

Artist Residency FAQ

Application process

How do I apply to the New Roots Foundation Artist Residency?

Please click [here](#) for application guidelines and requirements.

When is the application period?

We accept applications every year from January 1 - March 1. We cannot accept late or incomplete applications.

Who is eligible to apply?

To qualify, individuals must work professionally in their field and demonstrate quality of work, commitment to their process, and an interest in connecting with the local community. **We consider applications from visual artists working across media.** To get the most out of the residency experience, artists must be independent and self-motivated.

We encourage artists to apply with ideas that are relevant to the Guatemalan context, or to our vision at New Roots Foundation. In other words, we are looking for artists who would benefit specifically from our unique residency program and its surroundings.

Small groups (up to 3 participants) wishing to work collaboratively on a project are welcome to apply.

While not required, basic knowledge of Spanish is beneficial.

New Roots Foundation welcomes individuals of all backgrounds to apply for admission and does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of age, gender, religion, nationality, marital status, ancestry, color, race, disability or sexual orientation.

I see that the residency program is based on the site of a textile mill. Do I have to have experience with textiles or produce textile work as a resident?

We accept applications across all media, and there is absolutely no requirement to produce textile work. No prior knowledge to weaving is required if you chose to pursue a textile project, although of course it is beneficial.

What should I include in my letter of intent?

Please specify why you are applying to the New Roots Foundation residency, and what calls you to Guatemala. Again, we are looking for applicants whose practice will benefit from our context. While we don't expect you to have a finalized proposal for a project, an idea of what you would like to pursue and what materials interest you is helpful.

When will I find out if I was accepted?

You can expect to hear back by May 1. Please do not inquire about the status of your application before that date.

Is there an interview process?

We often schedule brief interviews with finalists over the phone or Skype.

Residency basics

How long is the residency period?

Residency lengths vary from 2-8 weeks. Exact residency lengths are agreed upon after an applicant has been accepted.

When will I be going?

Exact dates are agreed upon after an applicant has been accepted.

Residencies are often granted for the year following the application year, although in some cases we schedule residencies towards the end of the application year. For example, if you applied during our 2019 cycle (between Jan 1-March 1), the earliest you can expect your residency to be scheduled for is October 2019, although it will most likely be scheduled for 2020.

Does NRF grant stipends?

Yes, NRF grants stipends to each resident. Stipends vary from residency to residency. Exact stipend amounts will be confirmed once an applicant has been accepted.

Does NRF cover airfare?

No, NRF does not cover travel to and from Guatemala.

Will I be the only artist in residence?

We mostly schedule one artist at a time per residency. This gives us the ability to better assist residents during their stay. Occasionally, artists will overlap during their time in Guatemala. In your application you are welcome to indicate your preference for working alone or in a small group.

Can I bring my child or family?

We welcome applications from artists with families. Please note, however, that the residency house is not the best environment for young children due to its proximity to the textile mill. Artists bringing their families are encouraged to book their own accommodations. While we cannot cover the cost of childcare, we can help you make arrangements.

Housing

Where will I be staying?

We have a small two-bedroom house on the premises of the textile mill. We affectionately refer this space as Doña Paula's house, in honor of our first resident who lived on the site of the factory for 36 years! Though the house is on the premise of the mill, it is surrounded by a wall for privacy and has a small garden. Please note that because of the proximity to the mill and Santa Ana's central plaza, the house can get noisy at certain times of the day. While we have found that the proximity to the mill is exciting and inspiring for residents, you are welcome to book your own accommodations off-site (at your own expense). However, if you decide to find your own housing, please let us know of your plans at least one month prior to arrival so we can plan accordingly.

Is housing included as part of my residency?

Yes, housing is provided free of cost to our residents, so long as you choose to stay at our facilities.

What does the house come with?

The house is fully stocked with linens, towels, cookware, etc. There is a kitchen where you can prepare your meals, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a living room.

Will I be sharing the house with another resident?

The residency house has two bedrooms, so you may share it with one other resident. You will be notified ahead of time if this is the case, and introduced via email to your fellow resident before arrival in Guatemala.

Working at the Textile Mill

What is New Roots Foundation and La Nueva Fábrica's connection with the textile mill?

La Nueva Fábrica and the artist residency program are on the site of a working textile mill. The mill is a completely separate business, but grants residents access to its facilities on a case by case basis. Some artists choose to produce work at the mill, but it is by no means required. All work produced at the mill requires a separate contract between the artist and the mill.

Who covers the cost of producing my work at La Nueva Fábrica?

While New Roots Foundation is located on the site of the textile mill and you can access and work in the mill, please keep in mind that the textile mill is an independent business. Should you choose to produce textile work at the mill, we encourage you to plan to allocate most of your stipend towards manufacturing costs. In the case of larger, more ambitious textile projects beyond the scope of your stipend, there are often options we can discuss. While the textile mill has the right to decline projects that are cost prohibitive, we try our best to work with you to make your vision a reality.

What workshops are available to me at the mill?

In addition to hand and mechanical textile looms, there are also metal and wood workshops at the mill. All textile, metal and wood projects require a written proposal as a starting point. Once your proposal is approved we can help you get to work!

Where can I find art materials outside of the mill?

Guatemala has a strong artisanal culture, with a good selection of raw materials. However, please be prepared to bring down highly specialized tools and materials, such as small etching or woodworking tools, certain archival photo paper and chemicals, etc. We are happy to go over your specific material list before arrival. For basics, we provide residents with a resource guide that includes a list of art supply vendors. If you need help procuring something that is not listed in the resource guide, you can contact us via email/phone during office hours for help.

What hours can I work at the mill?

You are free to work at the mill during factory hours and, on a case by case basis, after closing. Please consult with NRF staff if you need access to the mill after hours.

Expectations

There are no expectations to produce a final artwork during the residency period, however we encourage artists to open their studio once during their stay, for local artists and community members to stop by and see your progress. These are usually intimate events, with less than 50 visitors throughout the day.

While not required, we ask artists to consider donating an artwork to New Roots Foundation for our yearly auction, which directly benefits future residents and helps us keep our programs running.

Visiting the New Roots Foundation environmental projects

NRF works with several communities on the Guatemalan Pacific Coast, a more tropical region just south of Antigua. Between agroforestry, conservation, education and youth leadership, we have a lot going on! If you are interested in visiting and perhaps collaborating with our community partners, let someone from NRF know and we can coordinate a site trip.

Visiting art exhibitions, museums, etc.

During your residency we encourage you to get to know the local art community and culture. To facilitate this, we offer two NRF-guided visits to an exhibition, gallery, studio visit, etc. We will also keep you posted on art and cultural events as they happen, giving you plenty of opportunities to explore.

Please contact info@newrootsfoundation.org if you have any questions beyond the scope of this document.