



Calling DeSoto Artists!

The DeSoto Artists Lab (DAL) is a new initiative of the City of DeSoto Arts Commission designed to invest in the development and visibility of artists living and working in our community.

The DAL will allow up to six artists to work as Artists in Residence in various spaces in our community, working primarily with a designated organization, city agency or in a commercial space where the public has open access to interact with the artists. The stipend-based residencies have mutual benefits for the artist and for the community – providing time and space for artists and other creative individuals to work; and involving residents and visitors in a variety of visual and performing art forms.

Artists will be selected through a competitive process. The length of a residency can vary from one week up to six months and can support a single artistic discipline or bring together artists from across multi-disciplines.

DAL Artists are matched up with a mentor artist to support the development and implementation of the residency projects.

The responsibilities of artists include, but are not limited to, self-scheduled meetings with mentors, participation a series of technical assistance workshops provided by the City of DeSoto, conducting research to identify a space for the residency to occur and showcasing a public presentation of their work.

ARTIST ELEGIBILITY: Emerging or professional artists who have a strong interest in engaging the DeSoto community in creative activity. Artists working in all media are eligible.

HOW TO APPLY: Artists should submit a single PDF file that includes:

1. Letter of interest (indicating a strong rationale for acceptance into the DeSoto Artist Lab and willingness to work with the City of DeSoto staff to develop a successful residency)
2. Professional resume which includes your Artist Statement
3. Project budget including artist fee for the residency period

4. Up to four images that give the review panel an indication of their work and artistic discipline. (one photo per page) Note: (Performing artists may also submit links to audio or video files.)
5. Submit two references from people who can speak to your artistic practice.

The PDF of the full Application packet including all documents mentioned above should be emailed to: kathy.jones@desototexas.gov.

The deadline for submission of the application packet is Friday September 17, 2021 at midnight. No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

SELECTION PROCESS The DAL Review Panel will review the materials submitted and may request an in-person or virtual interview with the finalists. Artists will be notified by email of acceptance to the DAL program and will be required to enter into a contract with the City of DeSoto for participation in the program. Artist will work with City staff to finalize a scope of services to be attached to their contract documents.

PREPARING YOU'RE APPLICATION PACKET:

Here are some general things you can do that will help you prepare your application packet.

Applicant Work sessions:

All applicants are encouraged to attend one of two work virtual sessions to help you prepare a successful residency and application for support.

Work session dates are: Thursday September 9 at 5:30 p.m. or
Friday September 10 at 9:30 a.m.

Tips for Applicants

Follow directions

The DeSoto Artist Lab represents the launch of the city's new cultural plan. We are excited that you would consider being in the first class of the Lab and look forward to receiving your application. We are working hard to make this process simple and accessible, and so it's important that you follow the directions. Double check the application checklist. Send work samples in the format that is requested and most importantly, do not send more than what is requested.

Work samples

You should have a well-documented history of your work. DO NOT submit poorly documented work samples: images that are blurry, fuzzy video, scratchy recordings.

Submit your strongest work but limit those work samples to six.

It's hard to judge your own work, so get feedback from some people whose artistic opinions you respect by asking them to look over your work samples.

Artist Statement

Many residency programs require that you provide an Artist Statement as part of the application. It is helpful to be able to articulate your personal artistic statement. An artist statement should be coherent, brief and communicate your creative practice and your approach to the residency for DeSoto.

Project proposal

Your proposal will not tie you to a specific project; but should let the panel know that you've thought through how you might design an artist residency for DeSoto. It is likely and expected that once in residence you will explore other ideas and perhaps even decide to work with a fellow artist to make the project even more exciting. You should consider these things in your proposal: location, length of project, size of class/group, residency length, access to facilities/equipment, and opportunities for community engagement.

References

The review panel will be interested in hearing from two references about your seriousness as an artist, your dedication to a creative practice, and your ability to work in a community the size of DeSoto to encourage participation in the arts and creativity.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

Budget

Awards for this program will range from \$1,500 for a short-term project-based residency up to \$6,000 for a longer residency performed over a 4–8 week period.

Sample budget form

Artist(s) Fee	\$ _____
Materials and supplies	\$ _____
Production costs (if any)	\$ _____
¹ Workspace or studio rent	\$ _____
Document of project	\$ _____
Total amount requested from the city	\$ _____

¹ The City of Desoto is interested in collaborating with the artists to locate and provide a workspace easily accessible to the public.