ACRE’s Residency Program takes place every summer in the Driftless region of Southwest Wisconsin. Set on 1,000 acres of wetland, hills, and farmland, the residency hosts artists who live and work in a communal setting that includes expansive work spaces, mess hall kitchen, performance stage, and seven specialized studio areas. The Visiting Artist program invites established artists to the residency to conduct studio visits and present lectures, discussions, or workshops. Each year ACRE welcomes approximately 75 emerging artists of all disciplines to attend one of three 14-day residency sessions.

Number of visiting artists welcomed to the residency: 363

Number of artists who have attended the residency: 793
ACRE Kitchen

ACRE Kitchen is a volunteer, artist-run kitchen dedicated to providing healthy meals and supporting sustainable food producers in the Driftless region of Wisconsin. ACRE Kitchen serves three thoughtful and nourishing meals per day to 60+ residents, staff, and visiting artists at the residency.

Number of meals served in the ACRE Kitchen: 1,128

Number of ‘Kadabra’ cookbook volumes published: 10

FARM PARTNERS

Cedar Grove Cheese 2013
Circadian Organics 2018
The Cottage Baker 2015-2016
Coulee View Family Farm 2010-2017
Driftless Organics 2015-present
Harmony Valley 2013-present
Hazard Free Farm 2014-2015
Hidden Springs Creamery 2013-2014
Kickapoo Exchange Co-op 2013-present
Lange Farms 2014
Local Foods 2013-2014
The Lone Goat Farm 2015-2017
Lonesome Stone Milling 2012-present
Natural Direct 2014-present
Nelson Trout Farm 2013
Pioneer Gardens Farm 2017-present
Preston Valley Produce 2010-present
Spring Creek Cattle Co. 2010-2014
St Brigid’s Meadows 2016-present
Violet Dreams Bakery 2012-2013

Cherrie Yu’s Four Little Swans Study translated the classical ballet routine from Swan Lake onto four pairs of corn dogs, performed with Leena Joshi, Jonathan Soto, and Jesse Meredith. PHOTO BY LEVI SHAND
Exhibitions

ACRE’s Exhibitions Program provides artists opportunities to expand their practice, develop professionally, and build community with a thriving nationwide network of peers and arts professionals. Each year a board of Curatorial Fellows works with artists to produce exhibitions, present public programs, and create publications.

Number of partner galleries: 52

Number of exhibitions presented: 207

Number of artists who have presented work: 685

CURATORIAL FELLOWS

Anthony Staptor
Kate Bowen
Alicia Eler
Rustana Lichtzier
Pat Elifritz
Raven Munsell
Liz McCarthy
Cecilia Vargas
Jennifer Melford
Ross Jordan
Lauren Fulton
Matt Coleman
Anastasia Tinari
Danny Floyd
Make Space (Lynette Miranda, Etta Sandry, and Kathy Cho)
Ann Meisinger
Kate Sierzputowski
Josh Rios
Sabrina Grieg
Alexandria Eregbu
Adia Sykas
Lauren Leving
Felisha Mings
Elizabeth Lalley
Max Guy
Lucy Stranger
Stephanie Koch
Rachel McDermott
Sarita Hernández
Lindsey Hutchens
Gee Wesley
Rohan Ayinde

Top: These Spaces Hold Us at ACRE Projects with Yasmeen Nematt Alla, Jonathan Herrera Soto, Annie Kielman, curated by Rohan Ayinde.
Bottom Left: To Hold Space with Bonny Nahmias at Ground Level Platforms. PHOTO COURTESY OF GROUND LEVEL PLATFORM
Bottom Right: Field Measure with Ruth Burke, Zach Ingram, and Lilli Price at DSL 3. PHOTO COURTESY OF DSL 3
In response to the outbreak of COVID-19, ACRE cancelled all in-person public programs and deferred our summer 2020 Residency Program to 2021.

In July-August the farm in Steuben, WI was offered to use, to gather, to create, to rest, to work internally as an organization and community, and to plan for the future.

Our two priorities included:

• Providing space for rest, relaxation, and retreat, prioritizing BIPOC staff and alumni with emphasis on queer and trans artists.

• Working together on building projects, improvements, and program development for ACRE which will help us prepare for our future.

This summer ACRE and CAPE (Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education) began a partnership as part of the CAPE 2020 Summer Remote Learning Program in six CPS schools. ACRE’s guest artists joined classes led by CAPE teachers and artists to make live presentations, share their work, and collaborate. The new parameters of remote learning encouraged new thinking and experimentation around art in pedagogical spaces.

ACRE 2020

8 STUDIO SPACES

Woodshop
Fibers
AV Tech
Stage
Screen Printing
Sound
Ceramics
+ New High Fire Studio

PHOTO BY KATE BOWEN

Artists Ben Driggs and Javier Jasso pouring molten copper under the instruction of sculptor Tamsie Ringler as a part of ACRE High Fire, a newly launched studio area focused on metal work and ceramic processes including Raku and pit fire.
ADMINISTRATIVE
Kate Bowen
Executive Director
Erin Nixon
Development Director
Caitlin Arnold
Kitchen Director
John Kyle Cronan
Technology Director
Danny Floyd
Exhibitions Director
Nathan Florsheim
Communications Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Board of Directors
Aniko Berman
Aron Gent
Jenny Kendler
Raven Falquez Munsell
Patrick “Q” Quilao
Lena Singer
Nicholas Wylie
Latham Zearfoss

REVENUE SOURCES
Individual Donations 37%
Hearth Annual Benefit 9%
Grants 31%
Application Fees 4%
Other 19%

ANNUAL SPONSORSHIPS
Dawoud Bey
Valerie Carberry and Richard Wright
Document
Other People’s Pixels

IN-KIND SPONSORSHIPS
Intelligentsia Coffee
Exfolia Botanical
Lula Cafe
Letherbee Distillers
Maison Ferrand
Apologue Spirited Liqueurs
Cream Wines

RESIDENCY PARTNER
Mother Earth Green Center

FUNDERS
National Endowment for the Arts
Illinois Arts Council Agency
City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events
MacArthur Funds for Arts and Culture at The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
Sustainable Arts Foundation
Whole Foods Community Giving
In collaboration with Adia Sykes and Anna Projects (Stephanie Koch and Alden Burke) ACRE will launch the Chicago Arts Census. The Arts Census collects, maps, and visualizes data that illuminates the lived experiences and working conditions of arts workers in Chicago. The collected data will be translated into a series of maps, a website, a publication, and public programs that demonstrate the interwoven and dependent relationships that make up Chicago’s art ecosystem.

**ACRE Looks to the Future**

“The space ACRE created this summer epitomizes their dedication to caring for and fostering spaces of community building. Everyone in the Anna’s cohort felt restored and hopeful.”

- Alden Burke
  Co-Director of Anna's, ACRE Partner Gallery

ACRE will be adapting its Residency Program to weather uncertain circumstances and enable the organization to safely host residents. This includes expanded session options and more focused programming. By monitoring our occupancy, practicing social distancing and enhanced cleaning procedures, and working with our incoming residents we will shape a safe and healthy environment together.

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Our guests Anna’s pose for a group photo at the end of a 4 day retreat. PHOTO BY KATE BOWEN

Top: The Anna reading group poses for a screenshot after our first session this summer. Anna #3 begins November 25. Bottom: Leadership of the Pilsen Alliance pose for a photo after a visit to the farm in September.