-Fee Summer Institute of Art](#), [Skowhegan](#), [Squaw Valley Community of Writers Workshops](#), [Atlantic Center for The Arts Master Artist Residency](#), [Headlands Center for the Arts Residency](#), [Ucross Foundation Residency Program](#), and [Teton Art Lab](#).

DETAILS

- The three-week long residency will take place twice yearly, once in May and once in October, with a total of three residents per session.
- The twice-yearly program will ideally be supplemented by residency options during summer and winter on a case-by-case basis.
- Kiersten Puusemp (Director) and the Provisional Advisory Board – a group of uniquely connected and knowledgeable community members motivated to see the first creation of a significant cultural program come to fruition in Mammoth – will oversee the application and selection process for FY 2017/18.
- The first round of applicants will be solicited through the board's various creative networks.
- Each resident will be offered:
 - Accommodations for three weeks.
 - A 250 square foot studio workspace. (Tools and equipment to be provided by the residents and potentially supplemented by local resource partners).
 - A stipend of \$1000 each. (All other expenses are the responsibility of the resident).
- Projects and ideas that focus on the town and region to produce a local outcome are encouraged and may be eligible for additional funding.
- Upon arrival, participants will be hosted at a public introductory meet and greet salon event.
- Open studios and an optional field trip will be scheduled during the middle of the residency.
- Towards the close of the residency period participants will be asked to share some aspect of their work with the community in the form of their choice – (public presentations, screenings, readings, exhibitions, community projects, etc.).
- At the close of the residency period a public reception will be hosted and a discussion with the residents will be facilitated by a visiting moderator of repute.

REQUIREMENTS

- Accommodations for three individuals for three weeks, twice yearly in spring and fall.
- Accommodations for one guest moderator / contributor for one week twice yearly.
- Studio workspace:
 - Three 250 ft' spaces with electricity and wifi
 - A communal congregation area
 - Access to kitchen facilities
 - Bathroom access
 - Access to freight elevator (if applicable)
 - Outdoor workspace
- Exhibition / performance venues on a case-by-case basis (Cerro Coso, Edison Theater, various local establishments, etc.)
- Venues for meet and greet / closing reception & discussion
- Stipend x 3 twice yearly
- Visiting moderator honorarium
- Event and promotion budget
- Administrative budget
- Community network and resource directory
- Open studio coordination for participants
- Field trip coordination
- Moderator selection and coordination
- Event organization and promotion

PARTNERS

- The Sierra Center Mall & Paul Rudder
 - To provide donated studio space and a potential venue for related public events. (Insurance coverage and responsibilities to be fully addressed in final MOU.)
- Mammoth Mountain Ski Area
 - To facilitate donated housing accommodations for the visiting artists and visiting moderator.

DIRECTION AND OVERSIGHT

DIRECTOR:

- **KIERSTEN PUUSEMP:** Kiersten Puusemp is an artist and curator living and working in California. Her performance and installation artwork have been exhibited across the U.S. and Europe. She's worked extensively with Hauser and Wirth Gallery based out of Zurich and David Zwirner Gallery in New York City overseeing large-scale installations of sculpture at David Zwirner, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Venice Biennale. She has designed major exhibition catalogues for Paul McCarthy, the Tate Modern (London) and Hauser and Wirth. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from U.C. Berkeley, a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Southern California, and has engaged in subsequent study and research at both The Mountain School of Arts in Los Angeles and the European Graduate School in Sars-Fee, Switzerland. As a founder of the Southern California based art space A Ship In The Woods she oversaw programming, initiated the space's residency program and established a conceptual trajectory for the 501(c)(3) nonprofit. She is currently residing in the town of Mammoth Lakes.

PROVISIONAL ADVISORY BOARD (currently confirmed):

- **BENJAMIN WEISSMAN:** Los Angeles based Benjamin Weissman is the author of two books, most recently a collection of short stories titled *Headless*, published as part of Dennis Cooper's *Little House on the Bowry* series. His writing about books, art and skiing have appeared in the Los Angeles Times, McSweeney's, Modern Painter, Art Forum, numerous exhibition catalogues and Powder Magazine. As a vital figure in Los Angeles art and literary culture he has been the long time organizer of the Hammer Museum's "New American Writing" reading series focused on contemporary fiction and poetry and has spent many years teaching creative writing at Otis College of Art & Design and Art Center College of Design. He's owned a heavily frequented A-frame in Mammoth Lakes since the mid-1990's and is currently teaching Advanced Drawing at UCLA.
- **JOHN WENTWORTH:** John Wentworth is founder of the non-profit MLTPA (Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access) which has worked to organize, steward, maintain, plan and support the official Mammoth Lakes Trail System for the last decade. Prior to settling in Mammoth Lakes, he worked in the motion picture industry, most significantly with auteur director David Lynch. His credits include Co-Producer of the ground-breaking series "Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me" as well as Executive Producer of the critically acclaimed film "Mulholland Drive" which won the award for Best Director at the Cannes Film Festival and is widely regarded as a pinnacle of avant-garde cinema. He has taught at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA (Fine Arts Graduate Program). He is an avid outdoor enthusiast, is currently a member of the Town Council and an integral part of Mammoth Lakes' civic fabric. *(The council member will recuse himself from decisions related to the funding of this project.)*
- **HANS LUDWIG:** Hans Ludwig is a twenty year resident of Mammoth Lakes, senior correspondent and long time columnist for Powder magazine. Trained as a competitive freestyle skier while growing up in Colorado he moved to Mammoth to pursue backcountry skiing in the Eastern Sierra. His work has taken him to many remote mountain ranges and wild back country locations from Alaska to Europe. Having spent many years touring and mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada range and in Europe Ludwig's work is informed by a deep passion for skiing and local ski town culture.
- **RUDY DeFELICE:** Mammoth Lakes resident Rudy DeFelice is a former attorney and current tech developer with a degree from Harvard Business School. He is the author of *The Pink Box Experience - How Talked-about Companies Got That Way* and is presently working as the Senior VP of Business Development and 'Entrepreneur In Residence' at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.
- **CORRINA PEIPON:** Corina Peipon is an active artist & the museum liaison at Honor Fraser Gallery in Los Angeles. As assistant curator at the Hammer Museum, Peipon organized "Hammer Projects" exhibitions with Carlos Bunga, N. Dash, Maya Hayuk, Alex Hubbard, Lucy Raven, and Jonas Wood. While serving as curatorial assistant at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, she was project coordinator for *WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution* and co-curated *index: Conceptualism in California* from the Permanent Collection. Her writings have appeared in numerous publications including *Rebecca Morris: Southafternoon, All of This and Nothing*, and *WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution*. She is an avid hiker and backpacker with a great love of California's vast geography.
- **CHRISTOPHER JAMES (CHAIR):** Christopher James is an artist, writer and exhibition producer. His artwork has been exhibited in New York, internationally, and in Los Angeles, most recently at LTD Gallery and with his collaboration "themodelingagency", at the Armory in Pasadena. He has been published in *The Believer*, *Cabinet*, *artUS*, and *X-TRA Journal of Contemporary Art*, where he's written about the unique conditions of art production in Southern California. In 2009 he organized the 9th annual SASIC (Surfing, Arts, Science, and Issues) conference at Scripps Institute, La Jolla, and assisted in the formation of High Desert Test Sites in Joshua Tree, California. In 2010 he produced artwork as a guest of the Hotch Alpine Forschungsstation Jungfraujoch, a high altitude research station in the Swiss Alps. He and his family own a cabin in Mammoth Lakes and visit as often as possible.