



# BLM – Canyon Country District

## Artist-in-Residence Program Information

*Accepting Applications March 31, 2026, through June 1, 2026.*

### **Mission Statement:**

*Through an artist's perspective, the Artist in Residence, or AiR, program's mission is to inspire, educate, and promote stewardship, that will enhance the understanding and need to preserve our public land resources for future generations.*

### **BLM wide statement:**

The purpose of the Bureau of Land Management's AiR Program is to provide artistic and educational opportunities to promote deeper understanding of, and dialogue about, the natural, cultural, and historic resources managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM Artist-in-Residence Program aspires to share with the public the scenic beauty and unique stories of BLM and the National Landscape Conservation System through the world of art.

### **Continuation of the Program**

### **LOCATION:**

The Canyon Country District is located in Southeastern Utah, spanning 3.6 million surface acres that stretch from the Book Cliffs north of Interstate 70 to the San Juan River near the Utah/Arizona border. The district is managed by the Monticello and Moab field offices.

The Moab Field Office is a mecca for recreation, including off-highway vehicles, mountain biking, rock climbing, BASE jumping, hiking, horse-back riding, photography, and river rafting. This Field Office also supports a multiple-use mission through a wide array of land uses such as oil and gas production, mining, and livestock grazing. The Field Office is known for evidence of dinosaurs and features the Mill Canyon Interpretive Track Site and Bone Trail. The canyons, mesas, and waterways of the Moab Field Office are home to many types of desert wildlife. The area supports a healthy population of big horn sheep and provides great opportunities for wildlife viewing during the fall. Carved by the Colorado and Green rivers, the public lands that surround Moab are filled with geological features such as arches, natural bridges, mesas, and spires.

The Monticello Field Office is best known for opportunities to explore the past, by visiting cliff dwellings and rock imagery sites. Early Utah Pioneers also explored these rugged canyons and mesas, leaving traces of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and the Hole in the Rock Trail. The 75-mile Comb Ridge Monocline forms the backbone of Bears Ears National Monument. Bears Ears National Monument has a rich cultural heritage and is sacred to many Native American tribes who rely on these lands for traditional and ceremonial uses. Much of this landscape is still actively grazed by livestock, used for personal firewood collection, and is available for many forms of recreation. Outstanding opportunities to hike, visit cultural sites,

backpack, mountain bike, float the San Juan River, and ride OHVs exist within the monument boundaries. Other world-class activities include scenic driving, photography, rock climbing, camping, paleontological exploration, and wildlife. Grand Gulch cuts a serpentine swath through Cedar Mesa and is the heart of the Grand Gulch and Butler Wash Historic Districts.

### **PROGRAM GOALS:**

- Foster appreciation of the various resources within Canyon Country District and the field offices
- Share traditional knowledge and understanding of the landscape Bring awareness of the unique and fragile nature of these resources to locals and visitors
- Promote visitor ethics, stewardship, and conduct that support resource preservation and responsible recreation
- Support management objectives

### **RESIDENCY DETAILS:**

The Moab and Monticello field offices will alternate each year hosting the Artist-in-Residence program. The Moab Field Office is hosting in 2026 and is seeking applications from **visual artists**. Artwork completed during the residency must represent Canyon Country District with a focus on the Moab Field Office.

Although not defined, management may request artists to focus on an area or theme within the field office boundaries to bring awareness to District goals and/or objectives.

*The selected artist will be provided with:*

- Limited lodging (see below and may differ between Field Offices).
- Recognition of achievement in press releases, advertising, and promotional materials, and on BLM websites and social media platforms. Press releases and media relations for all public presentation programs.
- An orientation overview by BLM staff, depending on artist's interest, familiarity with the area, and experience.
- Backcountry access with BLM personnel, as requested and available.

*In Exchange for:*

- One creative community engagement project (workshop, demonstration, lecture, etc.) proposed by the artist and approved by the BLM to be executed during the residency period.
- One to two scheduled field outings, depending on length of residency, at highly visited areas to greet the local community and visitors during the residency period.
- Residents will volunteer a minimum of 32 hours per week. Selectee will log hours and locations for the Volunteer Program. Selectees are encouraged to notify the Program Coordinator of their itinerary when traveling in remote or backcountry areas.
- Residents will provide the BLM with a digital copy of completed work for the Field Office hosting the residency. Artists retain all copyright of image but agree to the production and publication of work to promote the AiR program and the BLM mission. Artists have up to 4 months following the completion of the residency to complete the donated work.

*Artists must agree to:*

- Be an official BLM Volunteer for the duration of the residency and must agree to sign and abide by the official BLM Volunteer Agreement, Licensing Agreement, and Release for Photographs & Videos, and any other applicable lodging waivers or agreements during residency.
- To abide by all local, state, and federal laws, including all BLM rules and regulations during the residency. Canyon Country District managers, the AiR program coordinator, and/or the national BLM AiR program office have the right to cancel the artist's residency and volunteer status immediately for: inappropriate behavior, serious disregard for safety, or failure to comply with BLM regulations.
- To allow themselves to be photographed by the BLM for publicity and records. News media will also be permitted to photograph and interview the artist.
- Any artwork must **not** identify or communicate the location of archaeological sites or sensitive areas not otherwise publicly identified for visitors.
- To consider the display of the AiR car magnet(s) (provided) during the Residency, as a sign of identification to help ensure safety and provide ambassador opportunities to the public.
- Adhere to the expectations and guidelines outlined herein.

**RESIDENCY PERIOD:**

Residency is 2-4 weeks chosen by the selected Artist between Sept. 11 and Oct. 31, 2026. Artists must include the length and proposed dates of residency in their application. The purpose of the time span is to provide artists flexibility to meet their goals and cater to the availability of prospective artists in residence.

**HOUSING, LODGING, and ACCOMMODATIONS:**

The BLM will provide limited housing, if available, depending on the time and location of residency:

- A campsite at one of the BLM managed campgrounds, accommodating up to a 40ft recreational vehicle. No RV hookups/utilities are available at the campground. The BLM may be able to provide a solar panel to facilitate the charging of electronics or running electricity.
- Artists are authorized one hotel night, funded by our partner Canyonlands Natural History Association during the residency.
- When volunteering in the Westwater area, space may be made available at the Westwater bunkhouse.
- Artists will have access to showers and potable water at the Moab Field Office building during regular business hours.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

The artist is encouraged to spend some of their time engaging with the public, in areas of high visitation to promote the BLM's Artist-in-Residence program mission and to share their artistic vision. The artist will agree to scheduling one or two sessions that will be advertised to locals and visitors.

The selected artist will conduct at least one public event during the residency. The public event could be in the form of a workshop, demonstration, tour, presentation, capstone, or other creative activity. The BLM will facilitate the bookings, reservations, and announcement of the public event.

#### **SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:**

Canyon Country District is a rugged landscape. Temperatures can range from 20-100°F, and the area has scarce and scattered water sources. During the time of residency, monsoonal rains and thunderstorms are possible. There are many front country areas accessible by paved roads, however cell service can be unreliable. There are many opportunities for accessing remote backcountry areas by dirt roads. These areas require self-reliance, the ability to make informed planning decisions, navigate on foot or by vehicle in the backcountry and self-rescue.

#### **TRANSPORTATION:**

Artist is responsible for all transportation costs, including arrival and departure to Canyon Country District, Moab or Monticello field offices, as well as transportation during residency. Though not required, an all-wheel drive vehicle with high clearance is recommended to facilitate access to more of the surrounding area. Artist vehicles must adhere to all state and/or federal safety and registration requirements.

Volunteer will not be operating a government vehicle but may accompany AiR Coordinator or other BLM personnel in government vehicles as a passenger. The Defensive Driving Course will not be required for Artist.

#### **EQUIPMENT USE**

Artists assume any liability for all personal equipment and supplies that artists provide at their own expense. Artists assume responsibility for the expense of regular maintenance and any damage that may occur during use of personal equipment. The government is not responsible to compensate artists for expenses incurred, or to replace or repair said equipment.

#### **PERSONAL EXPENSES:**

Artists are responsible for all personal expenses including, but not limited to travel, cell phone, laundry, supplies, meals etc.

#### **TRAINING:**

The BLM will provide pre-project orientation, safety briefings, and on the job training necessary for artists to adequately perform duties. Orientation will include but not be limited to: Residency expectations, BLM policy and regulations, recreation information, safety and risk assessments, BLM staff contact lists, Department of Interior sexual harassment policy, volunteer agreement, emergency contact and medical facility locations, and Moab amenities. The AiR Coordinator will monitor the artist's progress and give guidance as necessary. Training will be documented and included in program files.

#### **PROFESSIONAL IMAGE:**

The Artist in Residence is a volunteer and a representative of the BLM. Thus, volunteers are expected to present a professional image of BLM and support the multiple use mission of the agency.

#### **UNIFORMS:**

Volunteer uniforms are required when the artist is in the field. The selected artist will be issued a BLM t-shirt, vest, hat, and nametag to wear. Easily identifiable clothing promotes an ambassador role of residency and volunteer safety.

#### **COPYRIGHT & PUBLICATION:**

The artist will retain copyright of artwork(s)/image(s) produced during residency, but program may use digital images of artwork in promotional, interpretive, and educational print or digital materials. When the artist uses any images of artwork produced during the residency for his/her own purposes, publication information will provide credit stating that the images were produced during the 2026 Canyon Country District Artist in Residence, BLM.

Artists are required to provide the BLM at least one high-resolution, reproduction-quality image in digital format (18 x 24 inches at 300 dpi) of an original artwork created during the residency or as a result of it.

**\*Donated piece must be completed and received no later than 4 months after the close of residency period.**

**The artwork must not identify archaeological or sensitive sites and names of such, that are not otherwise publicized by BLM**

#### **BLM 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 (Form 301A). The Artist in Residence is acting as an **ambassador for Canyon County District BLM** and needs to conduct themselves accordingly. As a BLM Volunteer the artist agrees to represent the BLM and its mission and interact with the public in a courteous and professional manner. The selected artist will be an official BLM volunteer and is encouraged to promote appropriate site etiquette, Leave-No-Trace principles, stewardship, 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. Volunteer agrees to record and report hours of service to the AiR Coordinator, who will forward the hours to the appropriate personnel at the end of the residency. The District and Field Office Managers 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.

#### **ON-SITE CONTACT**

The program contact will be the local Artist-in-Residence Coordinator at either of the two BLM locations (Monticello or Moab). This person will be responsible for onsite coordination and scheduling of Artist-in-Residence program participants. The local program contact will provide a brief orientation to the guest artist of the BLM site and facilitate their use of on-site accommodations, security, and other site facilities. The local program contact will also schedule any on-site public presentations by the guest artist, local publicity, and assist with any special equipment needs. The on-site program Coordinator will provide training and orientation to selectee.

#### **SECURITY:**

Artists will not be accessing government facilities or utilizing government computers, equipment, vehicles, and supplies without an AiR Coordinator and/ or aBLM escort. A security clearance is not required.

### **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.

For the 2026 program, Residency is open to visual artists only. Subsequent years, residency may be open to and include performance artists. The program will consider any medium suitable for digital reproduction including two-dimensional visual still media (such as painting, photography, printmaking), sculpture, video, etc.

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.

### **APPLICANTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Every effort will be made to accommodate participants with disabilities. However, accommodation corresponding to Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA, standards may be unavailable due to the historic or primitive nature of facilities in field locations.

### **APPLICATION PACKET:**

Application must include:

1. **Application Form**
2. **Sample of Artwork:** Five (5) different visual images, on labeled 35mm slides or digital storage media (if emailed). Digital images must be in JPEG file format at 300 dpi, not to exceed 5 MB each in file size. If mailing, printed images must not exceed 8x10 in size. Use your last name and image number in the file. (Example: FirstLast\_Image01.jpg).
3. **Image list:** Provide a one-page list with title, artistic medium, date, and other relevant information that will assist in the evaluation of your work. (printed, or PDF/MS word document format).
4. **Resume:** Please provide a professional resume, including exhibition record, fellowships, residencies, and other honors – length not to exceed two pages in 11-point typeface (printed, PDF/ MS word document format).
5. **Community Engagement Proposal:** No more than one page in length, 11-point typeface (printed, PDF/MS word document format).
6. **Application Question Responses:**
  - i. What is your primary motivation to seek this residency?
  - ii. What would you specifically hope to accomplish during the residency?
  - iii. What is your relationship to the Moab area? The Colorado Plateau?
  - iv. Where/how did you hear about the Artist in Residence Program?

### **ART SAMPLE GUIDELINES:**

- Visual Artists (photographers, painters, printmakers, etc.): Five (5) different visual images, on labeled 35mm slides or digital storage media (if emailed). Digital images must be in JPEG file format, at 300 dpi, not to exceed 5MB each in file size. If mailing, printed images must not exceed 8x10 in size. Use your last name and image number in the file name.

- Videographers: Submit two productions, or segments thereof, not to exceed 5 minutes total, on CD/DVD in MPEG file format.
- Writers: Submit up to 10 pages of written samples, double-spaced, printed or in Word (.doc) format.

**SELECTION CRITERIA:**

Final selections are based on the merit and professionalism of the artist and the proposal. Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- 40 points-Sample Portfolio: The artistic merit of the work submitted.
- 10 points Resume: Applicant's background and previous accomplishments.
- 30 points Community Engagement Proposal: Quality, feasibility, and alignment with program goals as well as a connection to the natural and cultural resources within the field office area.
- 20 points Response to Application Questions: Responses are thoughtful, unique and reflect an authentic interest in the field office area.

**SELECTION PROCESS:**

A selection panel based on BLM employees from each Field Office, CNHA staff, and former Artists in Residence will be formed. The panel will review applications, and select one artist, with one alternative selection in case the first is unable to commit. Selection is based on artistic portfolio, experience, response to application questions, and the community engagement proposal.

**APPLICATION PERIOD:**

Applications will be accepted **March 31, 2026, through June 1, 2026**. Applications must be completed and sent by postal mail or email to the address below. Selections will be made, and applicants will be notified **July 2026**.

**Mailing Address:** Bureau of Land Management  
82 E. Dogwood Ave  
Moab, UT 84532  
Attn: Artist-In Residence Program

**Email:** Eran Howarth, [EHowarth@blm.gov](mailto:EHowarth@blm.gov)

**Good Luck!!!**