

International Artist Residency Program: Governors Island

BACKGROUND

In late 2008, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) was selected by the Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC), to operate an artist residency in 14,000 square feet of Building 110 on the Island. Built in 1873, Building 110 was most recently used as Coast Guard administrative offices. The two-story building is adjacent to the Island's ferry landing and main point of access, making it a prominent landmark, directly visible to visitors as they disembark the GIPEC-operated ferry at Soissons Dock. Dramatic views of the skylines of Lower Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Jersey City can be enjoyed from the site.



RESIDENCY SPACE AT BUILDING 110

LMCC has transformed Building 110 into a studio facility for visual and performing artists. The facility will house twenty open-plan individual studios for visual artists, each measuring approximately 225 square feet, and two rehearsal spaces for performing arts groups, each measuring approximately 1,400 square feet. The space will also feature 2,000 square feet of common space for communal gathering and public programs and exhibitions as well as additional square footage for administrative space, locked storage, changing areas and a slop sink. In addition to the individual studios, participating artists are also encouraged, though not required, to take advantage of the varied topography of the 92-acre historic portion of the Island.

Two annual five-month sessions are currently planned: 1) March - July, 2) August - December.

ABOUT GOVERNORS ISLAND

Governors Island is a 172-acre island and redevelopment project located only 800 yards from Lower Manhattan. It is comprised of a 92-acre national and locally designated Historic District and an 80-acre non-historic area. For almost two centuries, Governors Island was home to the US Army and later the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard closed the Island a decade ago, and in 2003 the land was transferred to GIPEC, an agency jointly administered by the City of New York and New York State. Twenty-two acres of the Island, including two 1812-era forts, were declared a National Monument, and are overseen by the National Park Service. Today, the Historic District of Governors Island is open to the public Friday-Sunday during a 20-week public access season. The 2009 public access season was May 30 - October 11. Access to the Island is currently free and provided by way of a 7-minute ferry ride.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WORKING ON GOVERNORS ISLAND

Island Access: Governors Island is ONLY accessible by GIPEC-operated ferry, which departs from the Battery Maritime Building at the southern tip of Manhattan, and takes seven minutes to reach Governors Island. During the off-season (mid-October to late May), the ferry operates hourly on weekdays, 6:45am - 5:00pm, with no ferry service on weekends. During the public access season (late May to mid-October), in addition to these weekday hours, the ferry will also operate for the public Friday 10:00am - 5:00pm and Saturday - Sunday 10:00am - 7:00pm. Overnight stays will not be permitted. The Island is closed on holidays. Participating artists must be able to work within these restricted hours. To make the most of the opportunity, we expect participating artists to work in their studios at least 15-20 hours per week.

Facilities: The services and facilities available on the Island are limited, so participating artists will need to plan accordingly. There are no restaurants or grocery stores on the Island. Art production equipment, such as a woodshop, power tools, or audio/visual equipment, will not be provided. Each studio will be outfitted with a worktable and chair; if approved by LMCC artists may bring their own additional equipment to the Island for use in the studios. As with most of LMCC spaces, some restrictions on materials and tools apply. Wireless internet and a shared pantry with refrigerator and sink will be provided by LMCC. Building 110 will be a secure space, with access limited to participating artists and LMCC and GIPEC staff.

Public Programs: All participating artists will be expected to take part in various public programs during the course of the residency. Each residency session will culminate in an Open House. Artists in residence during the public access season may also be expected to participate in additional public open studio events and exhibitions.

Visiting the Island: Prospective artists are encouraged to visit the Island during its public access hours, to better understand the Island environment and the process of getting there. Please visit www.govisland.com for more information about visiting the Island. Artists who participate in the residency may bring pre-registered guests to the Island.

Please note: all information in this addendum including program location, offerings, timelines, rules and regulations, and details are subject to change at any time.

If you have questions or would like more information please e-mail edonnelly@lmcc.net