GRANITE FALLS
COMMUNITY ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

ARTIST OPEN CALL:
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2022
Collaborative Community Design
ARTIST CALL & APPLICATION
GF CAIR SEASON 2.0

A SUDDEN SUMMER RESIDENCY

ARTIST RESIDENCE AUG 1 - OCT 23 2022

DEADLINE
Friday June 3rd 11:59pm CST
Granite Falls City Artist in Residence 2.0

Open Call for Artists – “A Sudden Summer Residency”
Request for Qualifications

**DEADLINE**
Friday June 3rd 2022 at 11:59pm CST

MORE INFORMATION
www.granitefallsarts.org/cair
gfCAIR2.0@gmail.com

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GF CAIR 2.0 Call Summary

CALL SUMMARY

The City of Granite Falls and the Granite Area Arts Council are requesting qualifications from interested local, regional, and national artists for a 12-week Community Artist in Residence program. The selected artist will be embedded in Granite Falls (pop. 2,636) in Southwest Minnesota, and will work closely with CAIR 2.0 staff, City Hall, and area residents to design and implement art projects and creative strategies to increase inclusive community engagement while celebrating local resources and sense of place. The 2022 residency, which spans the months of August, September and October, is themed around the Minnesota River that runs through downtown.

Program Overview, Objectives & Residency Details

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

We believe deeply in the transformative power of collaboration between artists and communities.

In this “sudden summer residency,” an artist will be selected to partner with the rural Minnesota community of Granite Falls. Over the course of a season, the artist and the community will together move through the stages of stakeholder engagement, conceptual design, and final design and implementation to produce a work of public art, which may – depending on the artist’s vision – range from a physical installation to unique opportunities for social engagement.
OBJECTIVES

The CAIR will collaborate with CAIR 2.0 and City staff on the following objectives:

‣ Use of arts, design, cultural strategies, and creative/social practices to help inform, highlight, connect, and celebrate local projects, resources, history, artists, artisans, and broader community members.

‣ Draw attention to the river – or a river-adjacent space or concept – through an artist-envisioned project or series of projects, events, interactions or performances.

‣ Enhance the City’s approach to community engagement while working effectively with a diverse local population, including traditionally underserved and underrepresented community members and youth.

‣ Assist with strategizing for, and evaluation of, the GF CAIR program as it continues to evolve, offering authentic feedback as the 2022 resident artist for the betterment of future CAIR artists, and as a qualitative evaluation of the impact of community art to be shared as an open resource with the globe.

RESIDENCY DETAILS

The selected CAIR (Community Artist in Residence) will embed in the community of Granite Falls from August 1st – October 23rd 2022. (Dates can be adjusted slightly to accommodate the selected artist’s schedule.)

The CAIR will be provided with a fully furnished living space. CAIRs are welcome to relocate their partners and/or family during their residency period as schedule and needs allow.

The CAIR will be provided with a furnished office at City Hall, access to City staff and facilities (including the City-operated hydroelectric dam that provides much of the town’s power), and all City records and archives.
Depending on the artist’s working medium(s) and material needs, CAIR 2.0 staff will work with the CAIR to find appropriate studio or work space as needed for both CAIR and personal projects.

The selected CAIR will work with CAIR 2.0 and City staff to develop a project proposal, workplan, budget, timeline, and deliverables during the following phases:

• Research & Discovery: getting to know the community (the City, local Tribal Nations, the people, the landscape, the history);
• Project Development: offer CAIR project proposals to implement and complete during the residency;
• Implementation: implement the proposed project or series of projects;
• Celebration: activate and connect the project with the Granite Falls community in a way that fosters community engagement and ownership of the project – while helping to create a unique open-source program potentially replicable in other small communities;
• Evaluation: assist GF CAIR 2.0 team with evaluation throughout, helping to capture key findings and shape future residencies.

**Artist Responsibilities, Role & Project Budget**

**COMMUNITY ARTIST IN RESIDENCE RESPONSIBILITIES**

**ONSITE RESIDENCY**

• Live and work in the community of Granite Falls, MN for 12 weeks. (Local artists currently residing less than 30 miles away are welcome to live off-site.)
• Work locally with the community, CAIR 2.0 staff, City of Granite Falls, and independently on CAIR 2.0 projects (approximately 30 hours per week).
COMMUNITY

• Actively work to know and engage with our community.
• Participate in onsite orientations, meetings and other project-related events, check-ins, and ongoing evaluation efforts.
• Attend CAIR 2.0, City Council, and community meetings / events as appropriate.
• Have a public working presence within City Hall and in the community at large.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

• Develop a project proposal in collaboration with CAIR 2.0 and City staff themed around the Minnesota River. Successful proposals will vary depending on the artist selected and their chosen perspective and medium, but may include:
  • Development and implementation of arts-based practices to engage with community members and local businesses, organizations, and tribal governments.
  • Collaboration with local arts and cultural workers, artisans, residents, and organizations on projects and events.
  • Creating works of art in any medium capable of reaching a wide range of community members, physically or virtually.
  • Producing public, creative community events that engage with a multiplicity of residents to encourage community connection.
• Develop a project timeline and an itemized projected budget (up to $3,000) with guidance from and approval by CAIR 2.0, City staff and the GF CAIR Advisory Board.

COMMUNICATION + ADMINISTRATION

• Communicate regularly with CAIR 2.0 and City staff (in a method tailored to the CAIR’s needs/preferences).
• Manage and log CAIR 2.0 hours via the provided tracking methods.
• Provide and log appropriate documentation for project budget expenses.
• Follow City of Granite Falls regulations and processes for all administration and while onsite at City Hall.
• Become familiar with appropriate and interesting project background information, including relevant history (from multiple perspectives), research and data.
• Build positive and respectful relationships with project collaborators, local arts and cultural workers, local residents, and community stakeholders.

DOCUMENTATION + EVALUATION
• Assist CAIR 2.0 and City staff with CAIR program evaluation and documentation, collectively working toward full community transparency and an open-source program design replicable in other small communities.
• Keep occasional artist notes (in whatever form or artistic format feels appropriate) to share with the next CAIR.

ARTIST’S ROLE

You are coming to our home as a guest – but for a season, you’ll make this place your home, too. Please treat the land, the water, and all of our people with equal respect. We hope to learn from each other, and to delight in growing together.

PROJECT BUDGET

In collaboration with CAIR 2.0 and City Staff, the CAIR will propose a full project budget of up to $3,000.

An additional $500 will be provided as needed during the Research & Development phase for materials, hosting, event participation, community engagement and relationship building.
Program Background, Partners, Place + People

BACKGROUND

What are we doing and how did we get here?

In October of 2020, the first City Artist in Residence came to the town of Granite Falls on the Minnesota River. Though many larger cities have hosted civic / city / community resident artists, this small-town CAIR program was the first of its kind in a population under 50,000 in the United States. This first experimental residency lasted 13 months and was managed by a national nonprofit that was inspired to bring this inaugural small-town residency to Granite Falls. A public success, the first CAIR encouraged the City, local Arts Council, and region at large to take ownership and develop the program from a more community-rooted foundation. The “C” in CAIR was changed from “City” to “Community, and CAIR 2.0 was born!

This iteration of the program is not only rooted more heavily in the local community, but will also focus on drafting an open-source program design to be shared with other communities around the globe – with the long-term goal of building a network to openly share information and resources, centering art and artists at the heart of small-town community life. This will involve careful documentation, a focus on clarity of systems building, noting both what works and what doesn’t, complete program transparency, and a focus on creating new metrics to evaluate the intrinsic and extrinsic values of public art.

Together with the Granite Area Arts Council, the City, the community, the new CAIR 2.0 Advisory Board and CAIR 2.0’s staff, the selected artist will experience Minnesota’s late summer and early fall (harvest season) at its finest. With the guidance of and collaboration with this layered human network, the selected artist will be able to readily
tap the area’s existing rich resources – then see what ripple effects their residency might cause.

CAIR 2.0 PROGRAM STAFF

Granite’s new Community Artist in Residence will be supported in their work by a collaborative team dedicated to the CAIR 2.0 artist and program that works to document and share all program elements with local and global communities.

The staff includes:

✦ Program Director: organizer and manager of main program components, point person for any roadblocks, challenges, program partnerships, troubleshooting and HR.

✦ Communications Director: responsible for the transparency & messaging of the organization; works with the artist to clearly and accessibly communicate activities and projects to the community at large through appropriate public outlets.

✦ Community Touchpoint: dedicated team member to consistently orient and support the artist; makes introductions to people, places and organizations and facilitates information access for the artist.

✦ Administrative & Event Assistant: supports the program and helps the artist with paperwork and logistics, maintaining systems and ensuring all events and projects go through the proper channels to be pulled off smoothly.

✦ Social Media Director: ensures that public information about the artist, the art, and all events reach the maximum number of people and their target audiences.
CAIR 2.0 ADVISORY BOARD

Composed of a variety of community representatives, the Advisory Board is responsible for selecting the CAIR through application scoring/selection, advising/approving the CAIR Project proposals during the residency, and assisting the community in celebrating our new CAIR’s exciting accomplishments at the completion of the residency.

PRIMARY PARTNERS

The selected CAIR will be supported during their residency by two primary project partners in addition to dedicated support staff.

CITY OF GRANITE FALLS

The City of Granite Falls is the governing municipal body of Granite Falls, MN, a diverse, small town community located in the Minnesota River Valley of southwest Minnesota. Primary CAIR contacts at the City include Dave Smiglewski (Mayor), Crystal Johnson (City Manager), Cathy Anderson (EDA Director), and Chris Anderson (Water & Forestry Department).

GRANITE AREA ARTS COUNCIL (GAAC)

“Building Community Through Art”

The Granite Area Arts Council, founded in 2006, is a collective of volunteers who work to foster the arts in the region and beyond. Housed in the historic K.K. Berge building on the riverfront, GAAC runs two galleries (the Emerging Artists + Main Gallery), a local artisan gift shop, multiple classes and opening receptions, and – in summer and fall – the Makers Market, a riverside pop-up art market with dozens of vendors. In early September (during the selected artist’s residency), the Main Gallery will feature its first international art exhibit titled Glitch Art is Dead.
PLACE

Your New Community

The community of Granite Falls, MN (pop. 2,636) is nestled on the banks of the Minnesota River among the gneiss and granite outcroppings of the meandering Minnesota River Valley, with some of the oldest exposed rock formations in the world. The town was settled on Dakota land; it now neighbors the reservation of Upper Sioux Community and is the County Seat of Yellow Medicine County (Chippewa and Renville Counties are also included in its geographic boundaries). Since its colonization and settlement, Granite Falls has been home to a largely agricultural but diverse community, with deep ties to the legacy of the cooperative movement. Area schools include the Yellow Medicine East School District and Minnesota West Technical College.

Over the past decade, Granite Falls has seen a proliferation of growth led by its commitment to and support of the arts, small businesses, and outdoor recreation. Main Street includes a 100-year old popcorn stand operated by local volunteers (the Kiwanis Club) throughout the summer months, a riverwalk complete with brightly painted murals by local artists, an historic Roebling footbridge with a nightly display of colorful lights, the cooperatively-owned Bluenose Gopher Public House, City Hall, a creative community gathering space called The YES! House, American Legion Post #69, the famous Karl’s Bakery, parks and green spaces, and a host of small professional and retail businesses.

Granite is fortunate to sit at the intersection of two connective highways, which too house many important local businesses, including the SawMill Lumber Yard, the locally owned Almichs grocery store, Prairie Mercantile Antiques, Pioneer PBS station, the historic Memorial Park, Prairie’s Edge Casino, and Lee Mar Equine Center & Ranch with its Special Olympics equestrian team. These regional attractions, coupled with a strong sense of community pride and participation as well as a migrating flock of magnificent pelicans, make the small town of Granite Falls a thriving, creative place to live and work.
Learn more by checking out these local community attractions and events:

Southwest Minnesota Arts Meander
Western Fest Stampede Rodeo
Upper Sioux Agency State Park
Fagen Fighters WWII Museum
Andrew J. Volstead House
Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway and State Water Trail
Prairie’s Edge Casino
Granite Run Golf Course
Lee-Mar Ranch Equine Center
Yellowstone Trail
Granite Bowling
The Rock Dining and Events
Yellow Medicine Museum
The “Oldest Rock in the World”
Kilowatt Community Center
Living at Home Block Nursing Program
Project Turnabout
Fagen Memorial Air Show

Contract Terms

CONTRACT

Granite Falls CAIR 2.0 is designed as a work-for-hire, independent contract opportunity with a commitment of 12 weeks, August 1<sup>st</sup> – October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022. (Dates can shift slightly per the artist’s request.)
Selected artist will work with CAIR 2.0 and City staff in a collaborative team through Research & Discovery, Project Development, Implementation, Celebration, and Evaluation. The CAIR will be responsible for their personal health/medical insurance.

**COMPENSATION**

Selected artist will receive a stipend of $600 per week (approximately 30 hours per week at $20/ hour), paid in monthly increments. The artist is welcome to donate 10 additional hours if so desired, but will be discouraged from devoting more than 40 hours a week to the CAIR 2.0 program. We hope you use the rest of your time in this beautiful river valley to focus on your own artistic practices, or simply experiencing the small and large wonders of this place.

Lodging costs (rent and all utilities) will be covered by the program. The artist will be offered a $500 additional stipend to help facilitate travel to and relocation for the duration of the residency.

**PROJECT EXPENSES**

The selected CAIR will be allocated an additional project budget of up to $3,000, and up to $500 for necessary costs through the R&D phase. The artist will collaboratively determine the use of their allocated project budget with CAIR 2.0 and City Staff.

**Eligibility & Selection Criteria**

**ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for the Granite Falls CAIR 2.0 program, applicants must:
* be over 18 years of age
· be legally able to work in the United States, and complete a W-9 form for independent contract work.
· be available onsite in Granite Falls for all events, meetings, and required appointments throughout the contract term.
· have a history of social, public, civic, interactive, and/or community-based artistic practice, or an extensive history of individual artistic practice coupled with the strong desire to harness this practice in service to a community.
· have experience with and/or deep interest in rural community work.
· be comfortable with at least limited creative public engagement for the purposes of broad community interaction (openness to sock puppets is preferred, but not required).
· complete a background check (required of all City contractors).

**Note:** Though we do not require the applicant to have a driver’s license and working vehicle, due to the nature of rural work and lack of access to public transportation, we highly recommend both. Otherwise the artist must be willing to use other transportation methods (biking, walking) within a local area, working with the CAIR 2.0 staff to source rides or other transport options when required.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

GF CAIR 2.0 and the City of Granite Falls do not discriminate in their selection processes on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, religion or religious creed, ability, sex or gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, state or local law.

SELECTION CRITERIA
Granite Falls CAIR program is open to artists, creatives, and cultural workers of all disciplines, limited only by necessary logistics and the selected artist's imagination. This includes but is not limited to: visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, musical / sonic arts, media arts, graphic arts / design, process design, civic / social / community-based practice, interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary arts.

Our criteria for selecting a GF CAIR 2.0 artist is based on a combination of:

- experience as a practicing artist, with a focus on or desire for community engagement
- ability to work with community members from a diverse range of social, cultural, economic, and political backgrounds
- interest in, connections to, and/or experience working in a rural context, in service of a complex community
- professional capabilities, experience as a collaborator, and enthusiasm to explore how the residency fits into – and can enhance or grow – the artist’s working life and creative practice

CRITERIA DETAILS

EXPERIENCE AS A PRACTICING ARTIST

- Three years’ minimum demonstrable experience as a practicing, working artist.
- Attention to quality of process as well as final product.
- A focus on community engagement, social issues, and developing and implementing new processes as part of their creative practice.

WORKING WITHIN AND WITH COMMUNITY

- Demonstrated experience or strong interest in respectfully working with diverse communities.
- Knowledge and skills to work across community inequities and divisions, including across age, race, culture, economy, geography, politics, and representation.
• Exceptional cultural competency and proven ability to constructively work with and from local resources, including the capacity to learn and critically engage with intersecting systems of power that are possibly personally unfamiliar.
• Ability and desire to deeply listen and observe as a critical part of the creative process.

WORKING IN A RURAL CONTEXT
• Experience and/or strong interest in working with small towns and/or rural communities, and an understanding of the importance and complexity of place.
• Demonstrated experience and interest in making art accessible.
• Willingness to jump in and get your hands dirty.

PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY & COLLABORATION
• Strong communication, facilitation, interpersonal, and collaborative skills.
• Demonstrated experience at navigating systems, with a willingness and ability to work within required public processes.
• Ability to learn and grow, be flexible and adaptable, and independently manage resources and schedule.
• Regular availability and ability to meet agreed-upon commitments.

ALCHEMY
• We want you to enjoy this residency as much as we aim to enjoy welcoming you to our community!

Artist Selection Process + Timeline

SELECTION PROCESS

Artist applications will be scored individually by all 13 members of the CAIR 2.0 Advisory Board, against a weighted rubric based on the above criteria.
The Board will then meet for discussion with the staff, review applications, and adjust assigned scores. CAIR 2.0 Staff will not vote on artist selection.
The three top-scoring candidates will be invited to interview with the CAIR 2.0 Advisory Board and members of the CAIR 2.0 and City staffs.
Final artist selection will follow.

After a reasonable time, limited feedback will be available to applicants upon request.

TIMELINE

**Friday MAY 13th**
GF CAIR 2.0 Application opens and is available at
http://www.granitefallsarts.org/CAIR 2.0

**Thursday MAY 26th | 12PM CST**
Granite Falls CAIR 2.0 Informational Webinar

**Friday JUNE 3rd | 11:59PM CST**
Application deadline.

**JUNE 2022**
Selection of finalists and interviews

**JUNE 2022**
CAIR Artist selected and contract agreement in place.

**AUGUST 1st**
Artist residency begins.
Application Format, Materials & Instructions

APPLICATION FORMAT

Please submit all application materials by Friday June 3rd at 11:59pm CST through the google form HERE:
https://forms.gle/FZFDzgGkpuCEA3FSA

All application materials must be submitted according to the details listed below. Any questions can be directed to gfCAIR2.0@gmail.com.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

In addition to filling out the google form, we request all application materials be submitted by providing a public shareable link via that form to a Google Folder or DropBox Folder* that includes the following documents:

- Application Narrative (written document or video, instructions below)
- CV / Resume
- 2 Letters of Reference
- 5 Work Samples (if Samples are available online there is space for links instead of files on the google form)
  *Note: there is space for Work Sample Descriptions on the form

All documents should be in .doc, Word, mp4 or PDF format and follow the file naming convention “LastName_File_GFCAIR22”

Examples: “Gomez_Resume_GFCAIR22” or “Nihad_Reference1_GFCAIR22”

*If you do not have access or ability to submit documents
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

APPLICATION NARRATIVE

Please submit a written document that is no longer than two pages (or a video that is no longer than five minutes, if submitting a video application instead of a written application) addressing the following:

‣ Your experience as a practicing artist.
‣ Your approaches to working in and with communities and community members from a diverse range of social, cultural, economic and political backgrounds.
‣ Your experience or interest in working in a rural context. How might your practice intersect with the strengths and complexities of rural life and culture?
‣ Your interest in or connection to collaborating with local governments and organizations and/or the intersection of art, civic processes, and community life.
‣ Your professional readiness for this residency: Why is this the right time for you to be participating in this residency? How does this residency fit into your life, other projects, and practice?
‣ Anything else you believe is relevant for the staff and advisory board to know.

CV / RESUME

Include relevant information on your background, projects, practice and experience related to this opportunity. No longer than two pages.

TWO LETTERS OF REFERENCE

Each letter should be no longer than one page and include the name, title, email / phone, and relationship to the applying artist.

WORK SAMPLES

Work samples should relate directly to this opportunity and be submitted as
a) individual links to works or your portfolio of work in the spaces provided on the form; or

b) up to five high-quality examples of your artistic work.

Work sample submissions are flexible in style and approach, but if including files rather than links, please submit in the following formats:

- Images - high resolution JPEGs or PDFs.
- Written - PDFs, Word or Google docs.
- Videos - MP4s
- Audio - MP3s

* Interdisciplinary artists are welcome to submit under multiple categories, while keeping the total number of work samples submitted to five.

WE CAN’T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU TO GRANITE FALLS!

Pidamayaye ye/do. Gracias. Thank you.

Granite Falls Community Artist in Residence - GF CAIR 2.0 2022