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Mackinac State Historic Parks Accepting Applications for Artist-in-Residence Program

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — Mackinac Island has long been an inspiration for artists. Mackinac State Historic Parks is providing an opportunity to let it inspire you.

The Mackinac State Historic Parks Artist-In-Residence Program is designed to promote and encourage the creation of artistic works inspired by the history, natural wonders, and beauty of Mackinac Island. The residencies are available to writers, composers, sculptors, and visual artists including photographers.

The two- and three-week residencies are available beginning in early June and continuing through early October.

“We are excited to see this project come to fruition in 2019,” said Mackinac State Historic Parks Director Phil Porter. “We are looking forward to hosting talented artists and watching them create art inspired by Mackinac.”

The resident artist will be housed in the newly-remodeled second floor of the Mackinac Island Visitor’s Center, formerly the 1915 Mackinac Island Coast Guard Station. The residence, which overlooks the Straits of Mackinac, includes a studio apartment with one full size bed with bedding and towels provided, private bath and shower, kitchen with stove, sink, and full-size refrigerator, washer and dryer, WIFI, and basic kitchen and cleaning supplies. It’s an historic building and the second floor is only accessible by stairway. The residence is provided rent-free to the selected artist.

There is a large adjoining work/gathering space that is available by appointment for the artist when not in use by park. The artist also has access, with previous arrangement, to the work space in the lower level of the Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum for project work and/or workshops.

The artist is asked to provide two public presentations (workshop, lecture, reading, demonstration, etc.) during the residency and contribute one piece of their work to Mackinac State Historic Parks within 12 months. The artist is responsible for transportation to and from Mackinac Island and should bring all personal equipment, supplies, and food.

A jury of representatives from Mackinac State Historic Parks, the Mackinac Island Arts Council, and the Mackinac Island Community Foundation will select from the pool of applicants. Selections will be made solely on the basis of merit and how their work can advance the program's goal of encouraging the creation of artistic works inspired by the history, natural wonders, and beauty of Mackinac Island.

The application process and schedule are available at mackinacparks.com/artist-in-residence. A PDF version of this press release can be found at mackinacparks.com/media. Photos are available by request.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, Historic Downtown Mackinac, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, and Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or on the web at www.mackinacparks.com.

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