

## 2020-2021 Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling Artist Residency Guidelines and FAQ

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE DECEMBER 31, 2020 (at 11:59pm EST)**

**PLEASE NOTE: due to the pandemic and the associated temporary closing of the Museum, we have revised next year's Artist-in-Residence program to be shorter. Dates, deadlines and terms are subject to change based on the state of emergency in the city.**

### **Overview and Guidelines**

The Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling is offering a 6-month residency for one visual artist. The selected artist will be granted a non-living studio, a \$3,800 honorarium and the possibility of earning additional income by leading workshops with museum patrons.

Artists will have access to a 450 square-foot studio space where they will be expected to work a minimum of 15 hours per week and present their projects by participating in open studio activities and events.

For this residency, the Museum is looking to award one visual artist whose artistic practice will resonate with children ages three to eight and their families, and reflect a relationship to the demographics, location and/or history of Sugar Hill. The selected artist should be comfortable interacting with children and families, and entertaining conversations with curious museum visitors about their studio practice.

A jury composed of arts professionals and Museum staff will use the criteria below to select the finalists. Notice of advancement will be delivered by email by late January 2021 (finalists). In February 2021, selected finalists will demonstrate their practice in live teaching demos with children at the Sugar Hill Museum Preschool and meet with the Museum leadership team for a short interview. Final application status notifications will be sent out to all applicants by mid February 2021.

The chosen artist will begin their residency at the Museum in March 2021 and will have use of the Artist-in-Residence Studio until the end of July 2021. The artist will have a culminating exhibition in the Studio from approximately the beginning of August 2021 to the beginning of September 2021\*.

### **Benefits to Artist**

- Access to a 450 sqft private artist Studio, with a sink for 5 months (March 2021 – July 2021)
- Culminating solo exhibition in their Studio (1/1.5 months including installation; August 2021 – part of September 2021\*)
- An honorarium of \$3800, dispersed in 6 monthly installments

*\*Exact dates TBA and subject to change based on installation requirements and Museum calendar.*

### **Who Should Apply?**

This opportunity is ideal for visual artists who:

- Are comfortable interacting with children and their families.
- Are accustomed or open to entertaining conversations with curious museum visitors about their studio process.
- Are not currently enrolled in a college or graduate school program.
- Are not related to an employee of Broadway Housing Communities (BHC) or the Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling
- Live within the Tri-State Region
- Are at least 21 years old

## **Qualifications**

To be considered for this opportunity, artists should:

- Have a demonstrated creative, ambitious practice, which should be documented in the work samples submitted in their application.
- Be eager to work with children ages three to eight and their families.
- Be able to attend Museum staff training sessions to ensure the most successful interaction occurs between Museum staff, contractors and visitors.
- Be able to commit the time and attention to developing new work in their studio for at least 15 hours per week from the beginning to the end of their studio residency (from March 2021 through July 2021). The Studio will act only as a gallery space for the culminating exhibition for the remainder of the residency (August and part of September 2021).
- Be able to participate in monthly open studio events and activities where children and families can view the projects that they are working on.
- Have a practice that reflects a relationship to the demographics, location and/or history of the Sugar Hill neighborhood. (A plus, not a requirement).

## **Selection Criteria**

**The jury will be assessing the following questions during this process:**

### **Artistic Excellence**

- Has the applicant demonstrated a command of the medium(s) presented in their work samples? Do their work samples illustrate technical strength?
- Is the applicant's work conceptually strong?
- Is the candidate a visual artist?

### **Comfort Working With Children**

- Does the applicant demonstrate a competency and comfort in working with children ages three to eight years old and their families? This will be assessed when semi-finalists are asked to present their work and art making activity to children.
- Will the applicant's work resonate with museum patrons, specifically with children ages three to eight years old?

### **Familiarity with Sugar Hill**

- Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of Sugar Hill, its history, and/or the communities that live and work there?
- Would the applicant's work resonate with the Sugar Hill community?

## **Application Materials**

Visual artists applying for this opportunity will be asked to submit the following:

- A resume
- Work samples
- Answers to 5 application questions
- Artist statement
- Biography

**For more information on the guidelines, please feel free to email Cinzia @ cmeneghello@sugarhillmuseum.org.**

## **2020-21 Timeline**

Saturday, February 1, 2020	Applications open
Monday, March 9, 2020	Application info session: 6-7:30 pm. <b>RSVP <a href="#">here</a>.</b>
Thursday, December 31, 2020	Application deadline (11:59pm EST)
By end of January, 2021	Finalists notified
February 8, 9, 10*, 2021	Teaching Demos with Children + Interviews at Sugar Hill Museum Preschool*
Friday, February 26, 2021	AIR winner announced
Monday, March 1, 2021	AIR orientation (11am-12pm)
Tuesday, March 2, 2021	New Artist-in-Residence moves into the Studio

\* Held between 9:30-11:30am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling?**

The Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling (SHCMAS) strives to strengthen community by providing our culturally rich neighborhood with a space where children and their families grow and learn about Sugar Hill, and about the world at large, through inter-generational dialogue with artists, art and storytelling. As a cultural institution where the contributions of children are nurtured and honored, SHCMAS provides opportunities for children ages three to eight to learn and grow both as audiences and as authors that create and share their own stories.

Opened in summer 2015, SHCMAS is a cultural destination for and to the surrounding communities of Harlem, Washington Heights, Inwood and the South Bronx. Our year-round calendar of exhibits explores generations of artists who have contributed to and been inspired by the cultural vitality of the legendary neighborhood of Sugar Hill. We expand our exhibitions with a range of public programming – storytelling series, performances, concerts, films and festivals, and a wide array of hands-on workshops – that further our curatorial mission to engage young children and families with art of the highest quality.

### **If I do not live in Harlem or Washington Heights, am I still eligible to apply to this program?**

Yes. The selected artist for this opportunity need not be a resident of Harlem or Washington Heights. They should also have knowledge about the neighborhood and its many communities.

### **How many hours do I need to be in my studio each week?**

The selected artist should be prepared to work a minimum of 15 hours in their studio per week, which will not include participating in staff meetings and open studios or other related public programming.

### **Does my work have to be child-friendly?**

The selected artist's work should be accessible in both material and content to children ages three to eight. To ensure that this unique target audience can experience the artist's work, it should not be hypersexual, utilize profanity or gratuitously violent. It does not need be thematically focused on children; however it should be relevant to children within the three to eight year old age ranges.

### **Do I need to have experience teaching children ages three to eight?**

It is highly desired, but not at all required. We are looking for artists who are comfortable engaging younger populations, but formal teaching experience or training is not required. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present a demonstration with children ages three to eight to best determine their comfort level working with these populations. Additional information about preparing for the demonstration with children will be provided upon being notified of becoming a semifinalist.

**When can I access the studio?**

The artist will have access the studio 7 days a week, from 7 am to midnight. When needing more time in the studio arrangements with building security and Museum staff can be made, but the artist cannot enter the building after midnight.

**Can I live in the studio as well as work there?**

No, the studio cannot be lived in.

**Is it alright for me to bring my child/ren to my studio?**

While we encourage parents to apply, childcare is not provided with this program. If the artist's child/ren visits, it will be the parent's sole responsibility to ensure a safe working environment for their child/ren and ensure that their child/ren does not compromise the working environment for Museum staff, its contractors or visitors.

**Can I bring people to my studio after the Museum has closed?**

Visitors are not allowed in the artist's studio after the Museum's daily business hours, Monday to Sunday from 10am to 5pm.

**When will I know the public programs schedule?**

Together with the Museum staff, the selected artist will determine the dates and times of when they will need to have an open studio with the general public and when they are needed to participate in any other relevant public programming. These public programs will fall outside of the 15-hour/week studio requirement.

**Besides being in my studio for at least 15 hours a week, what else is required of me if I am selected to participate in this residency program?**

In addition to working on the production of new artwork, this 15-hour per week commitment includes time by The Artist spent:

- a. Leading a weekly (2) hour, hands-on workshop(s) with children attending the Sugar Hill Museum Preschool, a partner of the Museum. The Museum and the Preschool will coordinate with The Artist to determine the workshop(s) schedule and content.
- b. Participating in (4) family workshops during the residency term supported by the Education Department. The Museum will coordinate with The Artist to determine the workshop(s) schedule and content.
- c. Participating in a monthly open studio program, to allow Museum visitors to view the artist's working process. The Museum will coordinate the open studio schedule with The Artist, but preference is given for open studios on the third Sunday of every month or possibly the second Saturday of every month. A culminating exhibition of the residency program will occur in The Artist's studio and will be open to the public in 2021. Participation in the Culminating Artist-in-Residence Open Studio Exhibition is mandatory.

All staff training sessions are also mandatory to ensure the most successful interaction occurs between Museum staff, its contractors and visitors.

**Will the Museum arrange to have curators visit my studio?**

The main benefit of this opportunity for the selected artist is the ability to have the space and time to work on their projects. There is a chance that the Museum staff will make arrangements for curators to visit the selected artist's studio, but this is not guaranteed. That said the artist should feel free to invite curators to their studio as needed.

***Please note that additional rules and restrictions during the residency period may be in place due to COVID-19.***

***Please note that dates and other details may be subject to change due to the pandemic.***