

# sustainable arts foundation 2021 residency grant proposal

Thank you for your interest in a Sustainable Arts Foundation Residency Grant.

The goal of this grant program is to make residency programs more welcoming and accessible to parent writers and artists.

**Please review these instructions and guidelines carefully before submitting your proposal.**

We're most impressed by organizations that are committing some of their own funds, resources, and energy to match requested funds. We're looking for organizations willing to stretch a little to make themselves welcoming to parent residents. Including prorated salaries or other general administration costs as part of your proposal is not recommended.

We are particularly interested in what residencies are doing to make their programs more diverse, from their staff to their review boards, and of course the residents themselves.

Due to the number of proposals we receive, this process is unfortunately not a dialogue. Please be sure to include all the information requested for us to evaluate your proposal. If you have questions about any portion of this process, please feel free to contact us before the deadline.

## COVID-19

We know how significantly residency programs have been affected by COVID-19 and we understand that there may be less certainty than normal in your proposals.

## Eligibility

Your organization must be a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) offering residencies to artists and/or writers. If your organization does not have tax-exempt status, but does have fiscal sponsorship, please contact us before applying.

The program(s) funded by this award must support artists and writers with at least one dependent child under the age of 18.

## Supporting Materials

We do not accept brochures or other marketing materials (nor their electronic equivalents). We do carefully evaluate each organization's website, particularly through the lens of a potential parent resident.

## Grant Funds

**Organizations may apply for up to \$6,000.** Efficient use of funds directly benefiting parent residents is of the utmost importance. We are very interested in organizations that bring some financial or operational commitment of their own to this proposal. We will not consider proposals requesting general operating funds.

## Ideas That Have Proven Successful

We understand that every residency program is unique, and we don't have a single set of expectations about how each one should address the needs of parents. We want to know how you're thinking about parents and how you plan to make your unique program more possible for them to experience. That said, there are a handful of ideas that have proven to be particularly attractive to and successful with parents.

- Shorter (one or two week) residency periods, which make it much more likely that a parent could attend
  - residents report that one-week residencies WITH kids, however, may be too short, since parents have less studio time with kids in attendance.
- Pairing new residents with a prior resident mentor who can answer questions before and during the residency
- Connecting new residents with their own cohort prior to the residency, so that they can share info about kid gear, rental cars, etc., that they could coordinate or share
- Creating a resource guide for residents with information on babysitting/childcare, parks, museums, activities, restaurants, pharmacy, doctor/hospital/ER, rental car, etc., as relevant
- A residency "season" in which all the residents are parents; this offers built-in empathy from the entire group as well as the possibility of shared childcare
- Summer residencies with nearby camp or other opportunities for children
- Childcare as an acceptable request for financial aid
- Proposals that demonstrate a well-considered approach to equity and outreach
- Flexibility!

## Ideas That Are Less Successful

- Proposals that look to recoup ongoing or general administrative costs
- Proposals that offer very few specifics about a new program for parents, but are simply funding a spot for an applicant who happens to be a parent
- Proposals that do not consider how to publicize the opportunity to parents
- Proposals that don't include any explicit promotion to reach a diverse group of parent artists (we do not consider a mailing list and social media sufficient)

## **Submission**

Please send a scanned copy of your proposal to [residencygrants@sustainableartsfoundation.org](mailto:residencygrants@sustainableartsfoundation.org)

## **Important Dates**

Proposals must be postmarked or e-mailed by September 30, 2020.

Funds will be disbursed in January 2021.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Our residency program can't accommodate children on site. May we still apply?**

A: Yes! Many of the programs we've funded don't allow the children to be in residence, but offer other solutions that still make it easier for a parent to attend.

**Q: Can our organization apply for funds to support artists already in residence? Or artists who have been selected/accepted but have not yet arrived?**

A: No. Our program is designed to create new opportunities for parent artists and writers and to encourage organizations to promote themselves and their program to parents.

We understand that our grant cycle may not align well with your organization's residency cycle and applaud organizations that take the initiative in welcoming parent residents without the guarantee of our funding.

**Q: Can our organization apply for general operating funds?**

A: No. This program is designed to encourage new opportunities specifically for parent artists and writers.

**Q: Can our organization include administrative costs in our proposal?**

A: Yes, but these should be at most a small portion of your proposed budget. We'd much prefer that organizations "match" our funds with their own commitment of funds and resources to support their proposed program.

**Q: Can our organization include travel costs for the resident in our proposal?**

A: Offering a travel stipend is often helpful to a parent resident and can be a way to extend an organization's reach; that said, we're less inclined to fund proposals with a significant travel budget. Also, organizations requesting travel funds should have a plan for what to do with any money that isn't used due to a local artist attending (we are happy to accept a return).

**Q: Our organization has previously received funding from SAF; are we eligible to apply again?**

A: Yes! Please be sure that you complete our follow-up report in advance of this application deadline. If you don't have a copy of the report, please contact us.

**Q: Our proposal is only available to alumni or previous residents; are we eligible to apply?**

A: Yes, but know that we are looking for ways to broaden the reach of residency programs and so limiting these opportunities to alumni and previous residents restricts that goal.

### Further Questions

If you have any questions as you prepare your proposal, please don't hesitate to contact us via e-mail: [residencygrants@sustainableartsfoundation.org](mailto:residencygrants@sustainableartsfoundation.org)

# General Contact Information

Organization	
Name of Residency Program <i>(if different from organization)</i>	
EIN <i>(If you are not a 501(c)(3) please contact us before applying.)</i>	
Primary Contact	
Title	
Email	
Website	
Mailing Address	

## Funding Proposal

Funds Requested (up to \$6,000)	
How many parent residents will these funds support? For how long?	
How many "resident-days" will these funds support? (*)	
From what other organizations have you sought funding specifically for parent artists and writers?	
From what other organizations have you received funding specifically for parent artists and writers? Please provide details (organization, date, amount).	

(\*) A resident-day is one artist in residence for a single day. Some examples:

- If your proposal supports 1 artist for a one-month stay, that would be 30 resident-days.
- If your proposal supports 2 artists for a one-week stay each, that would be 14 resident-days.

These numbers help us evaluate the financial efficiency of your program.

## Residency Applications

When do you anticipate offering the residency for which you are requesting these funds?	
When will you start accepting applications?	
What is the deadline?	
How many residency applications do you typically receive?	
What is your acceptance rate?	
Do you charge an application fee? If so, how much?	
If you have an existing program supporting parents, how many applications do you receive for that program? Acceptance rate?	
Are there fellowships and/or financial aid available?	
Percentage of residents receiving fellowships or financial aid?	

## Residency Facts

How long has your program been in existence?	
Number of full-time staff?	
Number of residents annually?	
Number of concurrent residents?	
Seasonal or year round?	
Length-of-stay for residents?	
Full cost each resident pays, if any? (per day)	
Organization's cost per resident? (per day)	
Disciplines Supported?	
Does your organization currently have a program or fellowship specifically for parent artists/writers? Briefly describe.	



## Essays

*Please attach double-spaced responses to the four topics below.*

### **1. Proposal**

Please describe your residency program and the ways in which your organization addresses, or plans to address, the needs of applicants with children.

If you have previously applied to this program, please highlight what is different about this year's proposal.

### **2. Budget**

Please include a budget with specifics about how this grant money will be used. In the interest of supporting the greatest number of programs possible, we often offer partial grants. Please specify:

- Exactly what SAF funds are intended to cover
- What your organization is contributing to make this initiative possible
- Hourly rate for childcare in your area (both 1 and 2 children) if you are including childcare in your budget
- How your organization could use a partial grant

### **3. Equity**

Equity in the arts is about who has access to available funds and opportunities. In our individual awards program, at least half of our awards go to applicants of color. We're interested in how other arts organizations are extending themselves.

Please describe how your organization is defining and addressing equity: who gets to come to your program and how are you broadening your reach? What are you doing to identify and address unintentional biases? Do your online marketing materials (web, social, emails) depict artists of a diverse range of ethnicities, genders, ages and physical abilities?

Please share details about the diversity of your selection panel, staff, and residents.

### **4. Promotion**

The goal of this grant program is to make residency programs more accessible and welcoming to parent writers and artists; how will you promote this opportunity so that parents will know of its existence? We consider that using your mailing list, social media, and networks like the Alliance of Artists Communities and Res Artis to be a given.

Your existing mailing list and social media are composed of people already familiar with your organization and your programs. How are you identifying and eliminating the bias in your current means of outreach? How are you reaching artists who aren't on social media? Or those who

may not know your alumni? How are you thinking about and finding people who aren't likely to find you? How will you reach and include potential residents who aren't already part of your existing networks?

We're especially interested in hearing how you are explicitly reaching out both to parent artists and writers, and also to underrepresented communities.

Please describe your promotional strategy, and list where and with whom you will share this opportunity. Be as specific as possible.