

Artist

At Pine Needles



ENHANCING SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING THROUGH ART

An artist residency program hosted by the St. Croix Watershed Research Station,
a department of the Science Museum of Minnesota.



SAINT CROIX
WATERSHED RESEARCH
STATION



Science
Museum
of Minnesota®

Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota

SUMMER 2026

Emerging Artists



THE PROGRAM

With the vision to enhance scientific understanding through art, each summer the St. Croix Watershed Research Station welcomes three to four creative individuals to our historic Pine Needles cabin as our Artists in Residence. Since 2002, the Artist at Pine Needles program has hosted 80 artists and writers who seek to further deepen the recognizable connection between the arts and sciences and pass that understanding on to the community. In this unique program, each resident is invited to interact with the scientific staff of the Research Station and the Science Museum during their stay to further expand their intersection of art and science.

"[W]hat sets the Pine Needles Fellowship apart from other artist residency programs is the access to everyone at the Research Station. Conversations with scientists and lab technicians were the starting point for new poems." - Kim Roberts

THE ARTISTS

This year, the 2026 Artist at Pine Needles funding is focusing exclusively on emerging artists and writers of any discipline whose work focuses on connecting the complex world between art, the natural world, and the sciences. Eligible emerging artists have fewer than six years of exhibit and/or publication history in their medium, demonstrate clear artistic achievement in their work, and are not yet widely recognized as established artists by other artists, curators, critics, or arts administrators. Applicants must be age 21 or older. This temporary shift in focus aims to provide meaningful support to early-career artists whose work explores the intersection of art and science. *(Established artists are not eligible this season.)*

Artists selected for the 2026 program must plan and agree to conduct a community outreach project such as an artist demonstration, outdoor workshop, school visit, virtual presentation, lecture, reading, or informal discussion. Past venues for these programs have included the Marine on St. Croix Village Hall, Community Library, National Park Service visitor centers, etc. Arrangements are made individually with each artist.

Applicants also agree to donate an original artwork, developed from their residency experience, to the Research Station within one year of their residency. This contribution should consist of artwork suitable for exhibition, publication, or inclusion in Research Station publications.

Previous residency recipients are eligible to reapply five years after their last residency. Current employees of the Science Museum of Minnesota are not eligible to apply.



STIPEND

"I would repeat this residency in a heartbeat!" - Jeanne Kosfeld

The 2026 Artist at Pine Needles Program is funded by the Mahle Family Foundation. Artist will receive a stipend of \$650/week of residency and up to \$600 in travel support, as needed.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Artists are selected by a committee of St. Croix Watershed Research Station and Science Museum of Minnesota staff, community members, and local artists. Selection is based upon applicant's relation to the program mission, quality of work submitted, and value of proposed community program via the rubric method. Committee decisions are final.



THE SETTING

The Pine Needles cabin is located on a 26-acre site north of Marine on St. Croix, MN along the St. Croix River, a nationally designated Wild and Scenic River. The secluded site is heavily wooded, with spring-fed streams, native wildflowers and local wildlife. The main cabin was built before World War I and was the family retreat of James Taylor Dunn, a well-known local historian. The residency cabin is located approximately three miles north of the Research Station's main campus.

The rustic, comfortable cabin includes a three-season porch, full bath, bed/sitting room, and kitchen. The generous enclosed porch, overlooking the river, is suitable for writing, sketching, reflection, and more. During their residency, each artist will have the sole use of this unique lodging.

"It was wonderful to experience relative isolation in a live-work space with amenities nearby. This allowed for solitude, slow contemplation, and efficient working time...all things that were particularly beneficial for my time consuming detail-oriented techniques. The environment was both peaceful and engaging, and offered much in the way of inspiration."
- Robin Smith



THE COMMUNITY

The village of Marine on St. Croix, nestled along the scenic banks of the St. Croix River, is home to nearly 700 residents. The entire central village area is a designated historic district; the Village Hall, Community Library, Stone House Museum, Mill Site, and Fire Hall being sources of pride for the tight-knit community. The Artist at Pine Needles program provides an opportunity to link the village, the Research Station, and the artists in a unique collaborative experience.

"I canoed to the tavern in town for a pint of local Stillwater-brewed ale; biked the state park to the north and every other day to the eagle nest in Marine; and used Line Two (my feet) to access everything else." - William Powers

THE RESEARCH STATION

The St. Croix Watershed Research Station is the environmental research department of the Science Museum of Minnesota that seeks to better understand humanity's relationship with our most precious resource: fresh water. We study how land use, climate change, atmospheric deposition and other factors affect watersheds, thus informing policy and management, and contributing to the scientific understanding of our priceless aquatic systems around the world. The facilities include a research library, microscopy and wet-chemistry laboratories, conference room, and gathering area. Artists have access to these spaces along with the biological, geological, and cultural collections at the Science Museum of Minnesota's St. Paul location. Learn more about the St. Croix Watershed Research Station at www.smm.org/scwrs.

"I have been to a rather large number of artist residency programs and art colonies, so I have a good basis for comparison — and I can say without hesitation that this program is well organized, specific in its scope, and extremely well run. I plan to recommend it to others. Thank you again for this amazing opportunity." - Kim Roberts

2026 APPLICATION FORM

Submit/postmarked by February 22, 2026

Notice to applicants by March 31, 2026

Mail Application Packet to:

Artist at Pine Needles
St. Croix Watershed Research Station
16910 152nd Street North
Marine on St. Croix MN 55047
Ph: 651-433-5953 ext. 12



"Pine Needles is a glorious place. There could not be a more beautiful or peaceful place for creative pursuits. The richness of the Dunn legacy is evident, and helps artists connect with the local history...[and the] charm of the place." - Gary Noren & Marty Harding

Stipend: \$650.00/week plus optional travel support

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Emerging artists, 21 years or older, of all disciplines with fewer than six years of exhibit and/or publication history in their medium, are eligible to apply provided their submitted narratives show an established connection between their work and the environment or natural world. *(See page 2 of packet for full criteria)*

Each applicant must complete all components of the application packet and have either postmarked or electronically submitted their application by 11:59 pm CST on **February 22, 2026**. Application packets can either be mailed to the address above or submitted electronically via Google Drive (see below).

By submitting your application, you agree to donate an original work if selected for the residency.

1. APPLICATION FORM: Complete and sign application form *(review packet checklist before submission)*

2. NARRATIVE ATTACHMENTS: Consolidate narrative statements into a single document

- An **Artist Statement:** Describe your work as an artist. How does your work relate to the mission of the Artist at Pine Needles Program? *(Word Limit: 250 min/400 max)*
- A **Program Statement:** How would this residency experience advance you as an artist? How would the residency location/opportunity to interact with scientists benefit the science—art connection in your work? What type of work would you create during the residency? *(Word Limit: 250 min/500 max)*
- A **Community Engagement Statement:** Outline a plan to share your work with the local community as a part of your residency. Include ideas on venue, location, and type of audience/participants. *Required component upon acceptance of residency. *(Word Limit: 150 min/300 max)*

3. ARTISTIC WORK SAMPLES: Include an image/file list with information details for each piece.

- Provide curated **examples of your work:** either 7 to 15 photos, 3 to 5 video/audio clips, or up to 4 pages of writing samples. Accepted file formats: JPEG, PNG, PDF, MP3, MP4
- Audio tracks or video clips: Can be multiple tracks/videos, all files in total not to exceed 5 minutes
- Writing samples: Can be multiple excerpts of different works but not to exceed 4 pages in total

4. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS: *Optional; recommended but not required*

You may also include gallery statements, CV/resume, exhibitions, awards, publication list, etc.

HOW TO APPLY:

By Mail: Print out completed application form, narrative statements, and any supplemental materials. If needed, include a USB drive containing your artwork examples. Mail packet to address above; must be postmarked by February 22, 2026. USB drives will be returned to applicant.

Electronically: Email researchstation@smm.org to request your personalized Google Drive folder link. Use the email subject title "PNAiR 2026 Electronic Submission Request". A staff member will respond with a Google Drive folder link where you can upload your application materials. *Completed and signed application form, all narrative statements, and any supplemental materials must be in PDF format.* Application packets must be uploaded to the Google Drive folder by 11:59 pm CST on February 22, 2026.

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"Creativity can really bloom when it has no interruption and you can get lost in your ... imagination"
- Joshua Cunningham

Stipend: \$650.00/week

Name: _____ **Pronouns:** (optional) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **Alternate:** _____

Email: _____

How did you learn about this program? _____

Indicate if you require travel support (up to \$600): ☐ Yes ☐ No

Verify eligibility: ☐ I confirm that I am applying as an emerging artist and meet all outlined eligibility criteria.

RESIDENCY DATES: 1) Select ONE preferred residency date using the "Pref." column. 2) Select UP TO THREE alternate residency date using the "Alt." column—ideally different sessions from your preferred dates. **Both a preferred and alternate date are required.*

SESSION A	PREF.	ALT.	SESSION B	PREF.	ALT.
2-Weeks: May 14- May 29	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2-Weeks: June 18- July 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-Weeks: May 14- June 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3-Weeks: June 18- July 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4-Weeks: May 14- June 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4-Weeks: June 18- July 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SESSION C	PREF.	ALT.	SESSION D	PREF.	ALT.
2-Weeks: July 23- Aug 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2-Weeks: Aug 27- Sept 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-Weeks: July 23- Aug 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3-Weeks: Aug 27- Sept 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4-Weeks: July 23- Aug 21	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4-Weeks: Aug 27- Sept 25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Chosen artists will be consulted before scheduling final residency dates

APPLICATION PACKET CHECKLIST: 1) Completed and signed application form, 2) Artist Statement PDF, 3) Program Statement PDF, 4) Community Engagement Statement PDF, 5) Example works.

**See instruction page for submission rules. Failure to submit all required materials, within guidelines, will disqualify your application and remove it from consideration.*

AGREEMENT:

I understand that if selected for the Artist at Pine Needles program, I will receive a stipend, as well as housing and studio space at the St. Croix Watershed Research Station's Pine Needles Cabin, for an agreed-upon time period. In return, I agree to provide an original piece of work within one year of my residency. Proper credit will be given whenever the artwork is showcased by the Science Museum of Minnesota or the St. Croix Watershed Research Station.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____