

## **MacDowell**

### **Safety Protocols and Reopening Process**

#### **Fall 2020**

Planning for reopening of MacDowell's artist residency program began in June, with drafts being refined over the summer based on input from MacDowell's operations staff together with medical, professional, and legal advisors. In July, 2x MacDowell Fellow in journalism and Houston-based internist Dr. Ricardo Nuila signed on as formal advisor through the end of 2020. In addition to Dr. Nuila, MacDowell is indebted to Dr. Lindberg (Monadnock Community Hospital), Siobhan Benham, LRNP, Kathleen Williams of Quest Diagnostics, Dr. Sheri Fink (2x MacDowell Fellow and NY Times contributing editor), and consultant Lisa Yancey for providing essential and timely guidance.

Responding to the draft plan presented August 18<sup>th</sup>, MacDowell's board activated a Reopening Oversight Task Force. On September 1<sup>st</sup> Dr. Nuila presented the reopening plan to the Task Force (which included two NH-based board members). Following MacDowell's board procedures, the Task Force recommended the plan to the Executive Committee and they, in turn, voted unanimously in favor, passing it on with their recommendation to the full board. At a board meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Nuila and Resident Director David Macy fielded questions from trustees and, after thoughtful discussion, the board voted unanimously in favor of the reopening plan.

### **REOPENING MACDOWELL'S RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

#### **Degrees of Freedom to Create**

The modified residency program described below aims for a middle path between unfettered socialization and an entirely quarantined stay in a rural studio. By limiting the resident population to a maximum of 14, each artist can be assigned to their own live-in studio ideally suited to supporting quarantine for any portion of the residency. In the interest of community health, meals will be delivered to the studios and the dining room will be closed.

#### **Scheduling**

Rather than sustaining past practice of continuously shifting artist population, upcoming residencies will be divided into discreet cohorts of artists scheduled to arrive on the same day. Residency duration will be capped at four weeks, with artists departing according to individual commitments outside MacDowell. A minimum downtime of five business days will be scheduled between departure of one group of artists and arrival of the next, allowing vacated studios to sit idle for a minimum of two days before being cleaned by housekeeping staff.

#### **Artist Candidates**

The first three cohorts invited for residency will be drawn from the pool of artists whose Fellowship dates were cancelled March-May, 2020. Those artists who'd been accepted for 2020 summer Fellowships will be offered new dates February-August, 2021. To the degree practical, the first cohort will maximize participation of those living within a one day drive from New Hampshire. Residencies will be offered only to artists residing in regions without CDC travel restrictions and, given the shifting nature of the pandemic, it is possible that offers could be retracted if local conditions change after the

schedule has been set. Eligibility will be regularly updated based on risk-data associated with geographic region, air travel, and other modes of transportation.

### **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access**

To remove financial barriers, car rental costs and other travel expenses will be reimbursable. Of those artists whose dates were cancelled May-March 2020, roughly three quarters expressed interest in being rescheduled for fall or early winter. Of those who declined, none identified financial hardship as the primary reason (employment obligations were the most common reason, followed by health concerns prohibiting travel during pandemic). To equitably distribute fall and winter residencies, demographic information gathered from a fresh survey will be used together with studio requirements and date-availability.

### **Fall 2020/Winter 2021 Fellowship Outline**

- As a precondition of residency, artists will sign a document committing to adoption of precautionary practices supporting community health as outlined below as well as a waiver of liability, holding MacDowell harmless in the event of illness.
  - The signed commitments document notes that failure to comply with agreed upon safety precautions could, at MacDowell's sole discretion, lead to dismissal.
- Upon arriving in Peterborough, artists will go directly into quarantine in one of 14 live-in studios; MacDowell quarantine is defined as living alone in one's studio where meals will be delivered. Artists will host no visitors during quarantine and activity outside the studio shall be limited to solitary walks or similar exercise within MacDowell's property bounds.
- For the duration of the Fellowship, all artists will be obliged to follow NH state and CDC guidelines regarding physical distancing, mask-wearing in public settings, and vigorous hygiene for hands & high-touch surfaces.
- MacDowell Artists and staff COVID testing:
  - As has been true since April, NH staff will perform daily self-assessment for symptoms correlated with COVID and, unless superseding state or federal guidelines prohibit, all staff will be tested one week before each artist-cohort arrives (molecular PCR test).
  - After the entire cohort is on site, all artists will be tested for COVID-19
  - After negative test results have been returned for all staff and artists, quarantine will be lifted (within NH State guidelines) and the group in residence will be granted greater freedom of movement on the property
  - One or more positive test results would trigger continued quarantine and action steps outlined in the Emergency Preparedness Plan
- After release from quarantine, artists will be asked to limit off-property excursions to only essential shopping, maintaining physical distance and wearing a mask in public whether on campus or off.
- Fellows may not host visitors while in residence.
- Artists using Baldwin Library will have assigned seats and designated hours of access.

- Food Service
  - Lunches and dinners from MacDowell's kitchen will be delivered daily to each artist's studio.
  - Post-quarantine, outdoor dining may be available as an opt-in choice (weather permitting).
  - Studios will be stocked with coffee/tea and staples for self-serve breakfast.
  - All kitchen staff have been certified through ServSafe, the national regulatory organization for commercial kitchens, including a module focused on preventing COVID transmission.
- Artists will be responsible for laundering their own clothes and linens; a schedule for access to on-site laundry facilities will be posted.
- Prior to arrival, artists will be surveyed regarding telehealth access to their PCP.

### **100 High Street, the Main Hall**

The main hall will be closed to artists other than by appointment. All visitors, including artists, vendors, contractors, and guests will be obliged to maintain interpersonal distance requirements and wear masks when inside the building.

### **Maintenance, Housekeeping, and Administrative Staff**

Advance communication, both written and via videoconference, will be expanded/enhanced in an effort to resolve artists' questions prior to arrival.

Artists will be strongly encouraged to communicate with staff via email, telephone, or videoconference; in-person interactions such as orientation and shipping & receiving of art supplies will be physically distanced and, to the degree practical, conducted outdoors.