

What artist residencies can do for artist parents

SIGNIFICANT EXPENSE AND CAPACITY

We make a concerted effort to accommodate artist parents.

Provide childcare on site.

Provide reimbursement for childcare on site or at artist's home.

Provide accommodation for artist's child(ren).

Provide accommodation for artist's co-parent, relative, or other caregiver.

Create a family residency period, when all residents bring families.

Make a family "art camp," combining residencies for parents with kids' art camp.

SOME EXPENSE AND CAPACITY

We make adjustments for artist parents.

Allow shorter stays for artist parents: a week, four days, a weekend.

Allow artist parents to choose start dates.

Create a come-and-go residency, allowing time spent both at the residency and at home as needed.

Survey artist parents who have attended your residency about their experiences.

Ask a parent alum to be a contact for questions from artist parents.

Put an artist parent on a program committee or advisory board.

Tell artist parents you are willing to work—within your capacity—to meet their needs.

MINIMAL EXPENSE AND CAPACITY

So simple, why wouldn't we?

Be explicit in your materials about what you can and cannot do to work with artist parents.

Make an artist parent FAQ, or add artist parent questions to your FAQ.

What artist parents can do for artist residencies

Communicate (in a non-bossy, non-entitled way) opportunities to support artist parents.

What specifically would make a residency work for you? Ask questions ahead of time, be upfront, and be comfortable with getting a No. Being an artist parent is difficult and emotional; residencies are not to blame for that and cannot fix it.

Be a partner in making things parent-friendly and kid-friendly.

Don't just ask for resources to support artist parents; help gather those resources. A residency needs help with scheduling for artist parents? Offer to lend a hand. A residency has no FAQ for artist parents? Draft one with them. Have an idea for an artist parent residency? Find partners and make it happen.

When you do a residency, share your experiences.

Share positive experiences with the residency staff, with other artist parents, and with the residency's board and funders. Let people know the impact of the residency and any parent-friendly aspects. Share constructive criticism in a positive, honest way with residency staff.

Build community with artist parents.

We are our own best resource, our most important constituency and community. There is wisdom, information, and resource in our networks. There are great national networks to join, and local conversations to build.