

A group of people are in a large, green field. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a hazy sky. The scene is captured in a soft, natural light. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the text 'ACRE' and 'Residency Collaboration'.

ACRE

Residency Collaboration

ACRE (Artists' Cooperative Residency & Exhibitions) is an artist-run, community-driven organization that produces programs and initiatives offering resource-sharing, opportunities for professional growth, and the generative connections artists need to thrive.

Together we:

MISSION

- Serve artists who are at transformative stages of their practices and careers, by fostering a cooperative, equitable, and inclusive environment for making and presenting art
- Center the work and experiences of women, queer and trans people, and artists of color
- Advance new programs and initiatives to support the arts ecosystem by nurturing leadership, collaborative networks, community organizing and a culture of care
- Connect arts workers to resources, each other, and shared causes, promoting solidarity and transformation across working communities



A group of about ten people are sitting on wooden benches around a campfire in a wooded area at dusk. The fire is burning brightly, and the people are engaged in conversation. The background is filled with tall trees and a clear sky.

PROGRAM

LAND

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.

ACCOMMODATIONS

While attending the residency, artists and staff are housed in the Steuben Lodge, which includes a library, wireless internet, office supplies, apothecary, first aid station, and shared bathrooms.

STUDIOS

Residents have unrestricted access to expansive workspaces, encompassing eight studio areas equipped with tools and materials, all supported by experienced peer artists.

KITCHEN

The ACRE Kitchen provides healthy and creative meals while supporting sustainable food producers in the Driftless region of Wisconsin.

COMMUNITY/NETWORK

With a growing network of over 2000 alumni, ACRE's community approach weaves a lasting web of support for artists throughout their careers.



HOUSING

Residents stay in the sprawling Steuben Lodge, which contains 10 two-story rooms that can sleep three at a time, each with its own bathroom and kitchenette.

Each room opens onto a porch that can be used for outdoor studio space.





KITCHEN

ACRE's kitchen, managed by a dedicated team of artist-cooks, serves three daily meals crafted from locally-sourced ingredients.

Residents enjoy a continental breakfast, followed by communal lunch and dinner in the spacious dining hall, with vegan, vegetarian, and special dietary options always on the menu.



STUDIOS + WORKSPACE

Residents have unrestricted access to 2,000 sqft of indoor studios and over 2,500 sqft of covered outdoor studios. Each facility is staffed by knowledgeable and experienced technicians with their own art practices.



EIGHT STUDIO AREAS



AV/ TECH



SOUND



SCREEN PRINT



CERAMICS



FIBERS



WOODSHOP



HIGH FIRE
(Foundry)



PERFORMANCE STAGE

A/V TECH + SOUND STUDIO

The A/V cabin is equipped with film and photo equipment, a 3D scanner and 3D printer, and high-powered computers for editing. For artists interested in DIY projects, an array of electronic components and a soldering station are readily available.

The adjacent recording studio is stocked with digital, analog, and portable recording gear, alongside a modular synthesizer and various acoustic instruments for musical exploration.

Nearby is an empty grain silo that inspires many audio projects and performances.



SCREEN PRINT

The ACRE screen printing studio is well-equipped with a dark room, an exposure unit, various printing stations with hinge clamps, a collection of screens, drying apparatus, and additional tools. ACRE provides a selection of inks, emulsions, transparencies, and other essential supplies for residents, while also offering opportunities to delve into cyanotype, monoprinting, and relief printing techniques.



CERAMICS

The ceramics studio is located outdoors in a large open covered area with a concrete floor. There are 3 electric throwing wheels, worktables, cabinets and displays for glazes, clay, and hand tools.

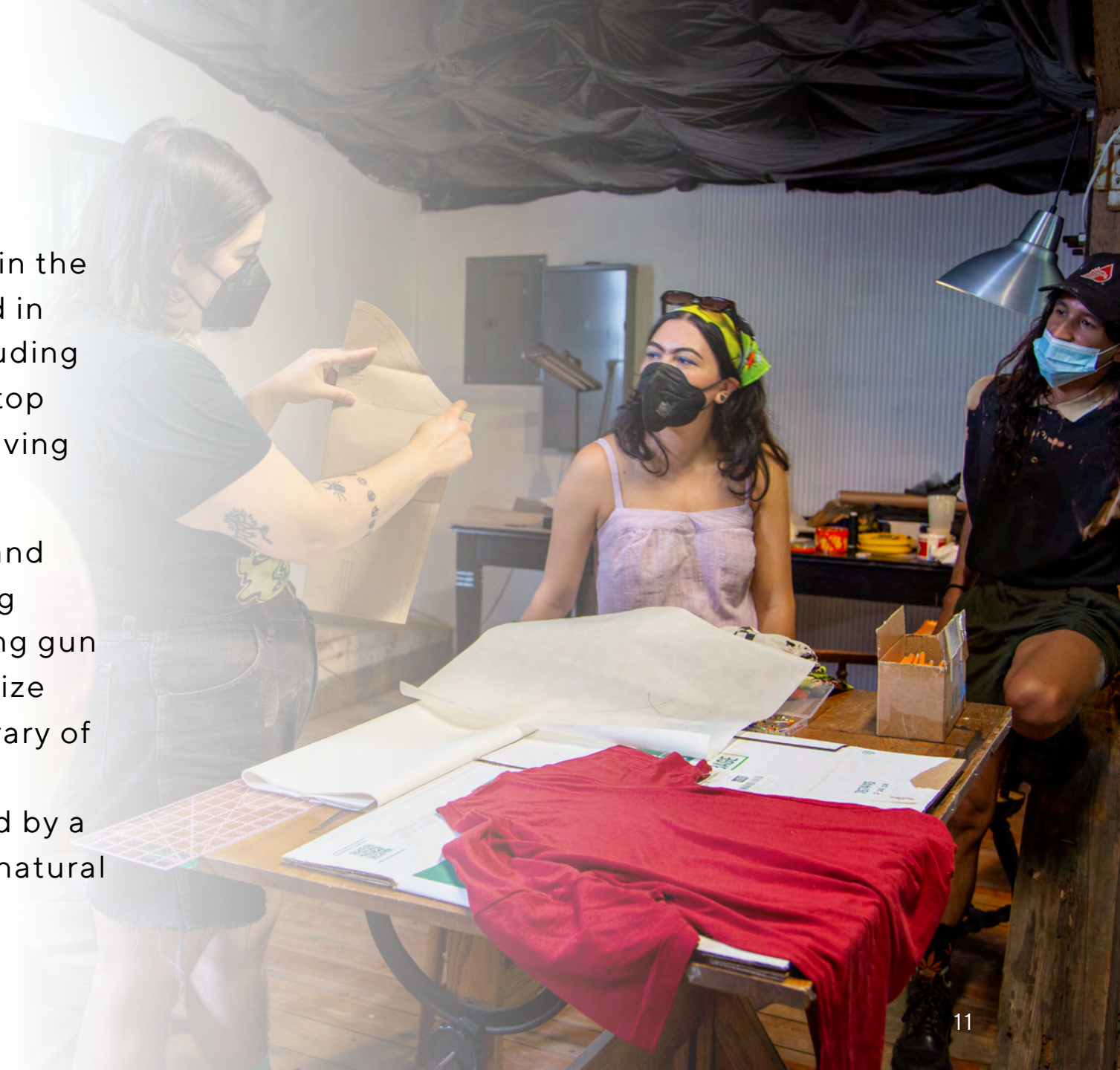
Residents enjoy access to various clays and glazes, with the flexibility to experience both standard and unique firing techniques. This summer, the kiln will be operating at cones 5 and 6, with additional firing methods like pit and Raku available, depending on collective interest and staff support.



FIBERS

Nestled above the general studio space in the Chalet, ACRE's Fiber Studio, established in 2014, houses an array of equipment including three expansive floor looms, three tabletop looms, and an extensive selection of weaving tools.

The studio also offers sewing machines and materials for various textile arts including sewing, embroidery, crochet, and a tufting gun with yarn for rug crafting. Artists can utilize drafting tables and reference a small library of manuals and samples for guidance. The creative possibilities are further enriched by a dye studio, added in 2016, dedicated to natural dyeing.





WOODSHOP

ACRE's woodshop, equipped with all the essential tools and equipment for woodworking, adjoins a vast lumber yard of old-growth timber and reusable materials salvaged from demolished Chicago buildings by the owners of the farm. Residents can access to this collection of materials for a nominal fee.

The facility also houses a blacksmithing forge, various blacksmithing tools, and a lathe for opportunities to learn and explore materials.





HIGH FIRE

The latest addition to ACRE is the High Fire yard, a studio specifically outfitted for adventurous material experimentation involving high temperatures and combustible elements. This space facilitates a range of fiery practices from charcoal and lime manufacturing to sand mold casting with aluminum.

For those delving into metalwork, ACRE provides necessary safety gear, sand, molds, and propane. To maintain a constant and high-quality supply of these materials, the studio operates on a material exchange program, charging a nominal fee per pound of metal used based on material cost.



PERFORMANCE STAGE

Our 2,500 sq ft covered outdoor theater space serves as a versatile venue for lectures, screenings, and performances, complete with a sound booth, projection screen, and the essential disco ball. This transformative space is equally suited for movement practices, daytime workshops, and morning exercise routines as it is for dancing, karaoke, and costume parties.



RECIPROCITY

At the residency, volunteer staff members and residents shape the program and contribute to an environment of high activity and experimentation.

ACRE is itself a collaborative project; the energy surrounding the program encourages active participation. Every artist who has participated in the residency is invited to return as staff, serve on a committee, and ultimately make decisions about the organization. A growing national network of over 2000 alumni of which over 200 are regular volunteers alternating periods of facilitating ACRE's programs and contributing to its operations.



OUTCOMES

Artists gain a pivotal opportunity to expand their practice, develop professionally, and build community with a thriving nationwide network of peers and arts professionals.

We offer programs that aren't just focused on the creation of art, but that nurture artists and offer access to a future in the arts and culture sector.

ACRE provides a discursive educational opportunity across eight staffed studios for material exploration, collaboration, skill exchange, and personal growth.



OUTCOMES



ACRE focuses on relationship building among artists, centering a philosophy that helps emerging artists to realize their peers are an incredible resource, instead of viewing fellow artists as competition.

Often residents create lasting bonds with other residents, visitors, and staff that lead to long-term collaborations and exhibition and career opportunities. After the summer residency, ACRE's robust programming activities allow these connections to flourish.

We have seen time and time again how the collaborations and connections seeded at ACRE and cultivated in Chicago have produced countless opportunities for artists in the city, but also in cities across the country.

TESTIMONIALS



“I came to the retreat and was treated to books, art and community. The food was 5 star and the staff was super friendly and informative. The property and views were inspiring. The studios are amazing and efficiently set up to inspire. I truly appreciated this opportunity to dive back into my practice with such support.”

– WILD YAMS Resident, 2023 Residency collaboration

“I felt fully seen, understood, loved and supported at ACRE and I learned oh-so-many things!”

—Ruby Que, 2022 Resident

“ACRE is the most intentional and equitable residency I have ever attended.”

—2022 Session 3 Resident

“I connected with great people, and I felt that ACRE created the perfect conditions for creativity to flourish.”

—2022 Session 3 Resident

“I found my time generative, expansive, beautifully vulnerable, full of starry nights, unexpected artistic collaborations and damn fine food.”

—Lois Bielefeld, 2022 Resident

“My practice will never be the same. I can hardly believe that 2 weeks in the middle of nowhere could change me so much. The critical, creative, and encouraging environment of ACRE is like nowhere else on Earth.”

—Former Resident

“I left ACRE feeling inspired and empowered because of the conversations I had with my peers.”

—Stephen Proski, 2022 Resident



“As someone who lives in a city and works full-time, coming to ACRE was a rejuvenating and productive experience. Unlike other residencies, ACRE creates an environment that is open to everyone- you can reflect, you can discuss, you can learn and you can produce.”

—Former Resident

“The space ACRE created, especially during the pandemic, was a unique one. It was the first time any of us were able to meaningfully, continuously spend time as a group since March. Their use of the residency this summer epitomizes ACRE's dedication to caring for and fostering spaces of community building. Everyone in the Annas cohort felt restored and hopeful.”

— Alden Burke, Co-Director of Annas, 2020 Residency Collaboration



RECENT ALUMNI SUCCESSES

ACRE aims to support the work of emerging artists at critical junctures in their careers. Many ACRE Residents go on to exhibit in major museums, earn prestigious awards, and gain prominent teaching and professional appointments.

LING-LIN KU

Appointed Assistant Professor at Carnegie Mellon University

KIMI HANAUER

Awarded Andy Warhol Foundation Lightning Fund Grant for The Center for Liberatory Practice & Poetry

GORDON HALL + ABIGAIL LUCIEN

Featured in Sept 2022 Art in America: The State of Sculpture

ABBEY MUZA

Fulbright Fellow Recipient of the Harriet Hale-Woolley Award, currently at Fondation de Etats-Unis

JUICEBOX BURTON

2022 Ford Foundation and National Performance Network Take Notice Awardee 1 of 5
NO Film Society Emerging Voices IAB

PHOEBE WANG

Audio work featured on BBC Radio 3: Between the Ears

LIZ FERRER

2023 Creative Capital Award

SOFÍA CÓRDOVA + LULU VARONA

Featured in the exhibition no existe un mundo poshuracán at Whitney Museum Curated by Marcela Guerrero.

A vintage blue and white bathtub is positioned in a field of tall grass and weeds. The bathtub is the central focus, showing signs of age and rust. In the background, there is a line of trees under a hazy sky. A semi-transparent green box with a yellow border is overlaid on the image, containing text.

2024 AVAILABLE
DATES:
JUNE 12 – 16
AUGUST 15 – 25
SEPTEMBER 5 – 25

THANK YOU

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