



## **KODA Future of Residencies Summary and Recommendations**

Prepared for Klaudia Ofwona Draber, Executive Director, KODA

On February 11, 2020 KODA held their first professional development event for artists at FiveMyles in Brooklyn, New York. Hosted by Lohar Projects, the seminar began with a short feedback session to provide KODA with insights into shaping a residency program for mid-career artists focused on social justice. Artist attendees participated in a short survey and three breakout discussion groups facilitated by Sheetal Prajapati. This summary report includes the survey and breakout session findings along with a set of recommendations to KODA for shaping a residency program.

### **3 QUESTION SURVEY RESULTS** *(17 written responses collected)*

#### **1. Have you participated in a residency program?**

14 YES            3 NO

#### **2. If so, have you participated in a New York-based residency program? Which one(s)?**

*(34 residency experiences from 17 respondents)*

- Socrates Sculpture Park (4)
- AIM, Bronx Museum (4)
- LMCC (3)
- More Art (3)
- Dieu Donne (2)
- Eyebeam Center (2)
- ISCP
- NARS Foundation
- New Inc., New Museum
- TED
- Sharpe
- AIR Dumbo
- Walentas
- Two Tree Cultural Space
- VLA Art and Law
- Whitney Program
- Wavehill
- Center for Book Arts
- BRIC Media Art Fellowship
- Other (3 I wasn't able to read)

#### **3. Briefly describe an experience that has shaped your practice.**

- News, research, interviews
- Erasure of public and private memory through urban planning and architecture
- Fred Wilson
- Attending World Economic Forum (Davos)



- People and environment
- Design Forward fellowship in Athens, Greece
- Conversations and listening to the communities I work with/make art with/for + collaborators
- Being in nature
- Speaking with other artists
- NYFA immigrant artist workshop
- Readings, events, and residencies
- Conversations with people I trust
- Access to space and equipment
- Making public work and having people "adopt" it
- Using an iphone camera, having it always on me, taking advantage of its inherent effects
- When I paid attention to a person who became a mentor
- Traveling with my son

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS FEEDBACK** (approx. 25-35 participants)

Each group responded to one question around three themes: Community, Practice and Resource.

#### **GROUP 1: COMMUNITY**

*What kind of community do you want in a residency experience? What do you hope to learn with or from them?*

- Alliance and support of project/ideas (project-based support)
- Meaningful connection to specific communities (2) and someone within residency team that can help build bridges
- Access to knowledge and expertise
- Duration of time that allows time to get to know and work with others
- Solitary time
- Collaboration
- Diversity of residents

#### **GROUP 2: PRACTICE**

*What do you want to be able to bring to a residency experience? (Questions, ideas, skills)*

- Patience (2)
- Skillshare (2)
- Curiosity (2)
- Dialog (3)
- Time
- Cultural exchange (3)
- Dinners
- One-on-one time
- Honest critique
- Help/Support
- Humor



### **GROUP 3: RESOURCES**

*What resources do you want a residency to provide to support your practice in New York?*

- Space (4)
- Funding (4)
- Events
- Professional development (5) - Financial & Social media (2)
- Press (2)
- Discounts on/access to fabrication/special equipment use/rental
- Community
- Supplies/Materials
- Professional Interactions/Connections
- Exhibition Opportunities

### **SUMMARY**

Artists identified three key areas of support a residency program in New York could/should offer.

1. COMMUNITY CONNECTION
2. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
3. RESOURCES

#### COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Artists identified communities they hoped to connect with through a residency as follows:

1. **Professional** - introductions and connections to curators, galleries, museums, funders and other professionals that can support their work in various ways within and outside the New York community. In particular, opportunities for exhibiting and selling work.
2. **Artistic** - connecting with a community of creative peers through a residency program that can serve as a space of exchange and support. Some artists noted they would love to be part of a group of residents with aligned goals or intersecting practices as a means to developing their work or potential artistic collaborations
3. **Engagement** - facilitation of relationship building with local communities that artists may be interested in working with or for through their creative practice.
4. **Diverse, Supportive, and Open Exchange** - the majority of artists were interested in a residency experience that provided a space of trust, safety, and diversity to learn together and with each other as well as feel supported in the development of their work. Many respondents felt they had a variety of skills and resources to offer a peer group of residents as well.

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Artists identified professional development as a critical component of any residency experience with a focus on sustainability and career development. Some primary areas of interest include:

1. **Financial** - programs/seminar that guide artists through developing a sustainable financial plan (long term)
2. **Social Media/Promotion** - programs/seminars that support artists in developing their online and promotional narratives for their work (web, social, writing)



3. **Career Development** - programs/seminars that support artists in thinking critically about how to develop career goals that make sense and how to direct their work and efforts towards meeting these goals.
4. **Writing**- programs/seminars that support artists in crafting narratives for their work for artist statements, proposals, and applications

## RESOURCES

Artists identified the need for access to resources in New York for making and producing work. Some primary resources listed included:

1. **Space** (Studio) -safe and accessible spaces for making work
2. **Equipment and Fabrication** - access to specialized equipment or workshop spaces for fabrication as well as discounts on purchasing or rental of equipment
3. **Expertise** - access to network of fabricators and experts for the development and creation of work
4. **Funding** - financial support for the making and presentation of work
5. **Time** - dedicated time for their artistic practice

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Lohar Projects recommends KODA prioritize the following in the development of a social justice residency program based in New York.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** - Given the focus on social justice, KODA should develop a residency program that supports artists in longer term engagements with discrete communities. This can range from direct facilitation and introductions to learning seminars on how to approach and serve a community through an artistic practice. Peer exchange could be encourage for learning.

**STUDIO SPACE** - In New York, this resource seems to be most coveted. KODA should consider how to provide work space for artists as part of a residency experience in New York.

**ACCESS TO RESOURCES** - As an organization serving mid-career artists, KODA has a unique opportunity to serve as a hub for accessing tangible resources in New York - from digital equipment, darkroom or fabrication spaces to discounts on accessing these types of resources.. KODA may want to consider how to build partnerships with local businesses and spaces that could offer this to residents in some way.

**PEER AND EXPERT EXCHANGE** - Community was of central interest to artists. As mid career professionals, artists seem interested in both exchange with creative peers in similar places in their careers and professionals across the field who could support their work in various ways. An additional note for KODA is to consider how to shape a residency experience that provides a safe and open space for diverse voices and perspectives (as desired by artists).



**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** - Artists at all stages of their career need professional support and participants identified key areas of learning including financial planning, career development, and promotion. KODA should consider how to build this into their residency program.

*Additional note:* Funding was also identified as a critical need. As KODA grows, it may want to consider a grant or funding opportunity for artists or offering artists stipends as part of a residency program.

## **OTHER MODELS**

Below is a short list of New York-based residencies/programs that focus on social justice/community-based practices, provide exceptional access to resources or professional development, or have a focus on the types of artists they are serving. Lohar Projects recommends that KODA explore these programs to understand how they can develop a residency that complements this current ecosystem of support in new ways.

[New Inc, New Museum](#) is a museum-led cultural incubator dedicated to supporting innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship across art, design, and technology.

[Arts Alliance Inc](#) is a non-profit organization committed to supporting emerging and underrepresented contemporary artists. Through innovative programming, experimentation and collaboration, AAI serves as a resource and forum to engage the community of the Lower East Side.

[Pioneer Works](#) offers Visual Arts, Technology, Music, and Narrative Art Residency programs providing free space and access to a variety of resources—3D printers, laser cutters, a sound booth, a kiln, a Risograph, large format printers and scanners, virtual reality headsets, and more—with the belief that by working together under one roof energies and ideas can be shared.

[Recess Art](#) is a non-profit that partners with artists to build a more just and equitable creative community, welcoming radical thinkers to reimagine and reshape their world with others..

[EFA SHIFT Residency](#) is a residency that provides peer support, mentoring, and studio space for artists who work in arts organizations (as curators, educators, administrators, etc) to boost their personal creative practices.

[Artists in the Marketplace Fellowship, Bronx Museum](#) is an artist development program offering career management resources to guide emerging artists through the often opaque professional practices of the art world.

[More Art](#) a nonprofit organization that supports collaborations between professional artists and communities to create public art and educational programs that inspire social justice.

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February 22, 2020, report provided by Sheetal Prajapati, Principal, [Lohar Projects](#)