



INSTITUTE *for* SUSTAINABLE LIVING, ART & NATURAL DESIGN

2010/2011 EMERGING MUSICIAN RESIDENCY

INFORMATION & APPLICATION



2010 & 2011 MUSICIAN RESIDENCY INFORMATION

The 2010/2011 ISLAND Residency Program is supported by a generous grant from the Begonia Charitable Foundation

WHAT IS A RESIDENCY?

Artists' 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 goal of the **Hill House Emerging Musician Residency** is to support 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 weeks and a maximum of four weeks. Residencies typically start and end on a weekday.

COST

There is a \$20 application fee. This fee is **per application period**. Applying for both periods will cost \$40. This fee represents about 1% of the total value of your residency. While there is no additional cost to you, you will still need money for incidentals, materials and transportation to and from the residency. 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 North-west Lower Michigan, about an hour's drive from Traverse

City. The Hill House is located about 15 minutes from East Jordan on a back road near the Mackinaw State Forest. The State Forest offers opportunities for canoeing, hiking, birdwatching, 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. Also expect the sound of hunters' rifles 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 locals' best strategies for beating the heat.

The area offers very little in terms of public transportation. A car is required in the winter to get to town. Even with plowing, however, a car without 4WD may not be able to navigate the steep road to the house during the thick of winter. We can assist in moving your things in and out of the space, but you may need to walk a few hundred yards 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, washer and dryer and electric heat. The Hill House can potentially accommodate up to four people at a 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.

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. Many cell phones do not receive service here. 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

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. 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.

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.

It's important to be mentally prepared for a residency program. You will be away from friends and family for between two and four weeks. You should be prepared to focus on your work in an isolated space. Is this the kind of experience that will help you buckle down and focus, or will a lone cabin in the woods drive you crazy? There are hundreds of residency programs out there – be sure this is the 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 three great tracks and two lower quality songs.

Send the best quality recordings that you have. 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 two application periods for the 2010/11 residency season. You can apply for one or both 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	June 1	Jun 5 to Oct 30
second	Sep 15	Nov 1 to Apr 30

SELECTION CRITERIA

Your application will be juried by a rotating panel selected by the Earthwork Music Cooperative and ISLAND. Residency awards are merit driven, based primarily on the quality of your existing work, 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, visit the **Alliance of Artists Communities** website at <http://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

2010 & 2011 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 answer the questions in bold!**
- (5) submit your application with your application fee

(1) CHOOSE AN APPLICATION PERIOD

I wish to apply for the FIRST SECOND residency period.

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

(2) 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

(3) SUBMIT 3-5 TRACKS OF ORIGINAL MUSIC

If sending a CD, please specify which three to five tracks you would like to submit. You may submit digital tracks via email or YouSendIt.com to amanda@artmeetsearth.org or 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 (such as MySpace) as long as you are linking to full length tracks and specify which tracks constitute your entry. If sending application via postal mail, please include a SASE if you would like your materials returned.

(4) 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 \$250 to \$1000. **If you have been to an artist 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.

(5) SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AND FEE

Submit this entire application to amanda@artmeetsearth.org or through YouSendIt.com to the same address. You can also mail this form with a CD to **ISLAND, attn: Hill House, 5870 Cottage Drive, Bellaire, MI 49615**. Remember to include your check for \$20 (or \$40 if you are applying to both sessions) made out to "ISLAND" and memo "Hill House." Contact us by phone at (231) 480-4515 or by email at amanda@artmeetsearth.org with any questions. Good luck!