

the INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING, ART & NATURAL DESIGN presents

THE HILL HOUSE ARTIST RESIDENCY

2012/13 EMERGING MUSICIAN RESIDENCY APPLICATION

WHAT IS A RESIDENCY?

Artist residencies (also called artists' communities, colonies, retreats, workspaces, and studio collectives) provide dedicated time and space for creative work. Beyond this core value, these creative communities are a diverse group, and provide artists of all disciplines with many different styles and models of support.

Residencies can be found in urban or rural areas, serving one artist at a time or fifty. Some support one artistic genre while many are interdisciplinary, welcoming visual artists, writers, composers, choreographers, scholars and other creative individuals. There are programs that are active centers for public programs and others that offer solitude and retreat. Many provide room and board as a home-away-from-home; others offer not a place to live, but a community for local artists in which to work and be supported in the creation of new art.

HILL HOUSE EXPERIENCE

The **Hill House Artist Residency** supports talented emerging songwriters with a two, three or four week stay in a semi-secluded log cabin near East Jordan, Michigan. It includes a well stocked kitchen, a selection of instruments and some basic recording gear. The residency also offers performance opportunities and a small stipend to aid in your professional development.

Musicians age 21 and older from anywhere in the world may apply. Solo writers as well as songwriting/performing teams of up to four people may apply (but note the accommodation information below).

RESIDENCY LENGTH

The residency lasts a minimum of two and a maximum of four weeks. Residencies typically start on Wednesday and end on Monday.

COST

The application fee is \$20 *per application period*, which represents about 3% of the total cost of your residency. We charge an additional processing fee of \$5 for non-digital applications. While there are no other costs to you, you will still need money for incidentals, materials and transportation to and from the residency (with two exceptions: we are able to transport you to and from either Cherry Capitol Airport in Traverse City or the bus station in Mancelona). Also consider indirect costs: time away from your job and paying bills at home while you are in residence.

COMMUNITY, GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

East Jordan is a small town near the 45th parallel in Northwest Lower Michigan, about an hour's drive from Traverse City. The Hill House is located on a back road near the Mackinaw State Forest, about a 15 minute drive from the Villages of East Jordan, Mancelona and Bellaire. The State Forest offers exceptional opportunities for canoeing, hiking, bird watching, morel hunting and fishing, while nearby towns offer art galleries, microbreweries, parks and dining. Expect a quiet, isolated space punctuated by loon calls and the occasional coyote howl. Hunters take to the woods in November.

Michigan weather can be a surprise for those accustomed to more temperate climates. Winter temperatures can drop well below 0° F (-18° C) and are accompanied by massive snowfall. Appropriate clothing is required: heavy winter coats, thermal underwear and stout snow boots are mandatory. Conversely, summer temperatures can climb above 90° F (32° C) accompanied by high humidity. Creek and lake dipping are the best strategies for beating the heat.

The area offers very little in terms of public transportation. A car is required to get to town. In the thick of winter, however, a car without 4WD may not be able to navigate the steep road to the house. In that case, we can assist in moving your things in and out of the space, but you may still need to walk a hundred yards or so to a separate parking area during the deepest snowfall (Dec to Feb, typically). This winter residency is for the hardy!

You have the opportunity to create your own level of engagement with the community. If you desire four weeks of total solitude, it's yours. If you'd prefer to have dinner or drinks with ISLAND staff and area artists, we can arrange that too. You can spend a weekend touring local galleries and watching (or playing) live music, or you can sit on the back porch and not speak to a soul. It's your choice, but keep in mind that community engagement will require more energy on your part; solitude comes naturally here.

LIVING ENVIRONMENT

The Hill House is a two story log cabin. It has two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a large unfinished basement, a spacious back porch, a washer and dryer, electric heat and a fireplace. The Hill House can potentially accommodate up to four people at one time (one queen-sized bed, two single beds and one pull-out couch). The house is not ADA compliant, and is not accessible by wheelchair.

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We love good food. We make every effort to fulfill your dietary desires while focusing on fresh, local, seasonal and organic food whenever possible. We are happy to include local pastured meat and poultry, and we are also vegetarian and vegan friendly. Access to fresh local food tends to be easier in the summer and fall and more challenging in the winter and early spring. We stock the kitchen, but for the most part you are on your own for meal preparation, so it helps if you have a little cooking skill. If all you want is a freezer filled with pizzas and bean burritos, we can do that too.

A phone is available for local calls. Not all cell phones receive service here. Wireless internet access is available, but the house does not come with a computer. *Smoking is not permitted on the property.* One dog or cat is allowed but must be leashed when outdoors. No exceptions to these rules, sorry!

WORKSPACE

No particular room is designated as a work space. You're free to take over the house in whatever way best works for your creativity. Residents should bring the instruments and other materials they need to work. There is not a recording studio at the Hill House, and the residency is not designed to support recording your album. There is, however, a selection of consumer level instruments and basic recording gear available for your use while in residence, including a digital 10-track, piano and keyboard.

PREPARING TO APPLY

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Do you write and perform your own music? Do you require income from outside of your music career to pay the bills? If so, you qualify. We are not currently supporting musicians who make a living from their music, nor composers who do not perform their own songs or performers who do not write.

If you have not applied for a residency before, consider your readiness for this experience. You should be prepared to focus on your art in an isolated space. Is this the kind of experience that will help you relax and work, or will a lone cabin in the woods drive you crazy? There are hundreds of residency programs out there—be sure this is the right one for you.

WORK SAMPLES

Your work samples (in this case, three to five tracks of your music) are by far the most important part of your application. **Only submit your best work.** Better to send just three great tracks than to pad the application with lower quality songs. Remember, you are one of hundreds of applicants and the selection panel will be listening to thousands of songs. Do everything in your power to be sure your work stands out.

It's hard to judge your own work, so get feedback from people whose artistic opinions you respect by asking them to listen to your submission. Many schools have career development offices that are available to students, faculty, staff, and alumni, to assist you in putting together a strong application.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Your artist statement should be coherent and brief, not a lengthy, esoteric manifesto of your soul. It is a way to communicate your creative practice and your artistic approach.

REFERENCES

Avoid providing references who have an impressive reputation but who don't really know you. We are interested in your seriousness as an artist, your dedication to a creative practice and your readiness for a residency program. Ask your references to speak to these points, rather than simply tell us what a wonderful musician you are!

APPLICATION PERIODS

There are three application periods for the 2012/13 residency season. You can apply for any or all application periods, and should first decide which dates you are available to attend. The more flexible your availability, the more likely we can accommodate you and the greater the chances your application will be accepted.

Round	Applications Due	Runs From
first	March 1, 2012	May to August 2012
second	July 2, 2012	September to December 2012
third	November 1, 2012	January to April 2013

SELECTION CRITERIA

Your application will be juried by a rotating panel selected by the Earthwork Music collective and ISLAND. Residency awards are merit driven, using the following criteria, in order of priority:

- **the creativity and integrity of the work**
- **the strength of the artist's statement and the perceived fit with the Hill House residency**
- **the availability of the artist in the dates still open for residents**

For an excellent overview of the residency application process, we recommend you visit the **Alliance of Artists Communities** website at www.artistcommunities.org/about-residencies.

We are happy to help you with this process! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Amanda Kik at (231) 480-4515 or amanda@artmeetsearth.org.

2012/13 EMERGING MUSICIAN RESIDENCY APPLICATION

HOW TO APPLY:

- (1) choose an application period
- (2) fill out the application form*
- (3) submit 3-5 tracks of original music
- (4) complete the artist statement - **be sure to be as complete and as concise as possible!**
- (5) submit your application with your application fee

CHOOSE AN APPLICATION PERIOD

I wish to apply for the FIRST SECOND THIRD residency period.

I am seeking a residency of TWO THREE FOUR weeks and I am available on these dates:

FILL OUT THE APPLICATION FORM

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Website(s) _____

Date of birth (mm/dd/yy): _____

Are you applying as a collaborative group? If so, your song submissions must include at least two examples of songs written as a team. Please do not include band members, friends, spouses or children **who are not co-writers**. List up to three collaborators here:

Include three references—name, relationship, phone and email.

name	relationship
phone	email

name	relationship
phone	email

name	relationship
phone	email

SUBMIT 3-5 TRACKS OF ORIGINAL MUSIC

You may submit digital tracks via email or YouSendIt.com to **amanda@artmeetsearth.org** or for \$5 you may mail a CD to: **ISLAND attn: Hill House Residency, 5870 Cottage Drive, Bellaire, MI 49615**. You may submit a web link to online music as long as you are linking to full length tracks and specify which tracks constitute your entry. Do not submit partial tracks (selections from mixes or medleys, for example). Application entries will not be returned.

COMPLETE THE ARTIST STATEMENT

On a separate page, briefly tell us about yourself—your bio, your music, and why a residency program would benefit you. Tell us how you would use a professional development stipend of \$200 or more. **If you have been to a residency before, tell us where and when.** No more than 600 words total. **Let us know how you are submitting your music**, including web links and track names if needed.

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AND FEE

Submit this entire application to **amanda@artmeetsearth.org** or through YouSendIt.com to the same address. For an additional fee of \$5 you may also mail this form with a CD to **ISLAND, attn: Hill House, 5870 Cottage Drive, Bellaire, MI 49615**. You may pay by check made out to "ISLAND" or via PayPal or credit card through our website.

I am paying WITH A CHECK # _____

I am paying ONLINE WITH PAYPAL OR CREDIT CARD

email connected to PayPal **or** last four digits of credit card:

*download and open this form in Adobe Acrobat Reader to submit your answers digitally: www.artmeetsearth.org/artistresidency.html