

***Creative Arts Fellowship Application - 2024***

1. **Purpose:**

The *Creative Arts Fellowship* purpose is to nurture the creative development of promising student artists and writers interested in producing work inspired and influenced by the natural world. The fellowship combines field experiences, reflection and immersion within a creative community, and the space and time to focus on your craft. The Institute believes diverse perspectives and backgrounds can help the entire community grow and develop. The Institute hopes that this fellowship will result in meaningful and possibly life-changing learning experiences for emerging student artists and writers. Writing projects can include fiction, essays, non-fiction, poetry, drama, hybrids and/or other forms. Art projects can include painting, photography and video, drawing, printmaking, and other projects. The Institute will award eight to ten fellowships split between visual artists and writers for 2024.

Fellows will work in their preferred medium(s) on a set of works inspired and informed by their time and experience at the Institute. Project work may be individual or collaborative with other students or faculty. Connections between art and research projects are encouraged. While overlap between writing and art projects is inevitable, applicants are recommended to focus their application on either the visual arts or creative writing. Research themes at the Institute include:

* + - Conservation of threatened and endangered species
    - Forest dynamics and emerging threats
    - Watershed water quality monitoring and management
    - Invasive species monitoring and management
    - Social science of environmental best management practices implementation
    - Environmental issues impacting human health
    - Carbon cycling in natural areas

Fellows are expected to work full-time as part of a creative community in residence at the Institute from June 17 through July 19, 2024. During this time, they will work with an onsite writing or art mentor to help guide them through the experience and provide feedback on their work. In addition, fellowship awardees will participate in educational/discussion sessions and service opportunities with other artists, onsite researchers and natural resource interns, and Institute staff.

The Institute is planning to support and carry out this program safely and may adjust the timing of the program and availability of housing and workspace due to unforeseen circumstances.

1. **Eligibility:**

The *Creative Arts Fellowship* program is available to undergraduate college students attending one of the member colleges or universities of the Pierce Cedar Creek Consortium (see list at <https://cedarcreekinstitute.org/research.html>). Recent graduates can participate; however, they are only eligible if they graduate within six months of the start of the program. Applicants must be over 18 at the start of the project. Applicants who are not citizens of the United States may be able to participate, but should contact the Institute prior to applying.

1. **Fellowship Award:**

Fellows will be part of a multi-disciplinary cohort of artists and writers in residence at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute from Monday, June 17, through Friday, July 19, 2024. Additionally, all fellows will share their work at the end of the Summer Report Meeting on August 7, 2024. Fellows will receive a $2000 stipend. Fellowship stipends will be paid in two installments, the first at the beginning of the program and the second after the final project report is submitted.

Living onsite is not required but strongly encouraged. The Institute provides housing including a private bedroom and shared bathrooms, common areas, and kitchen. Provided food service includes breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday. Fellows will need to provide for all other meals. Visual artists and writers will have access to classroom and other spaces at the Institute that can be used as studio, work, and meeting spaces.

The announcement of the fellows will be made by March 31, 2023.

1. **Responsibilities and Reporting:**

Fellowship awardees must sign a participation agreement and return it to the Institute by April 13, 2024. The agreement signifies the fellow’s commitment to participate in the program and follow all of the Institute’s guidelines and conditions.

The following are required for all fellows:

1. Participate in an orientation program at the Institute on Saturday, April 13, 2024.
2. Participate in all aspects of the summer program, including regular meetings and activities and service experiences (land management workdays, public events).
3. Share some of their work at a final report program on August 7, 2024.
4. Submit a summary of their work and experience by August 9, 2024. All documents and reports submitted to Pierce Cedar Creek Institute will become the property of the Institute to use and duplicate at the Institute’s discretion.
5. Complete an online evaluation of the program.

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute will be given rights to use the works completed in relation to the *Creative Arts Fellowship* program for promotional purposes. In addition to presentations at the Institute, fellows are strongly encouraged to present their work elsewhere.

**Application and Guidelines**

1. **Application:**

Applicants must email their materials as a .docx or .pdf file to Matthew Dykstra ([mdykstra@cedarcreekinstitute.org](mailto:mdykstra@cedarcreekinstitute.org)) by February 29, 2024. The application should have 1-inch margins and be in 11- or 12-point font. Up-to-date versions of the application are available at: <https://cedarcreekinstitute.org/research.html>.

Applications must include:

* 1. A completed **cover sheet** (see below).
  2. Maximum two-page **Artist Statement and description of why you want to participate in the program**. Questions to help guide your statement include: What is your relationship to the natural world? What do you hope to gain out of the fellowship? How will fellowship further your creative endeavors? What unique perspectives and ideas do you bring to the creative community? What do you hope to accomplish during the fellowship? Please include information on your preferred creative writing or art form and a brief proposed timeline for the fellowship.
  3. **Resume**
  4. **Unofficial transcript** reflecting courses completed and grades received.
  5. **Recommendation letter** from a faculty member.
  6. Representative **work samples**. Maximum of 15 pages for writing applications and 10 pieces for art applications. Must represent work completed by the applicant within the last three years. If possible, please share previous work in the medium that you would like to explore while at the Institute.

Questions are welcome – please contact Matthew Dykstra - Field Station Manager at [mdykstra@cedarcreekinstitute.org](mailto:mdykstra@cedarcreekinstitute.org) or 269-721-4473

1. **Award Evaluation Criteria**

Fellowship award decisions for the *Creative Arts Fellowship* program will be based on the strength of their portfolio and recommendation letter, how the fellowship experience will further the applicant’s work and experience, and how the applicant will contribute to the creative community.

***Creative Arts Fellowships Application***

##### Application - Cover Sheet

***Deadline for Application****: February 29, 2024*

# **Student**

Name:       College or University:

Local/Campus Address:

Permanent Address:

Phone:       E-mail:

Major:       Emphasis (if applicable):

Anticipated graduation date:       Current GPA:

Driver’s License State and Number (for background check)

Are you a US Citizen?

**Faculty Reference**

Name:       Department:

Address:

Phone:       E-mail:

**Reference**

Name:       Department:

Address:

Phone:       E-mail:

**Signatures -** By signing below, applicants confirm that all information provided is true and correct to the best of their knowledge. If awarded, fellows will follow the requirements of the program guidelines and commit to full participation in the fellowship program.

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Signature Date



701 W. Cloverdale Road, Hastings, MI 49058 | 269-721-4190 | [www.cedarcreekinstitute.org](http://www.cedarcreekinstitute.org)