

SRCC Artist Residency FAQs

- How long is the artist residency at St. Roch Community Church?

The residency is a full nine months, with the start date being September 1 and the end date being May 31 of the following year. We typically have a week or two of flexibility in setting the start date, and work with the incoming resident to determine what arrival and start date works best! We ask that the artist in residence commit to being fully present for the duration of the nine months, allowing for optimal creative and relational momentum.

- When is the application window open, and when can I expect to know a decision about my application?

The application window opens on January 15 with an application submission deadline of March 15. We cannot accept applications after March 15, as the Advisory Board will begin reviewing applications immediately in order to determine a short list of finalists with whom to schedule Zoom interviews near the end of March and beginning of April. Following the round of Zoom interviews and connection with professional references, the Advisory Board will offer a decision by April 22.

- What type of artists are eligible to apply to this residency program?

We are open to receiving applications from all types of artists that would benefit from nine months of focused production and connecting with our congregation and community. The studio apartment is modest in scale (more on the apartment below!) and thus determines what type of materials, construction, and movement is possible within the space. The majority of our applicants to date have been visual artists, musicians, and writers. Regardless of your chosen artistic mediums, we're eager to hear how you might benefit from the time and space at this stage of your career, and how connecting with us could make an impact on you and your work.

- What is the primary focus when the Advisory Board reviews the applications? (e.g. experience, solo or group exhibitions, performances, previous residencies, an MFA, etc.?)

The Advisory Board is looking to award this residency to an artist who is seriously devoted to their craft and to a life or career in the arts. We desire to observe this seriousness in the provided work samples, the writing about the work, the personal statement, and our conversations with references. The Advisory Board is looking to award this residency to artists who also are able to articulate how being in community for these nine months will be a boon to self and artistic practice. We are focused on making the nine months available to an artist who is aware of their needs and of the exponential impact that this time and interaction could have on their practice. We desire for the residency to propel an artist forward, no matter what the career stage present at the start.

- Do I have to identify as a Christian to apply to this residency program?

We do not require applying artists to identify as Christian, or to be members of a Christian church body here or elsewhere. We are truly curious about your interest in being around a small Christian congregation as you advance and grow your work, and how you see this presence shaping your practice. The personal statement in the application materials is an opportunity for you to elaborate further on this interest!

- Is there a stipend associated with this residency program?

Yes! We offer a \$900 monthly stipend over the course of nine months for a total stipend of \$8,100 while in residence. Utilities, internet, and access to a washer and dryer are available at no cost to the resident artist. There are no programmatic expectations or requirements for service from our resident artists. It is typical for our artists to find meaningful and organic ways to plug into the life of the body. There is no "return" expected from the artist for the residency, which is intended to be a gift!

- What is the studio apartment space like?

The second-story studio apartment is approximately 300 square feet and includes a furnished kitchen (refrigerator, stove, utensils, pots/pans, etc.) and bath (toilet, sink, shower and tub). There are modest amounts of storage available in attic space within the apartment. The studio apartment is on a heavily utilized church property (which consists of three structures on the corner of North Roman Street and St. Roch Avenue, adjacent to a park). The apartment spans the entirety of a second floor directly above the church's Youth Room where after school and other programming occurs. The residency apartment is accessed through a courtyard which is also behind a locked security door that opens onto North Roman Street. Parking is available just outside of this security door in the event that the Artist in Residence brings a car.

- Can I bring pets or host overnight guests? Are there other regulations for what is allowed on site?

We are unable to accommodate pets or overnight guests in the residency apartment. Smoking of any sort is also not allowed in the residency apartment or on church grounds. While there is some courtyard space for resident artists to temporarily work on larger projects, outdoor storage of tools, materials, or artwork is prohibited due to the consistent presence of children in the courtyard.

- What is required in the application?

Applications for the St. Roch Community Church Artist-in-Residence program should include the following:

1. A resume or CV including educational background, exhibition record, and other professional endeavors in the arts.
2. An artist statement relevant to your current work, describing what you generally see your work to be about, as well as a broad description of what type of work you envision embarking upon during the residency program.
3. Ten to fifteen digital images of current work (digital images should have a resolution of around 300 dpi and be approximately 8" in size on the smallest dimension).
4. An image list that includes the title, date, dimensions, and medium of each piece corresponding to the label of the digital file (such as FirstnameLastname_01, FirstnameLastname_02, etc.)
5. Two professional contacts are to be listed within the application. We will reach out to these contacts for a conversation or a letter only if the applicant advances to the Zoom interview stage. Any professional who knows you and your work well can serve as a professional contact. Please list the names, titles, and contact information for these two references.
6. A personal statement declaring why, at this stage of your life and practice, you would desire a residency at a small Christian church in New Orleans, LA. How do you see this residency advancing and growing your work? How would this residency be a timely gift for you and your practice?

Interested applicants should email Aaron Collier at the email address below; upon receiving the email, Aaron will generate a personal Dropbox folder for you to submit your application.

aaron@strochcc.org