



PROGRAM & APPLICATION DETAILS

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area 2026 Artist-in-Residence

In partnership with Oregon Coast Council for the Arts and Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses

Background

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (YHONA) was established by the U.S. House of Congress in order to protect unique resources and habitats found on a narrow, coastal headland created by ancient lava flows. The headland's hard basalt cliffs extend one mile into the Pacific Ocean and form tide pools teeming with life and unique habitat for seals and seabirds. Standing 93 feet tall at the westernmost point of the basalt headland, the Yaquina Head Lighthouse has been a bright beacon of the night, guiding ships along the west coast since the light was first lit on August 20, 1873. Yaquina Head ONA is a unit of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) National Conservation Lands. More information can be found here: [Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area and interpretive center | Bureau of Land Management](#).

The Oregon Coast Council for the Arts (OCCA) supports numerous arts programs and presents them at various venues on an annual or seasonal basis, all of which are supported by local businesses and individuals and by state arts organizations. OCCA is the hub of arts opportunities as the “go-to” source for information on Oregon coast arts and culture, connecting residents and visitors to all arts activities in an easily accessible manner. OCCA provides world-class arts experiences by bringing to our community performances, educational opportunities and cultural events, highlighting local treasures and providing access to world-renowned artists. Find more information here: [Oregon Coast Council for the Arts \(coastarts.org\)](#).

The Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses (FOYL) is a Cooperative Association partner with the Bureau of Land Management. Cooperating Associations, also known as “Friends Groups,” are private 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations formed by citizens to provide and support the educational and interpretive services of the parks, and to assist in the preservation and restoration of public lands and historic structures. More information can be found here: [Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses \(yaquinalights.org\)](#).

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Artist-in-Residence (AiR) partnership is two-fold. First, it promotes awareness through art of the exceptional natural and cultural treasures protected by Yaquina Head ONA as a National Conservation Land. Second, the program seeks to support the Oregon Coast region as a destination for artists and those who love art. This AiR program is established to share the scenic beauty and unique stories of Yaquina Head ONA with the public through art.

The residency provides artistic and educational opportunities to promote a deeper understanding of the special resources that are protected at Yaquina Head ONA. It fosters dialogue about a public land conservation ethic and how that impacts local communities. It also allows the artist to spend time in a stimulating, unique environment to pursue their work and share it with the public.

Location

YHONA is a 100-acre site, located in the community of Newport on the rugged Central Oregon coast. The site is surrounded by state beaches with many local parks in the region. Shopping and supplies are conveniently found in the local community. Newport is an approximately 2.5-hour drive from Portland, Oregon.

Residency Details

Sponsors YHONA, OCCA, and FOYL award the selected artist the opportunity to work in and around Newport, Oregon while serving as an ambassador for YHONA and the artistic community. Work completed during the residency should be of landscapes and resources found within YHONA. The residency period will be two and a half weeks, from September 11 through September 27, 2026. Depending on schedule and discipline, the artist may be provided an exhibit space at the Newport Visual Art Center ([Newport Visual Arts Center - Oregon Coast Council for the Arts](#)) or at the Newport Performing Art Center ([Newport Performing Arts Center Archives - Oregon Coast Council for the Arts \(coastarts.org\)](#)).

Late summer/early autumn is a wonderful time to be at Yaquina Head ONA, with typically warm temperatures. During this season, harbor seals and gray whales are often visible from the bluffs. Applicants must keep in mind that YHONA is a headland projecting a mile out into the rugged Pacific Ocean. Weather can be very windy and wet; the site is subjected to coastal marine influences and the artist should be prepared to work in a variety of weather conditions.

The Selected Artist Will Be Provided with:

- A monetary award of \$2000 provided by Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses.
- Recognition of achievement in press releases, advertising, and promotional materials, and on our websites. Press releases and media relations will also be done for the community project.
- An orientation tour of YHONA by BLM staff; lighthouse and afterhours access with BLM personnel, as needed and arranged.
- Use of AiR signage during residency.
- Other reimbursements as necessary and agreed upon (i.e. art supplies for community project).

In Exchange for:

- One outdoor creative community project proposed by the artist and approved by the AiR partners to be executed anytime during the residency period.
- A donated image of artwork produced during the residency for promotional use by BLM, OCCA, and FOYL. The image must be received and approved by the sponsor group within 30 days after completion of the residency. If the artist's chosen medium is not conducive to the production of an image, a comparable option will be agreed upon by the artist and the AiR partners.

Artist Must Agree:

- To sign a Bureau of Land Management Volunteer Agreement, a Licensing Agreement, a Release for Photographs & Videos, and any other applicable lodging waivers or agreements.
- To abide by all local, state, and federal laws, including all BLM rules and regulations during the residency. YHONA managers, the AiR program coordinator, and/or the national BLM Artist-in-Residence program office have the right to cancel the artist's residency immediately for: inappropriate behavior, serious disregard for safety, or failure to comply with BLM regulations.
- To allow themselves and their work to be photographed/used by the BLM, OCCA, and FOYL for publicity and records. News media will also be permitted to photograph and interview the artist.
- That any identifiable representation of a person is accompanied by written permission that is provided to YHONA.
- To display the AiR signage at all times during the residency, as a sign of identification to help ensure safety and provide ambassador opportunities to the public.

Eligibility: The residency is open to all artists over 18 years of age who are United States residents and who apply within the deadline period. Selection is solely based on merit, without regard to sex, race, creed, religion, national origin, employer, or physical ability (see "American Disability Act–ADA" section below). Department of the Interior employees and their relatives are eligible to submit applications to the program.

Residency Period: The residency is scheduled to begin on September 11, 2026 and will run through September 27, 2026.

Creative Community Project Proposal: The residency provides opportunities for learning and dialogue about the value of the National Conservation Lands, such as Yaquina Head ONA, and their connection to the local community. We believe that creativity and art give us an opportunity for such dialogue among the diverse perspectives held in the community. There are no set parameters for the community project beyond it being hosted at Yaquina Head, preferably outside (weather permitting). We welcome bold and creative ideas for engaging the community beyond a lecture or artist workshop. The details of this event will be discussed and coordinated with the selected artist prior to the start of the residency to provide time for scheduling, outreach, and marketing.

Housing: No housing is provided.

Transportation: Artist is responsible for all transportation costs, including arrival and departure to Yaquina Head, as well as transportation into YHONA during residency.

Personal Expenses: Artist is responsible for all personal expenses including travel, meals, cell phone, laundry, etc.

Copyright and Publication: The donated artwork may be reproduced by YHONA, OCCA and/or FOYL as promotional print materials or electronic publication formats. When the artist reproduces this artwork for their own purposes, publication information will include the language: "This artwork was produced under the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area Artist-in-Residence Program."

Volunteer Agreement: The selected artist will agree to be an official BLM volunteer during the residency and must agree to sign and abide by the official BLM volunteer agreement during the residency period. As such, the artist is protected by such insurance appropriate to the BLM volunteer agreement (DOI Form 1114-4).

Other Participant Responsibilities: The AiR is acting as an ambassador for YHONA and needs to conduct themselves accordingly. The selected artist will be an official BLM volunteer and is encouraged to promote appropriate site etiquette, Leave-No-Trace principles, and landscape conservation in any public contacts while serving as the residence artist. The artist will abide by all local, state, and federal laws including all BLM rules and regulations during the residency. YHONA managers and/or the national BLM AiR program office have the right to cancel the artist's residency immediately for inappropriate behavior, serious disregard for safety, or failure to comply with BLM regulations.

Applicants with Disabilities: Every effort will be made to accommodate participants with disabilities. However, accommodation corresponding to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards may be unavailable due to the historic nature of some facilities.

For additional information: Sabrina Gorney, YHONA Artist-in-Residence
Coordinator Email: sgorney@blm.gov, Phone: 541-574-3145

Application Deadline: Applications must be **received by 11:59 pm Pacific Time on June 14, 2026** to be eligible. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Submittal Requirements:

Applicants are required to submit:

- 2026 Artist-in-Residence at YHONA Application Form
- 5 to 10 digital samples of work
- Resume detailing relevant education, experience, and achievements (not to exceed two pages)
- Creative community project proposal (Not to exceed one page)
- Responses to the following questions:
 - a) What is your primary motivation to seek this residency?
 - b) What would you specifically hope to accomplish during the residency?
 - c) What is your relationship to Yaquina Head ONA? To the Oregon coast?
 - d) Where/how did you hear about the YHONA AiR Program?

Evaluation of Application: A panel consisting of members from OCCA, YHONA, and FOYL will select the 2026 Artist-in-Residence at YHONA. The following weighted criteria will be used to evaluate the applications:

- *Portfolio: 40 points*
- *Resume (Education, Experience and Achievements): 10 points*
- *Community Event Proposal(s): 30 points*
- *Response to Application Questions: 20 points*

Submission: The completed application package containing all of the above must be sent via email to: foyl@yaquinalights.org. Files may be compressed or sent in multiple email messages if necessary.

Notification: Notification regarding the 2026 Artist-in-Residence selection will be made by July 1st.

Thank you for your interest in the 2026 AiR program at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area!