

Residency Guide

If you have any questions regarding the information below, please email residency@crosstownarts.org

Due to the unpredictability of COVID-19 health-related concerns, the information in this guide may change.

Crosstown Arts offers residencies to visiting and Memphis-based artists working in any creative discipline, including visual and performing artists, curators, musicians, filmmakers, and writers in all genres. Residencies provide individuals and/or artist collectives with time and space to focus on their work. Crosstown Arts seeks to create opportunities for inspired creative exchange among participating residents, as well as between residents and the broader creative community of Memphis.

There are no specific project requirements for residents, who are encouraged to experiment and explore new ideas or to further develop work already in process.

Crosstown Arts is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex, color, religion, creed, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and disability. Crosstown Arts and Crosstown Concourse are equipped with accessible accommodations for residents with specific accessibility needs.

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RESIDENCY GENERAL INFORMATION

Residency Types

Crosstown Arts offers both *live/work* and *studio-only* residencies to visiting and Memphis-based applicants. For the duration of the residency Crosstown Arts offers the following:

Live/work residencies include:

- A private, furnished live space which may be one of the following:
 - a microunit with a full bed and bathroom with access to a common living room, kitchen and laundry facilities
 - a two bedroom family apartment with kitchen/living area and laundry facilities
 - a free standing Studio House for Musicians with a one bedroom, bathroom and laundry facilities or access to laundry facilities
- Private studio workspace
- Food gift cards equivalent to lunch and dinner 5 days per week
- Shared Art Making workspace membership for the duration of the residency

Studio-only residencies include:

- Private studio workspace
- Food gift cards equivalent to lunch and dinner 5 days per week
- Shared Art Making workspace membership for the duration of the residency
- *Studio-only residencies do not include a live space*

Crosstown Arts does not offer stipends at this time.

General Session Schedule

Spring

- February 1 - April 30

Summer

- June 3 - 24
- July 8 - 29

The Summer consists of 2 sessions, which can be attended individually or consecutively. Both sessions together include the time between sessions, and totals 57 days.

Fall

- September 15 - December 15

Extended studio-only

- One ten-month, visual arts studio-only residency is offered per year from Feb 1 - Dec 15. This session is prioritized for local applicants.

Capacity and Access

Crosstown Arts can accommodate up to 11 residencies at a time with individual studios. Residents have 24/7 access to studios.

Residency Obligations

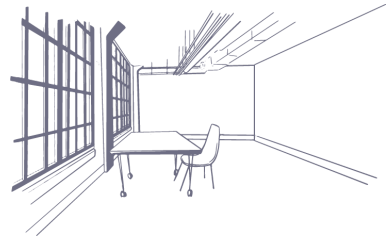
- Attend weekly evening meetings
- Give an informal public artist talk or presentation
- Participate in open studio night (required for fall, spring and 10-month sessions)

Residents are welcome to inquire about opportunities for public engagement work during their stay.

Residency-Specific Facilities

Studios

- Crosstown Arts maintains 11 individual studio workspaces. 9 studios are located inside the Concourse building, have high ceilings, and range in size from 345 to 740 square feet. Two Studio Houses for Musicians are off-site, adjacent to the Concourse building on Malvern St. Studio Houses for Musicians include live spaces and an interior, sound damped, lockable studio room.
- Studios have a variety of space configurations and amenities (e.g.: natural light, sinks, floor drains, sound damping, etc).



Live spaces

- 12 furnished private, single-occupancy bedroom/bathroom “micro-units” with full-size beds, adjacent to a communal kitchen, lounge, and laundry room.
- A fully furnished, two-bedroom apartment with queen-sized beds and private laundry is prioritized for residents bringing dependent children and other family situations.
- Fully furnished Studio Houses for Musicians include one bedroom with a queen-size bed, a full bath, full kitchen, various living areas and a sound dampened studio space. One house has laundry facilities, the other has access to laundry in the Concourse building. The houses are located near the Concourse building on Malvern St.
- Basic furniture, linens, and kitchen equipment provided.

Accommodating Residents

Crosstown Arts can accommodate residents with specific medical and/or physical needs. Two micro-units and the two bedroom family apartment are wheelchair accessible, have accessible bathrooms and doorbells with a flashing light feature. The Concourse building completed redevelopment in 2017 and common areas are highly accessible. Please email residency@crosstownarts.org any specific questions.

Service dogs are permitted to stay with a resident with prior arrangement. The [ADA](#) defines a service dog as one that is “individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability.”

Residents with Children

Crosstown Arts welcomes applicants who require accommodations for dependent children while in residence.

Childcare is not provided by Crosstown Arts; however, participating residents staying in the two-bedroom apartment are welcome to bring a partner, spouse or another individual to provide childcare support during the residency session. In addition, the apartment includes a family membership to the Church Health YMCA in the Concourse building which offers access to a limited amount of free childcare services at The Well. Please confirm hours and parameters of The Well with the YMCA prior to arrival at the residency.

Meals/food gift cards for additional adults and/or children accompanying the individual resident are not included.

Family residencies include:

- A separate 1,400 square foot two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment with private kitchen, living room, and laundry facilities. The apartment is fully furnished and is located on a quiet residential hallway inside the Concourse building.
- Private studio workspace for resident
- Food gift cards equivalent to lunch and dinner 5 days per week for the resident
- Shared Art Making workspace membership for the resident for the duration of the residency

Meals

All residents receive food gift cards equivalent to lunch and dinner five days per week.

The residency common area on the 8th-floor has pantry shelves, two full-size refrigerators with freezers for residents to keep their own groceries and supplies and to cook meals. In addition, each micro-unit has a mini-fridge.

The family apartment and Studio Houses for Musicians include a fully equipped kitchen for residents to store food and cook meals.

Costs

Crosstown Arts offers residencies at **no cost** to participating residents; however, residents are required to cover the following expenses:

Application fee

- An application fee of \$10 is collected upon completion of the SlideRoom online application. If needed, applicants may email residency@crosstownarts.org to request an economic hardship waiver.

Security deposit

- A refundable security deposit of \$200 and a signed contract are required in order for accepted applicants to secure their residency prior to the session start date. The deposit will be refunded within 60 days of the completion of the residency, pending an in-person exit interview and satisfactory studio/room inspection.

Travel and transportation expenses

- Residents must provide their own transportation to and from Memphis and to and from the Concourse building upon their arrival and departure. Additionally, residents are also responsible for their own transportation during their stay.
- The residency maintains a Prius car and an Avalanche pickup truck for limited resident use within Memphis. Residents must supply a valid drivers license, pre-qualify and pay a \$15 insurance approval fee.

Materials and supplies

- Residents must provide all materials and supplies needed for their creative practice. Basic tool kits are available to sign out for the duration of the residency period.

Other expenses

- Applicants should be prepared to cover other expenses during their residencies such as personal items, some food, transportation, and miscellaneous entertainment, as well as shipping of supplies and artwork to and from the residency.

Finding Outside Funding:

- The Alliance for Artists Communities posts funding tips [here](#). Many of these programs are nation-wide and therefore fairly competitive.
- Some local and regional arts councils in your area may have professional development and project grants which can be used towards funding residencies.
- Kickstarter has a branch solely focused on helping artists succeed with their fundraising campaigns.

APPLYING

The application period each year is May 15 - July 15 for all residencies for the following calendar year. All notifications are sent by September 1.

Applications are only accepted online via Slideroom. Hard copy applications are not accepted. Local applicants with limited access to the internet may use the digital lab at Crosstown Arts to fill out an online application. Please call 901-507-8013 to make an appointment.

Application Checklist

Ten work samples that best represent the applicant's body of work and recent area of focus

- Can include any combination of the following:
 - Images (up to 5MB each)
 - Video (up to 250MB each)
 - Audio (up to 30MB each)
 - PDFs (up to 10MB each)
 - External media from YouTube, Vimeo, and SoundCloud
- A maximum of 30 minutes will be allotted for reviewing each applicant's work samples; please consider this when submitting materials (for example, 6000 words = approx. 30 minutes of reading).
- Applicants may not submit more than 10 work samples in any form including on a PDF.
- Excerpts/multiple images from works of significant length or size are welcome (i.e., novel, film, installation, etc.), but will be included in the image count. There is an area to provide a brief synopsis of the entire piece when submitting. If your work would be better represented in fewer/lengthier samples please email residency@crosstownarts.org prior to submitting an application.
- Samples from collaborative work should include a brief description of the applicant's direct involvement (e.g., in the case of recorded music, please describe the applicant's role of songwriter, musician and/or producer, etc.)

Artist Statement

- A written statement that describes the applicant's and/or collective's creative vision and/or interests. (500-word limit).

Residency Goals

- A written statement that describes how the time and space afforded by the residency would further the applicant's and/or collective's work at this stage in their creative practice. (250-word limit).

Resume/CV

- A current copy of the applicant's CV, listing any relevant professional activity.

References

- Contact information for three personal and/or professional references who can speak with confidence about the applicant's character, professionalism and ability to interact in a group setting.

Requesting Session Dates

Applicants are asked to designate their preferred session(s) and length of stay during the application process, considering the following:

- All residents are required to arrive and leave on the designated session start/end dates and to attend the full session.
- *Live/work* sessions have a maximum stay of three months.
- *One extended visual arts studio-only* session is offered per year.

Session dates:

- Spring session is February 1 – April 30
(must be attended in full)
- Summer sessions are June 3 - 24; July 8 - 29
(can be attended individually or consecutively including interim dates)
- Fall session is September 15 – December 15
(must be attended in full)
- Extended visual arts studio-only February 1 – December 15
(must be attended in full)

Crosstown Arts strives to offer each accepted resident their preferred session and studio amenities; however, the applicant's first choice may not be available.

Applying as a Collective or Group

- Applications from collectives or groups requesting residencies during the same session (whether for a collaborative project or individual work) are welcomed.
- Each individual person submitting as part of a collective is required to complete their own application, provide their own application checklist items and describe why they are choosing to apply as part of a collective in the written section of the application.
- Individuals applying as a collective may request a single-occupancy apartment and a private studio space or a shared living space and/or studio space. These requests must be made at the time of application.

Specialized Residencies

Crosstown Arts offers select specialized residencies which include additional equipment that is relevant to residents' practices.

- Specialized residencies do not currently include paid stipends for residents.
- Applicants are encouraged to read about specialized residencies in detail on the application.

Reapplying

- Former and current participants of both *live/work* and *studio-only* residencies at Crosstown Arts are welcome to reapply for future sessions but will be given a lower priority if reapplying within **two years** of their previous residency.
- Applicants who attend a 3 week summer residency may apply for a longer residency session at any time.
- Applicants whose initial applications were declined are welcome to reapply.
- All applicants - both former residents and applicants whose initial applications were declined - seeking to reapply must submit the complete set of required materials with each application. Applicants who are reapplying may include previously submitted work samples.

Selection Process

Applications are scored by an annually-rotating selection panel of creative professionals from Memphis and around the world. Panel members have varying backgrounds and areas of expertise in the visual/performing arts, music, film/video, theater and writing fields and score applicants in their own areas of expertise. Residencies are offered based on the panel's scores and recommendations with an emphasis on inclusivity and supporting a diverse range of creative practices, ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, and personal histories. Final placement of recommended applicants is done by residency staff with consideration of the above residency diversity goals, based on applicant's requested session/s, according to available studio spaces.

While some applicants work in multiple disciplines, and others work in a highly concentrated area of focus, no disciplines are given priority over others in the scoring process. Crosstown Arts does support certain disciplines more extensively in terms of facilities, equipment, and spaces available to residents once they arrive; however, the selection panel does not take this into consideration.

Application materials are not made public and are only viewed by panelists and select Crosstown Arts' staff. Demographic data is requested via a survey on the application to help Crosstown Arts promote demographic diversity and inclusivity in the residency program. Individual data is not available to panelists.

Residency Offers

Committing to a Residency Offer

- Once the application and selection process is complete, selected applicants are offered placement in a specific session.
- Residents are asked to commit to being present in Memphis for the majority of their stay and to provide a schedule of any planned absences to the Residency Manager.
- Accepted residents are asked to update Crosstown Arts' staff as soon as possible if they are unable to attend an offered residency so that another applicant can be offered that placement with as much notice as possible.
- Accepted applicants will be asked to sign a contract and to provide a \$200 security deposit prior to their session start date in order to secure their residency.
- Residency offers are not deferrable.

Late Notice

- All applicants who are not offered a residency by the notification date are eligible for residencies that become available throughout the year via the late notice process.
- Applicants offered a late notice residency will have 14 days to accept or decline an offer.
- Not accepting a specific late notice offer does not preclude an applicant from being offered subsequent late notice residency opportunities.
- Late notice residency offers are sporadic and vary depending on changing circumstances. Applicants are encouraged NOT to make any personal plans based on the potential of being offered a late notice residency.

LOCATION

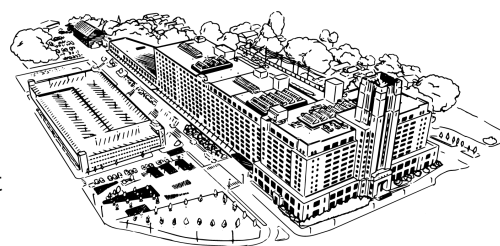
Crosstown Arts

The multidisciplinary residency program is one component of Crosstown Arts, a non-profit contemporary arts center in Memphis, Tennessee. In addition to the residency program, the organization operates several exhibition and performance spaces, a dedicated listening room for music performance, a Shared Art Making workspace, a bar, and a 410-seat black box theater. Crosstown Arts manages an expansive schedule of ongoing art/music-related events and programming.

For more information about the greater organization, go to crosstownarts.org or click [here](#) to see a three-minute year-in-review video.

Crosstown Concourse

The residency program and the majority of Crosstown Arts' events and programs are located inside Crosstown Concourse, a one-million-square-foot adaptive reuse project. The building was formerly a Sears & Roebuck regional distribution warehouse and retail store. The Art Deco building, originally built in 1927, was abandoned and vacant for over 20 years.



Crosstown Arts, founded in 2010, envisioned and managed the renovation project from its inception to the building's re-opening in 2017. The building is home to a mix of commercial, retail and residential tenants with an emphasis on the arts, education, and wellness; approximately 3,000 people come and go from the building daily.

For more information about Crosstown Concourse, go to crosstownconcourse.com or click [here](#) to see a seven-minute video about the project.

Neighborhood

Crosstown Arts and the Concourse building are centrally located in Memphis' Crosstown neighborhood, one of the most racially and economically diverse areas of the city. Crosstown is on the west border of Midtown, a vibrant and progressive area that is home to a large part of Memphis' art and music scene.

Memphis

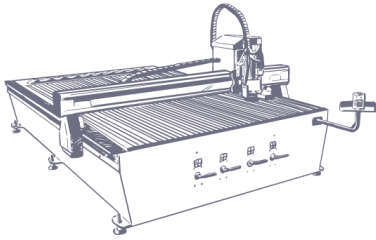
Memphis, Tennessee, is a city of approximately 650,000 people, with over 1.3 million people living in the greater metropolitan area. Located in the heart of the American South, Memphis is in the southwest corner of the state, bordered to the west by the Mississippi River. With strong roots as a scrappy, gritty river town, Memphis is known as a raw, authentic and remarkably southern city, with an extraordinary Civil Rights history and a legendary role in the influence of soul, blues, and rock and roll music.

For geographic context, New Orleans is a six-hour drive due south, and Chicago is an eight-hour drive due north. Getting to Memphis is easy via car, train, bus or plane (Memphis International Airport - MEM).

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Crosstown Arts Public Facilities

Shared Art Making workspace (9,300 square feet)



- A community workspace with a range of analog and digital fabrication and production resources, including a woodshop, multiple CNC/laser cutters, a Mac-based computer lab, a large-format digital printing service, and a silkscreen print shop. All equipment is available to residents and paying members on a first-come, first-served basis and/or by reservation. See the list of equipment [here](#).
- In addition, residents have access to various space, including a sound mixing studio, that are run by the Music Services Department.

Residents have access to these facilities during open hours for the duration of their residency at no cost and work alongside paying members from Memphis' creative community.

Galleries (6,000 square feet)

- Multiple exhibition spaces programmed by Crosstown Arts in collaboration with guest curators, artists and partner organizations, including dedicated screening and installation rooms.
- The work of emerging and established Memphis-based and national/international artists working in all media is shown in rotating exhibitions throughout the year. All galleries and exhibitions are free and open to the public.
- Gallery shows are often scheduled a year or more in advance. Anyone interested in submitting an exhibition proposal, can do so [here](#).

The Green Room (2,500 square feet)

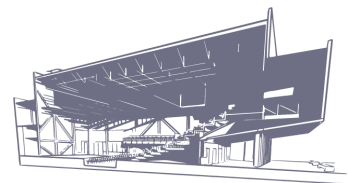
- An acoustically treated space dedicated to listening to live and recorded music.
- Free and ticketed shows of Memphis-based and touring musicians perform in this venue regularly.
- Fill out a form [here](#) if you are interested in performing music at Crosstown Arts.

Art Bar

- Local beer, wine, and alcoholic and non alcoholic craft cocktails served in a quiet setting.

Theater

- A 419-seat black box performing arts theater.
- Programmed primarily for live music as well as regular independent and classic film screenings via 4K/DCP projection.



For questions related to exhibitions, email exhibitions@crosstownarts.org, or for music performances, email musicdept@crosstownarts.org. For an updated, full listing of ongoing events and programming at Crosstown Arts, sign up for the email newsletter [here](#) or go to crosstownarts.org.

More Questions? Interested in visiting Crosstown Arts before you apply?

- Email residency@crosstownarts.org with any questions you have about the residency program and application process or to make arrangements for a tour.
- Visits to Crosstown Arts and the Crosstown Concourse building (before, during or after the application period) are welcomed and highly encouraged.

updated 11/2021