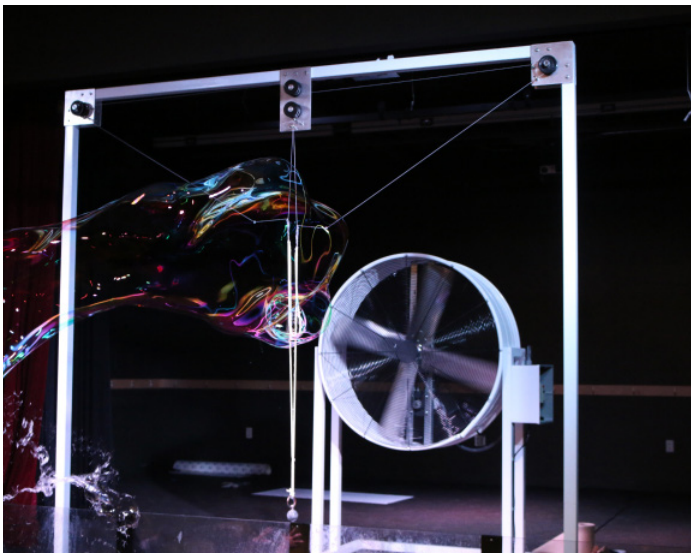


TOUGH ART 2023 CALL FOR ARTISTS

The mission of Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh is to provide innovative and inclusive museum experiences that inspire kindness, joy, creativity and curiosity for all learners. We forge connections with artists, community partners and neighbors to work on behalf of children, youth and families. Our vision is to transform education.

*We provide the highest quality exhibits and programs for learning and play.
We are a partner and a resource for people who work with or on behalf of children.*



*Bubble Device #4 by Nicholas Hanna
2016 Tough Art Resident*



*Reach by Scott Garner
2013 Tough Art Resident*

Introduction:

The Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh is dedicated to fostering the talent and innovation of artists as experience makers. The Tough Art Residency Program, that began in 2007, looks to expand the skills of established and emerging artists through the experience of creating a piece for one of the toughest venues for art: a children’s museum.

The Museum is committed to working with artists to present excellent contemporary art to our visitors. Every year artists are invited to work with the museum through a multitude of programs and projects. The annual Tough Art Residency Program enables the Museum to expand its ever-growing collection of interactive artwork accessible to all.



*Things That Fly by John Peña
2012 Tough Art Resident*



*Kitty Kiddie Meow Meow by Scott Andrew and Jonathan Armistead
2012 Tough Art Residents*

About the Residency:

The Tough Art Residency Program seeks to connect a diverse group of artists to the resources and audience of the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh.

Across the residency, artists are given two tasks:

1. Create a piece to be incorporated into the facility with direct impact on the visitor experience.
2. Prototype and evaluate their process to achieve the desired outcome.

It is important to remember that the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh is a very public place, and that art within a children’s museum occupies a unique niche of public art. Our visitors are extremely motivated to engage with art in direct, physical, and sometimes aggressive ways that are completely different from a traditional venue. The museum expects artists to adapt to this challenging environment while maintaining the rigor and sophistication of their practice. We welcome projects that present new ideas and unexpected experiences to children and families. Our team works with artists to produce artworks that are safe and durable.

Goals:

- Produce artwork that is tough enough to withstand public interaction, especially that of children.
- Work collaboratively with Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh staff to create and develop an engaging work of art to be exhibited in the museum.
- Give artists a platform to display their work and reach a potentially new audience, which in turn, provides new avenues of art exploration for the Museum.

Logistics:

The residency program invites artist to be in residence June through mid-September 2023. During this time, they will work in the museum to develop and create new works to be exhibited the fall/winter of 2023-2024. Artists work with museum staff to build prototypes, test ideas on the museum floor, and fabricate and install a finished work.

Note- Museum has shared work space for each artist, but does not offer private studio spaces.

Benefits:

- \$5,000 honorarium
- \$3,500 materials budget
- Access to fabrication facilities (fully equipped wood and machine shops, a metal fabrication shop--MIG only, and a CNC router)
- Opening reception
- Professional photographs of final artwork

One Out-of-town Artists will also receive:

- Housing for duration of residency
- Up to \$1,000 to fund transit to/from Pittsburgh at the beginning and end of residency

Eligibility:

Artists with demonstrated capabilities in their medium will be considered for the program. The program is intended to support emerging artists in their development as well as give opportunities for established artists to share their work with a wider audience. Artists with demonstrated capabilities for creating interactive, immersive, sculptural, or media-based projects are encouraged to apply.

We seek submissions from artists who represent the broad spectrum of the greater artist community. We value diversity in age, gender, ethnicity and gender expression as well as diversity in medium. Artists from any location (local, national, international) are eligible to apply. Must 18 years or older to apply.

Artists are expected to be in Pittsburgh for the duration of the program.

Expectations and Obligations:

Artists participate in a collaborative and developmental process resulting in the creation of works for the exhibit floor. The artists in this program learn to take the immersive attitude to heart and to continually monitor their work against the demands of the public.

Each resident artist is expected to:

- Participate in the orientation week at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh to meet the staff and gain an understanding of the programs and facility.
- Actively communicate throughout the residency with project manager and other CMP staff
- Spend time on the museum floor to become acquainted with how the museum visitors use and experience the Museum.
- Develop a prototyping schedule and actively prototype their concept.
- Within the first month of the residency, the artist is expected to: propose a project, develop a working schedule, outline a budget, and identify an area within the museum for project installation
- Present a complete and functioning work at the end of the residency for the exhibition phase of the program (scheduled for September 2023 through January 2024).
- Remain available (in-person or remotely) and accessible for trouble shooting and repairs (if needed) during the run of the exhibition.

Application Process:

The Museum offers residencies to artists whose interests complement the museum experience. Applications are reviewed by the museum's Art Team and professional advisors to the project. Selection is based on the following factors:

- Professional capabilities of the applicants as revealed through documentation of prior work and experience.
- Opportunities to best match the artist and museum mission with consideration of the resources available.

Applications Should Include Each of the Following:

1.) Application Materials:

a.) Letter of Application (1 page limit)

Be sure to give consideration to the following:

- Nature of your work
- How you/your work would be a good fit for the Tough Art Program
- How the resources of the museum might be used
- Any specific technical or physical requirements for your practice
- Optional: Description of a project that you propose for residency

b.) Résumé (2 page limit)

c.) Short biography (150 words or less)

2.) Artwork Portfolio:

a.) A maximum of 10 jpg files, or a slide show with a maximum of 10 images.

-or-

b.) Video, sound and animation may be submitted. A maximum of five minutes will be reviewed.

-or-

c.) Combination of up to 5 jpg files and up to 2 minutes of video, sound and animation.

*In addition, link to website and Instagram handle may be included.

Deadline: Applications must be received by 11:59 pm on March 12, 2023.

Selected Artists will be announced April 5, 2023.

Please direct questions to submissions@pittsburghkids.org



*Drum Machine by Matt Barton
2007 Tough Art Resident*



*Kaleidoscope by Christina Zaris
2011 Tough Art Resident*