



## 2026/27 Artist-in-Residence Call for Applications: Ceramics

The Umbrella Arts Center, in Concord MA, seeks applicants for its 2026/27 Artist-in-Residence (AiR) Program. Active artists looking to join a vibrant arts community in Greater Boston and further their careers are encouraged to apply. For the 2026/27 season, The Umbrella seeks one (1) Ceramics AiR.

- Residency Dates: September 14, 2026 - August 31, 2027
- Deadline for Applications: May 1, 2026
- Decision Announcement: By May 29, 2026

The Umbrella Arts Center is an active and vibrant interdisciplinary art center with 50+ Studio Artists, an independent ceramics studio and a fully equipped woodshop, robust education programs, multiple galleries with year-round exhibition, and a performance program encompassing an award-winning Stage Company and celebrated Concert Series in the historic center of Concord, MA.

The Umbrella's AiR program brings together a cohort of artists participating in The Umbrella's residency programs in Visual Arts, Education, and Performing Arts. The cohort is encouraged to support each other and their projects throughout the year, and The Umbrella will provide professional development and networking opportunities.

The AiR program is for emerging artists. We define an "emerging artist" as someone who, within approximately the last five years, has either...

- Completed an advanced degree program (such as an MFA).
- Become an early career artist. For example...
  - "I worked as a non-arts or arts-adjacent professional for many years but have now decided to turn my professional focus to my artistic practice."
  - "I am not interested in pursuing an advanced degree, but I am dedicated to building a career as a full-time artist."

If your experience does not fit either of these definitions, but you still define yourself as an emerging artist, please apply and let us know why you identify as such as part of your application.

Applicants are expected to be working primarily in ceramics and are expected to participate in the educational operations of the studio through teaching classes and/or workshops.

The Umbrella is particularly interested in ceramic artists who will...

- Use their residency as an opportunity to explore, experiment with, and elevate contemporary art practices and conversations.
- Foster internal and external collaborations and partnerships.
- Engage our local and broader community in The Umbrella's mission to promote creativity, learning, personal growth, and cultural exchange through accessible arts programming.

**Residency Requirements:** We are looking for artists interested in active engagement with The Umbrella community in Concord and beyond. As part of the residency program, the Artist-in-Residence (AiR) is expected to...

- Make regular, active, and productive use of the studio space (minimum of 20 hours per week) for the length of the residency.
- Present at least one Artist Talk, and any additional public program of any format with the goal of engaging The Umbrella community in your work.
- Participate in The Umbrella's Winter Market (December 4 - 6, 2026) and Open Studios (May 1 - 2, 2027).
- Participate in any AiR cohort events and programs.
- Make efforts to attend monthly Artist Meetings and other formal and informal artist events throughout the year.
- Maintain communication with Umbrella staff and participation in program evaluations,

Interest and experience in teaching is a plus.

## Residency Award:

- Free access to at least 80 square feet of private studio space in a larger shared room. (Note: We reserve the right to reorganize the studio space throughout the year as deemed necessary.)
- The Ceramics Artist Residency will be allowed access to and use of all studio resources and tools, glaze laboratory and kilns under the supervision of and at the discretion of the Studio Manager. Our ceramic facilities include a large public workspace, full glaze lab, five electric and two gas kilns, including:
  - 5 electric kilns (varying sizes)
  - Bailey 30C reduction kiln
  - Bailey 20C Soda kiln
- A materials and fees stipend of up to \$2000 for the year. This stipend may be applied to kiln firing fees, studio clay purchases, and glaze materials costs. Use of clay, materials, and scheduling of kilns are all at the discretion of the studio manager in consideration of the needs of the entire community.
- Opportunity to instruct a full semester of class(es) as well as the potential for additional workshops for qualified candidates. Instructional activities would be compensated at a competitive rate commensurate with a candidate's experience and in line with our other instructors' rates.
- When appropriate, the Ceramics AiR may offer public engagement talks, panels, tours, or participatory art experiences.
- Opportunity to participate in the Winter Market Sale and Spring Open Studios event and the accompanying exhibition.
- The Umbrella will support the position through publicity and marketing for the residency as well as any other educational offerings and exhibitions.

How to Apply: Please submit the following application materials as one PDF document via email to Zachary Mickelson, Ceramics Program Manager, at [Zachary@TheUmbrellaArts.org](mailto:Zachary@TheUmbrellaArts.org).

- Artist Statement (500 words maximum): What interests you about The Umbrella's community and resources? What projects would you like to develop here during your residency?

- Artist Resume and/or CV with contact information.
- List of 3 professional references. Please include at least one reference from a member of the faculty of your MFA program, if applicable.
- Artist Image Portfolio. Please include...
  - At least 6 - 10 images of your work created, with at least 3 from the past 2 years.
  - Title, dimensions, date, and materials as relevant.

All applications will be evaluated by a jury of The Umbrella's staff and close collaborators based on the body of work submitted, instructional experience, and enthusiasm for engagement with our community, as well as general experience and quality of resumes.

Select applicants will be invited to a virtual interview.

For inquiries about our 2026/27 residency program, please reach out to Zachary Mickelson, Ceramics Program Manager, at [Zachary@TheUmbrellaArts.org](mailto:Zachary@TheUmbrellaArts.org).

Thank you for your interest!

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The Umbrella Arts Center is an interdisciplinary creative hub where artists, learners, and audiences can connect, innovate, and thrive. Through welcoming spaces, cultural conversations, and opportunities for artistic expression and skill development, we support artists at every stage of their journey, strengthen communities, enrich lives, and shape the future through the arts.

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