



Visiting Artist Program 2024-2025

About the Program:

KID Museum's [Visiting Artist Program](#) (VAP) stands as a dynamic platform at the intersection of art, making, and community engagement. It features local artists, makers, and creatives who bring diverse art forms and fresh perspectives through the making of artworks and experiences that are appropriate for our visitors, ages 4-14 and their families.

What Artists will do:

- Collaborate with our staff and visitors through a hands-on, participatory art-making process to make new artworks and experiences.
- Make original artwork or a series of works through an iterative approach.
- In addition to making artwork, artists can choose to engage with museum visitors through workshops, demonstrations, and open exploration.

Program Pillars:

These pillars serve as KID Museum's primary criteria for artist selection. Other considerations are outlined in the Eligibility section.

- **Diversity of Making and New Perspectives:** Showcase a diverse array of art forms, perspectives, and creative approaches, introducing new topics, tools, techniques, materials, and innovative ways of making to our visitors.
- **Interactive Approach:** Focusing on artwork that encourages active participation and interaction, especially with kids, youth, and family audiences, with an emphasis on durability for touch and interaction.
- **Collaborative Creation:** Create opportunities for collaboration between artists, staff, and visitors, fostering a co-creative art-making process where the outcome is the result of mutual participation, input, collaboration, and iteration. We value the process over the final artwork.
- **Impactful Learning Experiences:** What are the whys of making the artwork? The artwork not only entertains but also teaches a skill, engages with a larger concept, or provokes thought and discussion.

Logistics and Timeline:

- We have an ongoing application with flexible periods ranging from 4 to 12 weeks to accommodate the unique needs of each artist. While applying, artists can choose the time period that works best for them.
- Candidates will be interviewed to assess their needs, potential timelines, and outcomes.
- We select a maximum of four artists to participate in the program within a full calendar year.
- There are two work periods to choose from:

Period 1: September-December 2024

Open Call Closes: May 31, 2024

- Artists will be interviewed in June 2024.
- Successful interviewees will receive their invitation to participate in the program in July 2024.
- The program runs from September-December 2024. Artists' participation can run from 4-12 weeks based on availability and project scope.
- During this time, artists will work in the museum to develop and create new works that will be exhibited throughout early February 2025.

Period 2: February-May

Open Call Closes: September 1, 2024

- Artists will be interviewed between October and November 2024.
- Successful interviewees will receive their invitation to participate in the program in December 2024.
- The program runs from February-May 2025. Artists' participation can run from 4-12 weeks based on availability and project scope.
- During this time, artists will work in the museum to develop and create new works that will be exhibited throughout July 2025.

Benefits:

- \$5,000 honorarium
- Up to \$3,000 materials budget provided (all purchases to be made and approved by KID Museum)
- Shared workspace in a shared shop
- Access to fabrication facilities under an agreement, and many tools including Hand drill, Tablesaw, Drill press, Miter saw, Band saw, Planer, Belt Sander, Laser Cutter, Tracksaw, Bench grinder, Welder, 3D Printer, Jig saw, Circular saw, Palm routers, Orbital sanders, Angle grinders.
 - NOTE: Artists should possess prior experience with some of the equipment, and KID Museum will offer mandatory shop orientation and tool training.

Eligibility:

- We support artists, designers, doers, crafters, makers, and creatives across various disciplines and media, including painting, sculpture, fiber arts, digital media, woodwork, printmaking, electronics, mixed media, and more. Constraints may apply to artwork that includes sound, culinary art, ceramics, or any other media that is loud, delicate, or fragile.
- The program aims to support emerging local artists in their development, as well as offer opportunities for more established makers to engage with family audiences.
- Creatives with experience or interest in creating interactive, immersive, sculptural projects with kids and youth are encouraged to apply.
- Artists from local and regional locations are eligible to apply.
- We strive for different representations of voices, life experiences, views, backgrounds, interests, and mediums, prioritizing artists from historically marginalized groups, including Black, Indigenous, Latino, People of Color, female and non-binary, and LGBTQI+ communities.
- Applicants must be 18 years or older.

Artists are expected to be near Bethesda, Maryland, with accessible transportation to the museum for the duration of the program.

Expectations and Obligations:

- Artists are required to comply with all policies outlined in a formal agreement provided by KID Museum; both parties are required to sign this agreement as a prerequisite for program participation.
- At the start of the program, artists will participate in up to two orientation days at KID Museum, providing an opportunity to meet the staff and familiarize themselves with the space, facilities, programs, and visitors.
- Artists will spend time on the museum floor during Open Explore (Sundays) and other programs (during the week). This is crucial to understanding how our visitors use and experience the museum, which will inform the artwork design choices.
- Prototype and progress in their concept design based on audience/staff interaction, feedback, and timing.
- Be communicative throughout the whole program period with the program manager and other KID Museum staff. It's better to overshare than not to communicate at all!
- Participate in an evaluation survey and exit interview to evaluate the program.
- Remain available and accessible (either in-person or remotely) for troubleshooting and repairs (if needed) during exhibition time.

Application Process:

- Fill out this form to apply for [Period 1: September-December 2024](#)
- Fill out this form to apply for [Period 2: February-May 2025](#)

All Visiting Artists' applications should include:

- *Application Materials*
 - Artist's contact details:
 - Name
 - Email
 - Phone Number
 - Address of residence
 - Social media handles
 - Availability to start based on the period of application
 - Project proposals should be concise, clear, no more than 2 pages, and submitted in PDF form. Proposals may include more than one idea. They **must** include:
 - Materials to be used
 - Approximate dimensions
 - How the work will be interactive
 - Topic/concept explored by the artwork, or skills highlighted
 - Sketches
 - CV or resume highlighting relevant experience.
 - If you intend to build in our space, please highlight your experience working in a shared shop or studio and what tools you have used.
- *Artwork Portfolio (Please choose ONE of the following options):*
 - A maximum of 10 images (submitted as a single PDF)
 - A hyperlink/URL of video, sound, and/or animation via a link in a document (A maximum of 5 minutes will be reviewed.)
 - Combination of 5 images and up to 2:00 minutes of video, sound, and/or animation
 - Link to the portfolio (if applicable)
 - Website

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

How can I apply to the Visiting Artist Program at KID Museum?

- To submit your application, kindly complete the designated form corresponding to the desired period: [Period 1: September-December 2024](#), or [Period 2: February-May 2025](#)

Can I submit multiple project proposals, and how should I prioritize them if so?

- Yes, you can submit multiple project ideas within the same application! Prioritize them based on your preferences, but ensure each idea aligns with the program pillars and criteria.

Can I propose a project that has previously been exhibited or created elsewhere?

- Yes, you can propose a project that has been exhibited or created elsewhere. However, we encourage you to think of new ideas and possibilities that can be feasible and suitable within our unique museum and community of makers. If you are submitting a previous work, please provide details about its prior presentation in your application.

How many artists are selected each year, and what is the selection process like?

- We select up to four artists annually. The selection process involves a review committee assessing applications based on the Program Pillars and additional criteria outlined in our Eligibility section. Candidates are invited to be a part of the interviewing phase to determine specific needs and suitability for the program.

What is the duration of the Visiting Artist Program?

- The program duration is flexible, ranging from 4 to 12 weeks. The timing is adaptable to artists' needs as long as the program goals are fulfilled. Indicate your preferred time frame in your application and further discussions on availability will take place during an interview if you are selected to proceed in the interviewing phase.

What kind of support and resources does KID Museum offer to artists throughout the program?

- In addition to the honorarium and materials budget provided, artists benefit from the assistance of our dedicated staff, who will provide consultations on programming, design, spaces, techniques, tools, and materials. Artists also have access to a shared working space, museum facilities, tools, and opportunities for community engagement.

Are there specific expectations for artists to engage with the audience, such as workshops or demonstrations?

- While not mandatory, we love when artists actively participate in audience engagement by conducting workshops, demonstrations, and/or open exploration, enriching the interactive and educational elements of the program. We strongly encourage you to craft experiences that involve engagement with visitors and the community—teach, create, experiment, and explore!

Is there an opportunity for artists to collaborate with each other during the program?

- While the primary focus is individual projects, collaborative possibilities may emerge among visiting artists if both are selected for the same period and are engaged in similar or related projects, fostering a supportive and creative community.

Are there specific tools and equipment available for artists to use during the program, or should I bring my own?

- KID Museum provides access to a range of tools and equipment, including Hand drill, Tablesaw, Drill press, Miter saw, Band saw, Planer, Belt Sander, Laser Cutter, Tracksaw, Bench grinder, Welder, 3D Printer, Jig saw, Circular saw, Palm routers, Orbital sanders, Angle grinders. However, artists are encouraged to bring their own tools if they have specific preferences. In order to utilize certain machines and tools, artists are required to have prior experience with the equipment, and KID Museum will provide mandatory shop orientation and tool training.

Can artists with limited experience in using certain tools or materials still apply?

- Yes, artists with varying levels of experience are welcome to apply! The selection committee considers diverse skills and experiences, and there are opportunities for skill development during the program.

How is the allocation of shared resources, such as tools and workspace, managed among participating artists?

- Shared resources are allocated based on project needs and mutual agreement among participating artists and KID staff. Make sure to include which tools you might need/be interested in using as part of your application, and mention them throughout the interviewing phase. Clear communication and collaboration are key to resource allocation.

Do you still have unanswered questions or additional concerns, or would like to learn more? Feel free to email odalys@kid-museum.org