

PROGRAM DETAILS

Artist in Residence (AiR) at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM)

Plein Air Artist in Residence in Escalante, Utah

Program sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management/Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in partnership with the Escalante Canyons Art Festival (ECAF).

Background

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) was established in 1996 and became the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) first national monument. At nearly 1.9 million acres, it is the largest area in the National Conservation Lands system, which includes some of the West's most spectacular landscapes set aside for conservation, protection, and restoration of their nationally significant cultural, ecological, and scientific values. From the spectacular Grand Staircase of cliffs and terraces, across the rugged Kaiparowits Plateau, to the wonders of the Escalante Canyons, the monument's size, resources, and remote character provide extraordinary opportunities for scientific research and exploration. Its spectacular scenery of other-worldly landforms, outrageous combinations of colors, vegetation that ranges from ponderosa forests to lush riparian corridors, and light that is forever changing, provides artists with limitless inspiration and material.

In 1934, artist and poet Everett Ruess vanished in the labyrinth of deep canyons near Escalante, Utah, and was never seen again. The Escalante Canyons Art Festival - Everett Ruess Days, an annual gathering of artists, musicians, crafters, poets, and speakers, celebrates the life and work of this enigmatic artist and his passion for this landscape. Ruess' spirit of adventure touches a creative desire in all of us, as we seek to express, as he did, our response to the rugged landscape and mystery of the Escalante Canyons.

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Artist in Residence partnership between GSENM and ECAF is two-fold. First, it promotes awareness through art of the exceptional natural and cultural treasures preserved and protected by GSENM. Second, the program seeks to firmly establish the Escalante Canyons region in southern Utah as a destination for artists and those who love art. The program aspires to share the scenic beauty and unique stories of National Conservation Lands with the public through the world of art.

The residency provides artistic and educational opportunities to promote a deeper understanding of the natural, cultural, and historic resources on GSENM. The residency provides an opportunity for learning and dialogue about the value of the National Conservation Lands and their connection to the local community. It allows uninterrupted time in a stimulating and rugged environment for artists to pursue their work and share it with the public.

Location

GSENM is located in southcentral Utah. Escalante is located in the heart of GSENM along Scenic Byway 12 (Utah's only All-American Road), bracketed by Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef National Parks, the Dixie National Forest, three Utah state parks, and more untrammeled landscape than just about anywhere in the lower forty-eight states. Escalante is approximately a 5-hour drive from Salt Lake City or Las Vegas.

Residency Details

GSENM awards the selected plein air artist the opportunity to live and work in and around Escalante, Utah. Work completed during the residency should be of landscapes within GSENM. The residency period will be four weeks ending on September 26, 2016. The artist will be provided an exhibit space but may not participate in the Plein Air Competition or Paint Out. Full dates for the Escalante Canyons Art Festival are September 16-25; additional information about the festival is available at: escalantecanyonsartfestival.org.

The selected artist will be provided with:

- A travel trailer with RV hook-up located in Escalante.
- A monetary stipend of \$1000.
- An exhibit and sales space during the ECAF Plein Air Exhibit & Art Sale(September 23-24). **The exhibit should include only works produced during the residency.**
- Recognition of achievement in press releases, advertising and promotional materials, and on our websites.

In exchange for:

- Serving as an artistic and public lands ambassador for GSENM and ECAF.
- One creative community project proposed by the artist and approved by GSENM/ECAF to be executed during the residency period.
- One public event (workshop/demonstration/tour/presentation) to be held during the ECAF festival programming.
- One school event (workshop/demonstration/tour/presentation) working with local area elementary and/or high school students to be held prior to the week of the festival. One completed artwork for the ECAF collection.
- A commission of 25% to ECAF on works sold during the festival.

Applicants must keep in mind that GSENM is a rugged monument spanning low-lying desert to coniferous forest, with scarce and scattered water sources, temperatures climbing to as much as 100°F., limited travel corridors and vast, remote areas without cellphone coverage. This land of extremes requires a frontier mentality with the ability to make informed planning decisions, navigate (whether on foot or by vehicle) in backcountry, and self-rescue. Please evaluate your experience and comfort level in your abilities to operate under these conditions.

ELIGIBILITY:

The residency is open to all professional artists over 18 years of age who are United States residents and who apply within the deadline period. The residency is limited to artists who work in two-dimensional painting in an impressionistic plein air style. The selected artist must pass a background check. Selection is solely based on merit, without regard to sex, race, creed, religion, national origin, employer, or physical ability (see "American Disability Act–ADA" section below). Department of the Interior employees and their relatives are eligible to submit applications to the program.

RESIDENCY PERIOD:

The residency must be scheduled for four weeks ending on September 26, 2016, to coincide with the weekend of the festival.

CREATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As stated above, the residency provides opportunity for learning and dialogue about the value of the National Conservation Lands and their connection to the local community. We believe that creativity and art give us an opportunity for such dialogue among the diverse perspectives held in this small community of 800 people. There are no set parameters for the community project. We welcome bold and creative ideas for engaging the community beyond a lecture or painting workshop.

PUBLIC and SCHOOL EVENTS:

The selected artist will conduct at least two public events during the residency. These could be in the form of a workshop, demonstration, tour, or presentation. One event is for the general public and will be included in the arts festival programming lineup. The other event will be for area elementary and/or high school students and will occur prior to the week of the festival. The details of these festival and school programming events will be discussed and coordinated with the selected artist prior to the start of the residency to provide time for scheduling, outreach, and marketing.

STIPEND:

A stipend of \$1000.00 for the four-week residency will be provided via funding from the GSENM - Glen Canyon Natural History Association Aid to Parks Program.

HOUSING:

A travel trailer with RV hook-up located in Escalante.

TRANSPORTATION:

Artist is responsible for all transportation costs, including arrival and departure to Escalante, as well as transportation into GSENM during residency. Though not required, **an all-wheel drive vehicle with high clearance** will allow the artist access to more of the surrounding area, as most roads within GSENM are not paved.

PERSONAL EXPENSES:

Artist is responsible for all personal expenses including travel, meals, cell phone, internet access, laundry, etc.

COPYRIGHT & PUBLICATION:

ECAF will own the donated artwork. Donated artwork may be reproduced in GSENM and/or ECAF promotional print materials or electronic publication formats. The artist will retain a royalty-free, non-exclusive use license under copyright of the art by AiR at GSENM. When the artist reproduces this artwork for his/her own purposes, publication information will include the language: "This artwork was produced under the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Artist in Residence Program ."

The artist agrees that the artwork donated to the GSENM AiR Program may be used in exhibits and for educational purposes by GSENM or ECAF or by their non-profit cooperating associations.

VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT:

The selected artist will agree to be an official BLM Volunteer during the residency and must agree to sign and abide by the official BLM Volunteer Agreement during the residency period. As such the artist is protected by such insurance appropriate to the BLM Volunteer Agreement (DOI Form 1114-4).

OTHER PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Artist in Residence is acting as an ambassador for GSENM and ECAF and needs to conduct themselves accordingly. The selected artist will abide by all local, state, and federal laws including all BLM rules and regulations during the residency. GSENM managers, the AiR at GSENM program coordinator, the national BLM

Artist in Residence program office, and/or the ECAF director have the right to cancel the artist's residency immediately for inappropriate behavior, serious disregard for safety, or failure to comply with BLM regulations. The selected artist will be an official BLM volunteer, and is encouraged to promote appropriate site etiquette, Leave No Trace principles, and landscape conservation in any public contacts while acting as the resident artist at GSENM.

APPLICANTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Every effort will be made by GSENM/ECAF staff to accommodate disabled participants. However, the donated housing may require use of stairs, and accommodation corresponding to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards may be unavailable due to the historic or primitive nature of facilities in field locations.

For additional information, please contact:

AiR Program Coordinator
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
LeAnn Skrzynski
lskrzynski@blm.gov
Business phone: 435-644-1238

APPLICATION

Applications must be **received by midnight on April 22, 2016** to be eligible. Incomplete applications will not be considered. **Applications are to be submitted via email to lskrzynski@blm.gov**

Applicants are required to submit:

- 2016 GSENM Artist in Residence at Application Form
- 5 digital samples of work (at least 3 must be plein air samples)
- Resume detailing relevant education, experience, and achievements
- Creative community project proposal
- Arts festival public event proposal
- School student event proposal
- Responses to the following questions:
 - a. How would being selected as the 2016 Artist in Residence at GSENM further your work as an artist?
 - b. What would you hope to accomplish during your residency?
 - c. What makes you a suitable candidate for this residency?
 - d. What is your relationship to GSENM? To the Colorado Plateau?
 - e. Where/how did you hear about us?

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS: A panel consisting of art professionals, ECAF committee members, and GSENM staff will select the 2016 Artist in Residence at GSENM. The following weighted criteria will be used to evaluate the applications:

- *Portfolio:* 40 points
- *Experience and Achievements:* 10 points
- *Community Service Project Proposals:* 30 points
- *Response to Application Questions:* 20 points

SUBMISSION: The completed application package containing all of the above must be sent via email to:
lskrzynski@blm.gov

NOTIFICATION: The selection of the 2016 Artist in Residence and notification will be made within 2 weeks of the application due date.