

The impact of art residencies

Key features of art residencies:



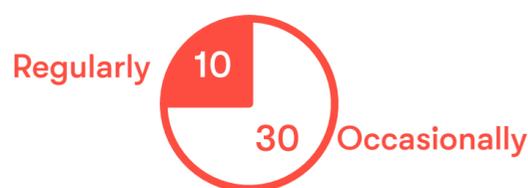
- mobility of artists;
- creation in another or in a virtual environment;
- inclusion into the local context;
- creating conditions to get to know local identity;
- providing opportunities for collaboration with other cultural and artistic creators.

Necessary criteria to be met:

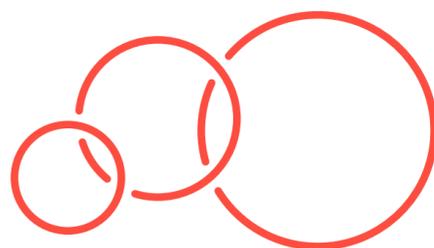


- description of residency;
- infrastructure;
- publicity;
- transparency;
- sustainability.

Around 40 organisations were carrying out activities of art residencies during the period of 2015-2020.

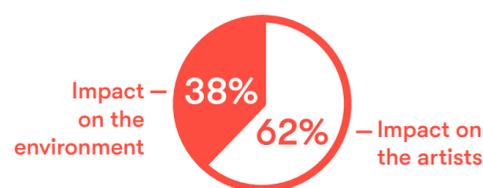


Majority of art residencies are most active around the three largest urban centers.



Such residency locations coincide with areas of socio-economic viability.

Choices of creative workshop participants highlighting the most important areas of impact:



- The types of impact on artist:
- Tools and space to create
 - Involvement of artists, networking;
 - Combining local and global perspectives;
 - Dissemination of artworks and recognition raising.

Majority of art residencies involve local communities to the activities of art residencies.



- The types of impact on the environment:
- Positive impact on the local community;
 - Contributing to local development.

Recommendations

• Fostering sustainability

Funding opportunities for the beginners (“Preparatory”) and for the established (“Regular”) organisations should be reviewed:

Preparatory Program.

Its goal is to create a suitable starting position for new initiatives and to ensure the provision of quality services: to create the necessary soft infrastructure to receive residents, and to carry out other activities of art residencies.

Regular Program.

The aim is to ensure the continuity of established art residencies by assessing their achievements and goals and how they manage to meet them.

• Ensuring the development of artists:

art residencies, by providing the tools and space to create, should also ensure the personal and professional development of artists. To assess this, data on residents’ achievements during and after residency should be monitored.

• Fostering the sustainable involvement of local communities:

The impact on the local community should be based on dialogue to find out the specific needs of the locals so as not to harm their area. Cooperation with the community should be long-term and consistent.

• Resource Efficiency:

Allocating a significant portion of funding for the administration of the art residency program, and the employment of a curator or other professional staff would strengthen the quality of an art residency. When focusing on “soft” infrastructure, it is important to keep in mind the support of “hard” infrastructure, which would allow to maintain and improve the quality of art residency activities.

• Promoting transparency:

54,5% of the respondents claimed that their art residencies do not have a clear and established procedure on how residents are selected.

Art residencies shall publish as clearly and openly as possible what criteria should the artists meet in order to reside in a particular residency, as well as what will be expected of incoming residents and what conditions will be provided.

• Promoting networks:

Communication between art residencies should be encouraged through interdisciplinary programs, mentoring for newer ones by more experienced residencies’ representatives, centralized dissemination, exchange of infrastructure, knowledge and competencies, for example, by allowing incoming artists to reside in several Lithuanian residencies at the same time or consecutively.

• Creating conditions for creativity:

In order to ensure long-term impact, there should be more focus on young artists, for instance: stronger collaborations between art residencies, universities, and academies would provide the first much needed impetus at the beginning of a career. In addition to this, high competencies of the residency staff should be ensured. This would help not only to provide accommodation services, but also to raise the competencies and create opportunities for the residing artists.

• Monitoring

Art residencies, while providing the tools and space to create, should also ensure the personal and professional development of artists. To assess this, data on residents’ achievements during and after residency should be collected. The “result” criterion shall be abandoned. Accordingly, the evaluation criteria should be selected and the results achieved, which should not only be quantitative (number of art products, number of visitors, number of educational activities, etc.) but also qualitative: evaluation of selection transparency (clear procedure for selecting residents), established partnerships, community surveys on the impact of residencies on the site, surveys on residents’ needs and expectations, and long-term monitoring of residents’ careers.

Scholarship program*

Underdeveloped art residency opportunities for Lithuanian artists: During the last five years (2015-2020), the Culture Support Fund has funded only 67 scholarships that were intended to be used for art residencies.

Conditions must be created for foreign artists to apply to the Scholarship Program (for instance, application form in English should be available), thus gaining greater dissemination about the Scholarship Program from the art residencies themselves.

The scholarship program could be run on an ongoing basis to allow artists to apply according to their plans to go to art residencies. In order to avoid the ongoing administration costs of the program, it is proposed to create an additional Scholarship Program for the mobility of artists-creators only.

* Scholarship program – scholarships awarded by the LCC to cultural or art creators; educational scholarships for cultural or artistic creators; state scholarships for cultural and artistic creators