



projectart

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Teaching Artist Residency

2026 – 2027

*Thank you for your interest in our program.
Please review all sections of this document carefully before applying.*

KEY DATES

Available for Viewing (only):

April 20, 2026

Information Session:

April 30, 2026 at 7:00 PM (ET)

[Register Here](#)

Applications Open:

May 12, 2026 10 AM (ET)

Deadline:

June 9, 2026 11:59 PM (ET)

ProjectArt Citiesv

NYC Queens + Brooklyn | Miami-Dade County | Detroit | Pittsburgh | Cincinnati | Newark



ABOUT PROJECTART

ProjectArt is a national award-winning arts education nonprofit that provides free, after-school art classes for underserved youth while supporting practicing artists through residencies. We partner with public libraries to activate spaces where artists teach, create, and engage communities. Our work addresses the growing opportunity gap in arts education, impacting over two million students who lack access to visual arts programs in their schools.

THE RESIDENCY

The *ProjectArt Teaching Artist Residency* is designed for emerging, local visual artists who want to engage with youth, libraries, and communities while continuing to develop their own artistic practice. Artists at all stages of their careers are welcome to apply, though strong applicants will demonstrate an ongoing commitment to their work and a consistent personal practice.

Residents have a strong interest in building career skills and connecting with a growing local and national network of artists. They are eager to learn through professional development opportunities and to explore how public libraries can serve as a resource to inform and support their art-making. Above all, they possess a genuine, enthusiastic appreciation for teaching and mentorship.

This residency runs from August through May, with training in August and in-person teaching from September through May, culminating in a joint student and artist exhibition in early summer at a professional venue. It allows artists to refine their teaching practice, develop new work, and play a vital role in ProjectArt's mission to increase visual arts access to youth who need it most.

COMMITMENTS

A ProjectArt Residency brings together teaching, art-making, and being part of a national creative community. Residents teach paid weekly after school classes at a public library, develop projects, stay in regular communication with staff, and complete key administrative tasks, while supporting students in preparing for end of year showcases. Alongside teaching, residents continue their own studio practice, share work and receive feedback from artists across the country, participate in professional development, and develop new work for a final group exhibition. See the specific expectations in the chart below:

TEACHING

WEEKLY CLASSES

Facilitate 2-3 classes per week for youth ages 4-7, 8-12, and 13-18 years at an assigned public library branch over a 35-week period.

SCHEDULE

Classes are generally after-school between Tuesdays and Thursdays, although they may vary.

AFTERSCHOOLHQ

Diligently use [AfterSchoolHQ \(AHQ\)](#), ProjectArt's student database platform, to monitor rosters and maintain accurate attendance records.

CURRICULUM	Develop weekly class lessons aligned with ProjectArt's Curriculum Framework, which is organized into a series of 3-6-week long themed class projects and follows a designated timeline.
ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS	Ensure timely completion of all administrative tasks, including lesson planning, weekly attendance tracking, and periodic submissions of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class photos• Student stories• Student Surveys
STUDENT EXHIBITIONS	Assist in preparing students for participation in the end-of-year library showcase and professional joint exhibition, incorporating class projects into final selections.
INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONALISM	<p>Serve as a dedicated representative of ProjectArt when engaging with students, families, library staff, donors, and the broader ProjectArt team.</p> <p>Maintain a solution-oriented, collaborative, and respectful approach in all interactions, including with supervisors.</p> <p>Communicate proactively with the City Program Manager regarding all aspects of the residency, including classes and administrative responsibilities.</p>

ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

ART PRACTICE

Commit a minimum of 15 hours per month from your already established studio practice, to specifically incorporating library spaces, resources, archives, and digital tools to inform and enrich your work, and share the results in our community Discord space for shared feedback.

DISCORD

ProjectArt's Discord group is the required communication platform for the program. It brings our national community together, creating a shared space where staff and resident artists across the country can connect, exchange ideas, get teaching support, and collaborate both locally and nationally. It is also where you will stay up to date on deadlines, opportunities, and share monthly studio posts, while being part of an active and supportive network.

INTERNAL ARTIST FORUMS

Attend four Internal Artist Forums (IAFs), one per city, where you'll present your work in a PechaKucha-style format to the national cohort, staff, and guests. These are supportive, engaging spaces to share ideas, receive feedback, build connections across cities, and leave feeling inspired, supported, and celebrated. Each session is 1.5 hours, held four times per year.

EXHIBITION

Residents are expected to begin at the start of the program with exploratory ideas that can grow and evolve over time into a new body of work for the final exhibition. With support from ProjectArt staff and feedback from the national cohort through Studio Time, IAF sessions, and three citywide check-ins in the spring, artists will develop their work throughout the year. Each city will host a group exhibition at the end of the year where this work is shared.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Attend three professional practice webinars hosted by the [New York Foundation for the Arts \(NYFA\)](#), joining remotely as an opportunity to learn, grow, and support your practice.

NETWORKING

Take part in local in-person and national virtual meetups (via Zoom and Discord Live) to build relationships with fellow resident artists, ProjectArt staff, alumni, and arts professionals.

Applicants who show genuine interest and a clear commitment to engaging with these residency offerings will be prioritized

PARTNERED LIBRARIES AND LOCATIONS

Applicants may apply for the residency at one of the listed city library systems and select a preferred branch from choices indicated below. Final placements will be based on availability, fit, and overall alignment with program needs: one artist per branch. Depending on the applicant pool, you may be assigned to an alternative branch upon selection.

CITY	LIBRARY SYSTEM	BRANCHES
NYC: QUEENS	Queens Public Library	Broadway/Astoria, Glen Oaks, Long Island City
NYC: BROOKLYN	Brooklyn Public Library	Bushwick, Washington Irving
MIAMI	Miami-Dade Public Library System	North Central, Culmer/Overtown, Shenandoah, Kendall, Naranja
FORT LAUDERDALE	Broward County Library (BCL) system	*More information soon
DETROIT	Detroit Public Library	Main, Sherwood Forest, Elmwood Park, Lincoln, Duffield

PITTSBURGH	Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh	Allegheny, Homewood
CINCINNATI	Cincinnati Public Library	West End, Avondale, Bond Hill
NEWARK	Newark Public Library	Main

BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION

- **Teaching Rate:** 75\$ flat rate per class, including any prep work, bi-weekly payment processing.
- **Exhibition:** End-of-year joint artist and student exhibition hosted at a professional venue, including a \$500 materials honorarium and ongoing logistical, artistic support to create new work
- **Resources:** Classroom art supplies, comprehensive curriculum planning guides, open-ended support from program administrators, and priority access to exclusive library resources, equipment, archives.
- **Professional Development:** The program includes three paid pre-program training sessions, along with additional opportunities such as Internal Artist Forums (IAFs), NYFA webinars, classroom time, and exhibition prep and execution, with ongoing support from ProjectArt staff.
- **Networking:** Connection to the national art community of fellow residents, and local cohort meet ups.

PROPOSAL AND INTERVIEW PROCESS

TIMELINE AND DETAILS

TIMELINE:

April 17th

RFP Available for Viewing

April 30th

Information Session

May 12th

Applications Open

June 9th

Applications Close

June 15th

Interview Scheduling

ABOUT THE INFORMATION SESSION:

We highly encourage applicants to join our upcoming [Information Session](#) on April 30th at 7:00 PM.

[Click here to attend!](#)

During this session, you'll get:

- ❖ A look at our residency promotional video, featuring alumni interviews and behind-the-scenes classroom moments
- ❖ An quick overview of the Request for Proposals (RFP)
- ❖ Q&A to get your questions answered

PROPOSAL GUIDANCE

Each year, ProjectArt selects new local artists of all backgrounds through a structured application and three-stage interview process designed to assess artistic practice, teaching abilities, technological capacity, and professionalism.

Strong applications will demonstrate thoughtful responses, a clear vision for the residency year, and careful attention to the guidelines below. Failure to comply with application guidelines may result in disqualification

Ultimately, we seek Resident Artists who are both dedicated practitioners and socially engaged community members, with a genuine passion for working with youth.

Proposal Checklist

PERSONAL DETAILS

The application will first ask for basic information: your name, email, phone number, city, artist website (if applicable), links to your work online, and any relevant social media handles.

RESUME

- Resume or CV
- 3 pages max

Single PDF

ARTIST STATEMENT

Submit an artist statement that covers the following criteria:

- What drives your art practice
- Your primary mediums and concepts

ARTIST STATEMENT

- Role of teaching and community in your artwork (if any)

- Minimum 200 words - max 500 words

Single PDF

PORTFOLIO

- 5 high-quality images of artwork made within the last five years

a. 1 image (minimum) from the past year

b. Image captions must include the title, medium, and year of each artwork

c. Optional: Artwork or series descriptions

Single PDF

ESSAY RESPONSES

Essay responses: 150–350 words each

Please respond to each of the following questions in a single PDF document. Number your responses to match the questions below and include each question above your corresponding answer:

1. **Why is arts education important,** and what do you want students to take away from your classes?
2. **Why is arts education important,** and what do you want students to take away from your classes?
3. **What is your library branch of choice?** Tell us why you are interested in working within that neighborhood.

ESSAY RESPONSES

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Tell us why you are interested in working within that neighborhood.
7. ProjectArt serves students across a wide range of ages, learning styles, and abilities, and many of our library sites have unique classroom situations that require flexibility. **How do you approach working with diverse students and adapting your teaching to different spaces and environments?**
8. ProjectArt residents participate in a final exhibition that reflects the connection between their residency experience and their artmaking.

How do you imagine being a library's resident artist could influence or inform your art practice? Feel free to reference current or upcoming work to illustrate how this experience might shape your process, themes, mediums, etc.

9. **Why is the ProjectArt Teaching Artist Residency a good fit for you at this stage in your career?**

Please include any ongoing or upcoming projects and commitments that may overlap with or align with the

residency period (August 2026 – late May 2027).

Single PDF

GUIDELINES

1. **Submission:** Compile all 4 PDFs into a zip folder, upload on the application's Proposal section.
2. **File naming:** [First Name] [Last Name] [Document Name]
(e.g., *Jane Smith Artist Statement*).
3. **Zip folder naming:** Name as [CITY] [First Name] [Last Name]
(e.g., *New York Jane Smith*).
4. **Deadline:**
Upload to [this application link](#) by **June 6, 11:59 PM.**

All materials must be submitted in the specified formats to ensure consistency and ease of review

INTERVIEW PROCESS

STAGE 1:

Initial Interview

Candidates with strong applications will be invited to a 30-45 minute Zoom or in-person discussion of their qualifications, experience, and interest in the residency.

STAGE 2:

Engagement Trial

Selected Stage 1 candidates will join a private Discord group for two weeks to connect with ProjectArt staff, explore program resources, and submit a 15-20 minute mock lesson plan— with plenty of support along the way.

STAGE 3:

Mock Lesson

Selected candidates will present their 15-20 minute mock lesson from Stage 2, teaching as if to their selected age group (ages 4-7, 8-12, or 13-18). ProjectArt staff will participate as students, using the materials outlined in the lesson plan.

FINAL DECISIONS

A jury panel, in collaboration with ProjectArt staff, will review candidates' application, interview, engagement trial performance, mock lesson, and overall fit before making final cohort selections.

Offer letters will be sent between the end of July and beginning of August 2026.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must have a strong portfolio and an active, ongoing artistic practice.
- Must be able to commit to the full program duration (August – May/June) and balance teaching and residency responsibilities.
- Legally authorized to work in the United States.
- Basic technological fluency with PDFs, email, Google Calendar, and the ability to use—or willingness to learn—Discord.
- Applicants currently enrolled in full-time graduate studies may apply, but they must ensure that their coursework and commitments for both semesters will not conflict with ProjectArt’s fixed residency schedule.
- Strong communication skills, reliability, and ability to engage effectively with a wide range of people, including youth, families, librarians, donors, their fellow artist cohort, and supervisors.
- A commitment to arts accessibility and enthusiasm for working within public library spaces.
- The ability to work independently while being proactive in communication and problem-solving
- Possess strong interpersonal qualities that contribute to a supportive and engaging learning environment for youth, including:
 - Patience, empathy, and adaptability
 - Clear articulation and presence
 - Warmth and attentiveness
 - Organization and responsiveness

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience teaching or mentoring young artists (ages 4-18) in community-based programs, educational settings, or public institutions, or other age groups
- Experience teaching in non-traditional learning environments
- Experience developing arts curricula
- If the candidate lacks teaching experience, they should demonstrate a strong interest in teaching and be prepared to explain what draws them to this opportunity
- A strong interest in professional development, particularly in refining teaching methods, expanding community engagement, and developing career-building strategies.
- Familiarity with ProjectArt's mission and enthusiasm for contributing to its approach to arts education.

NEXT STEPS

1. Submit Proposal:

Applications Open:

Tuesday, May 12th, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Deadline:

Tuesday, June 9th, 2026 at 11:59 PM

To apply: [Bookmark our Teaching Artist Page Here](#)

The ability to apply on this page will become available on the 6th.

2. **Attend our Residency Information Session:**

Thursday April 30th, 2026 at 6:30 PM

To register: [Click this link](#)

Registration is required. A recording of the session will be available afterward.

3. **For any further questions, please contact:**

Lindsey Whittle

Residency Director
lindsey@projectart.org

We thank you for your interest and look forward to reviewing your application!

With Gratitude,
ProjectArt