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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2025

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 artists of all mediums, including, but not limited to, writers, composers, sculptors, and visual artists including photographers.

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

“We were so pleased to have completed the seventh year of the program in 2025 and look forward to 2026,” said Mackinac State Historic Parks Director Steve Brisson. “It was inspiring to witness how Mackinac sparked the creativity of the various artists these last seven years.”

The resident artist is housed in the remodeled second floor of the Mackinac Island State Park 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 is an historic building, and the second floor is only accessible by stairway. The residence is provided rent-free to the selected artist.

The Station 256 Conference Room 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 workspace in the lower level of The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum for project work and/or workshops.

The artist is asked to provide a public presentation (workshop, lecture, reading, demonstration, etc.) on the second Wednesday of their residency and contribute one piece of their work to Mackinac State Historic Parks within 12 months of their residency. The artist is responsible for transportation to, from, and while on Mackinac Island and is responsible for all personal equipment, supplies, and food.

A jury of representatives from the Mackinac community 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.

Further information, such as the application and schedule, are available by clicking this link. Deadlines for applications is January 9, 2026. A downloadable version of this release can be found here. Additional 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, The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, the Biddle House, featuring the Mackinac Island Native American Museum, Benjamin Blacksmith Shop, American Fur Co. Store & Dr. Beaumont Museum, McGulpin House, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Dousman's Mill Historic Site, and Michilimackinac State 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 online at www.mackinacparks.com.

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