



FAQ

Open AIR's Artist Residency and Art Auction Donation at the Western Montana Fairgrounds

Calling all Artists! We are excited to announce there are three ways to Support Open AIR's Annual Fundraiser **September 21, 2024, at Missoula Fairgrounds!**

Option 1: Artist Residency at the Western Montana Fair

How it works:

- [Apply HERE](#)
- Participate in a short-term residency at the Fairgrounds August 6-11 during the Western Montana Fair
- Create your art
- Donate a piece of work to be auctioned off in Open AIR's annual art auction!

Option 2: Donate Artwork to the Annual Fundraiser

How it works:

- [Apply HERE](#)
- Create your art Inspired by the theme of the Western Montana Fair, "Lasso the Moon"
- Donate a piece of work to be auctioned off in Open AIR's annual art auction!

Option 3: Engage!

How it works:

- [Volunteer to help with Open AIR's annual auction.](#)
- Attend the Fundraiser
- Share Open AIR's fundraising event and online auction with your friends, family, and social media

Residency and Artwork Auction TIMELINE:

May 15th - Applications due

June 1st - Artists are notified of selection for residency and artwork donation

June 19th (11 am) - Visit Missoula County Fairgrounds (MCF) for an initial tour and learn about its varied resources and spaces. Artists who would like to stay on and begin working are welcome to do so. MCF is located at 1101 South Ave W, Missoula, MT

August 6-11 - Western Montana Fair Residency

August 26th -The Deadline to provide details about the work, including size, title, photograph, headshot and bio of yourself, etc. You will also designate what percentage of the sale of your artwork you would like to donate to Open AIR (50%, 75%, 100%). [Here is the link to the online form](#) to apply.

September 2nd - Shipped artworks from artists due. Please ship to Open AIR HQ at 250 W Sussex Ave, Missoula, MT. 59801

September 9th - Drop off in-person artworks to Open AIR.

September 9-20th Artist Exhibition - Public exhibition at the Missoula County Fairgrounds. Artists are encouraged to attend and be celebrated! The tentative date for opening reception: is Wednesday, September 11.

September 21, 5-8 pm - Open AIR's Annual Fundraiser and Art Auction.

Western Montana Fair Artist Residency Additional Information:

(If you are interested in donating work but not applying for the residency, please skip to the 'Artwork Donation' section below.)

Residency Snapshot

August 6 -11, 2024

~10-15 spots available.

Flexible hours every day: 11 am - 10 pm.

Artists agree to donate one work to the Open AIR annual auction on September 21, 2024

The Residency Experience at MCF

The Missoula County Fairgrounds/Western Montana Fair is a new site partner, and some details continue to evolve. But for now, artists can expect:

Each artist will have a designated workspace in the beautiful loft of Culinary Building #16 at the MCF. The Culinary Bldg. is open 11 a.m.—10 p.m. Artists may also work around the fairgrounds during the Western Montana Fair!

- Backstage access to farm animals, exhibits, dance and demonstrations, carnival area, and rodeo/motorsports at the back of the house.
- The artist will be provided a parking pass for the six days of the Fair.
- The fair staff is available during the residency if needed. Open AIR will also be on-site to provide a refreshment area.
- This residency is ideal for someone who enjoys a busy environment with crowds, activities, and animals.

About the Western Montana Fair

The Missoula County Fairgrounds is situated on 46 acres in the heart of Midtown Missoula and is home to the annual Western Montana Fair. As the community's oldest event, the Western Montana Fair is a welcoming space for urban and rural communities. The Western Montana Fair features rodeo, motorsports, carnival, 4-H, dance, demonstrations, and more. Every year, the Fair selects a theme. This year's theme, '**Lasso the Moon**,' celebrates technology, the future, agriculture and creativity.

Accommodations

Artists coming from out of town will be provided accommodations in Missoula. Each year, our housing changes based on the needs of incoming residents and changing housing options in

Missoula. Generally, residents are housed together in a centrally located furnished home or apartment with a private bedroom in Missoula. Occasionally, residents are housed with a vetted host family. Applicants will have the opportunity to share their housing needs in the Artist-in-Residence application.

Community Engagement

Artists may have the opportunity to show their work at the Missoula Extension Office.

Location

The Missoula County Fairgrounds [is located](#) at the heart of Midtown Missoula.

Artwork Donation for Open AIR Annual Fundraiser

Additional Information:

We are inviting you to create work inspired by the fair that will then be auctioned as part of our 2024 fundraiser. Based on the nature of your studio practice, artists can work in advance with concepts connected to the fair/fairgrounds. Artists may choose to work directly at the fairgrounds during the residency or make work in their studio based on inspiration from the residency experience.

All work donated should connect somehow to the theme or spirit of the fair.

Fair Themes: We encourage artists to consider a range of topics connected to place. While some may be drawn to the physical space of the fairgrounds, county fairs are deeply rooted in local traditions and community spirit. Often, they focus on themes celebrating agricultural heritage, community achievements, and local culture. We encourage artists to consider such themes in the artwork they produce. Some examples include:

Agricultural Excellence: Celebrating the agricultural roots of the community, including livestock, farming practices, and gardening, with competitions for the best animals, fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural products.

Community and Togetherness: The fair is a place for community members to connect, enjoy shared interests, and celebrate local culture and achievements.

Educational Opportunities: Offering educational exhibits and demonstrations for

children and adults on farming techniques, animal care, sustainability practices, and more.

Local Cuisine and Food Production: Highlighting local food traditions, agricultural products, and culinary competitions (e.g., pie baking contests). County fairs often feature a variety of food stands selling traditional and innovative local fare.

Craftsmanship and Artistry: The fair showcases local artisans and crafters through exhibits and competitions in areas like quilting, woodworking, photography, and painting, celebrating the creative talents within the community.

Entertainment and Recreation: Providing entertainment through live music, carnival rides, games, rodeos, tractor pulls and other amusements suited to all age groups.

Youth Development: This includes events and competitions hosted by organizations like 4-H and FFA, which focus on developing skills in agriculture, leadership, and community service among young people.

Conservation and Sustainability: Educating on topics related to environmental stewardship, conservation practices in agriculture, and sustainable living, reflecting growing awareness and concern for these issues within local communities.

Economic and Trade Opportunities: Offering a platform for local businesses, artisans, and farmers to sell and promote their products, contributing to the local economy and providing visitors with unique local goods.

Heritage and Tradition: Celebrating the history and traditions of the local area and its people, including historical displays, traditional crafts, and storytelling sessions that connect current generations with their past.

County fairs act as a microcosm of the community, reflecting its values, interests, and traditions while also serving as a bridge that connects the rural and urban parts of the county. Through these themes, county fairs continue to be a vital part of celebrating and sustaining local culture and community spirit. *This year, the Western Montana State Fair theme is 'Lasso the Moon' and includes a focus on themes of technology, the future, agriculture, and creativity.*

About the Artworks:

Donated works: Must be roughly no more than 4 feet in any direction. Artists may only donate one artwork to the auction. Donated works will then be selected for the live or silent auction.

Artists interested in donating works but who are unavailable to attend the residency should still complete the application form.

Artist Commission: Artists can donate 50%, 75%, or 100% of proceeds from the sale of their artwork during the art auction to Open AIR (not to exceed the value of the painting). All proceeds go to benefit artists through Open AIR.

Free Ticket: Participating Artists will receive **one free ticket** to Open AIR's Annual Fundraiser on September 21, 2024, 5-8 pm at the Missoula County Fairgrounds, Commercial Bldg.

Publicity: Both the Fairground and Open AIR look forward to broadcasting and spotlighting the artists involved in the auction.

Artist Responsibilities: Artists will be responsible for visiting the Missoula County Fairgrounds and creating work in response to the site they are willing to donate to Open AIR to benefit the organization during the fundraiser. The work must be completed within the stated time frame, and artists will be expected to respond to communications from Open AIR staff. We encourage artists to share their work on social media channels and encourage friends and family to participate in the event.

Engage Additional Information:

Artists are invited to participate in several ways for the Annual Fundraiser!

Volunteer for the event! This event is made possible through the dedicated support of volunteers! We have opportunities for various shifts. This is a great way to say yes, be present, and support artists with Open AIR! Volunteer at:

<https://www.jotform.com/build/241023874883158>

Attend! We appreciate the gift of your time and work.

Spread the word - about the event with friends and on social media

Bid online - Can't attend the event? Participate in our online auction.

Questions? Contact Kelli at program@openairmt.org