

DESOTO *Artists* LAB

Calling DeSoto Artists!

The DeSoto Artists Lab (DAL) is a new initiative of the City of DeSoto Arts Commission designed to invest in the development and visibility of artists living and working in our community.

The DAL will allow up to ten artists to work as Artists in Residence in various spaces in our community, working primarily with a designated organization, city agency or in a commercial space where the public has open access to interact with the artists. These stipend-based residencies have mutual benefits for the artist and for the community – providing time and space for artists and other creative individuals to work; and involving residents and visitors in a variety of visual and performing art forms.

Artists will be selected through a competitive process. The length of a residency can vary from one week up to six months and can support a single artistic discipline or bring together artists from across multi-disciplines.

DAL Artists are matched up with a mentor artist based on their level of experience, artistic medium and general interests. Mentors support the development and implementation of the residency projects.

The responsibilities of artists include, but are not limited to, self-scheduled meetings with mentors, participation in a series of technical assistance workshops provided by the City of DeSoto, conducting research to identify a space for the residency to occur and showcasing a public presentation of their work.

ARTIST ELEGIBILITY: Emerging or professional artists who have a strong interest in engaging the community are eligible to apply. Artists working in all media are eligible. Preference is given to artists who live in DeSoto, Texas.

HOW TO APPLY: Artists should submit a single PDF file that includes:

1. Letter of interest (indicating a strong rationale for acceptance into the DeSoto Artist Lab, and willingness to work with the City of DeSoto staff to develop a successful residency)
2. Professional resume which includes your Artist Statement
3. Project budget including artist fee for the residency period
4. Up to six images that give the review panel an indication of the artist's work and artistic discipline. (one photo per page) Note: (Performing artists may also submit links to audio or video files)

Application packet should be uploaded and sent to: kathy.jones@desototexas.gov

Deadline for submission of the application packet is Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 5pm. No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

SELECTION PROCESS The DAL Review Panel will review the materials submitted and may request an in-person or virtual interview with the finalists. Artists will be notified by email of acceptance to the DAL program and work with City staff to finalize a scope of services to be attached to their contract documents.

PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION PACKET:

Here are some general things you can do that will prepare your application packet.

Following directions

We are working hard to make this process simple and accessible, and so it's important that you follow the directions. Double check the application checklist. Send work samples in the format that is requested and most importantly, do not send more than what is requested.

Work samples

You should have a well-documented history of your work. DO NOT submit poorly documented work samples: images that are blurry, fuzzy video, scratchy recordings.

Submit your strongest work but limit those work samples to six.

It's hard to judge your own work, so get feedback from people whose artistic opinions you respect by asking them to look over your work samples.

Artist statement

Many residency programs require this as part of the application. It is helpful to be able to articulate your personal artistic statement. An artist statement should be coherent, brief and communicate your creative practice and your approach to the residency for DeSoto.

Project proposal

Your proposal will not tie you to a specific project; but should let the panel know that you've thought through how you might design an artist residency for DeSoto. It is likely and expected that once in residence you will explore other ideas and perhaps even decide to work with a fellow artist to make the project even more exciting. Things to consider in your proposal: location, length of project, size of class/group, residency length, access to facilities/equipment, and opportunities for community engagement.

References

The review panel will be interested in hearing from two references about your seriousness as an artist, your dedication to a creative practice, and your ability to work in a community the size of DeSoto to encourage participation in the arts and creativity.

Budget

Awards for this program will range from \$1,500 for a short-term project-based residency up to \$6,000 for a longer residency performed over several months.

Sample budget form-

Artist(s) Fee	\$
Materials and supplies	\$
Production costs (if any)	\$
¹ Workspace or studio rent	\$
² Mileage reimbursement	\$
Document of project	\$
Total amount requested from the City	<hr/> \$

¹ The City of DeSoto is interested in collaborating with the artists to locate and provide a workspace easily accessible to the public.

² The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller) has published the travel and mileage reimbursement rates effective as of January 1, 2020, as 57.5 cents per mile. Reimbursement requests will be forwarded at the close of the residency period if approved.