

HCX Lakou NOU Artist Residency Program

Haiti Cultural Exchange (HCX) is a nonprofit organization established to develop, present and promote the cultural expressions of the Haitian people. We seek to raise awareness of social issues and foster cultural understanding and appreciation through programs in the arts, education and public affairs.

Our programs and services seek to support emerging and established artists, promote cross-cultural exchanges, preserve our cultural heritage, and encourage dialogue around contemporary social issues. Our artist development services are designed to provide artists with access to resources and opportunities to work in the community.

Residency Overview

In rural Haiti, the Lakou communal living system embodies the intersection of land, family, and spirituality. Lakou members develop reciprocal patterns of resource sharing and jointly work the land. **Lakou NOU** (“Our Yard” in Haitian Creole), HCX’s newest program, is a creative adaption of this traditional model. This project will provide four artists of Haitian descent with the opportunity to create and present new work by connecting their skills and talents to four traditionally underserved Brooklyn neighborhoods, home to generations of Haitians and Haitian-Americans: Crown Heights, Canarsie, East Flatbush, and Flatbush.

Positioning their own creative talents as a component of a collective commons, the artists selected via an open call will further their own artistic visions through support from community assets. HCX will facilitate the formation of partnerships between selected artists and neighborhood entities, including community centers, small businesses, and local cultural institutions. These relationships will engage artists with challenges and opportunities unique to each “lakou” and afford access to valuable resources, such as spaces for exhibition or studio practice. Artists will also support each other through conversations around topics relevant to Lakou NOU projects, such as cultural preservation and art in public spaces.

Program Timeline

Lakou NOU Application Period:

February 2016 – DEADLINE TO APPLY IS **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016**

Lakou NOU Artist Selection:

March 2016

Lakou NOU Project Development Stage:

March - May 2016

Artists will become more familiar with the different target neighborhoods through HCX facilitated group meetings. These sessions will enable artists to consider their own creative talents as a component of a collective lakou commons, charging themselves with connecting their skills to existing efforts and/or resources. Artists will convene 2 times during this stage. Project descriptions will be finalized by artists and approved by HCX during this stage.

Lakou NOU Project Implementation Stage:

June -November 2016

This stage will begin with the second installation of HCX's *Selebrasyon!*, a biennial festival of Haitian arts and culture. The festival will serve as both outreach and a launching pad for the Lakou NOU projects. The exact duration of the implementation phases will depend on the scope of each project, to be determined by the artist.

Lakou NOU Project Evaluation Stage:

December 2016

The artists themselves will engage in Lakou NOU Project Evaluation by compiling documentation and notes for assessing their own projects. After this period of self-evaluation, artists will present to one another and evaluate each other's work. HCX will facilitate resulting conversations and provide an opportunity for artists to measure their own success within the context of socially engaged art.

Artist Benefits

- A \$2,500 stipend for developing and implementing projects
- An opportunity to become more acquainted with issues in the communities of Brooklyn
- Access to a network of other artists, community leaders, and local organizations
- A platform to showcase work to different audiences
- A chance to develop leadership skills through public speaking, networking, and working in group settings

Applicant Guidelines**Selection Criteria:**

- Artistic excellence and originality
- Residence in or a demonstrated relationship with the Lakou NOU communities*
- An artistic practice rooted in community, collaboration, and dialogue
- Identification as an artist of Haitian decent working in any artistic discipline

*Artists are not required to live in the targeted "Lakou" neighborhoods (Crown Heights, Flatbush, East Flatbush, or Canarsie), BUT must demonstrate interest and commitment to those neighborhoods.

How do I apply?

Applications can be submitted via the online form below. To request a paper application, or if you have any questions or concerns, please email **Yushabel Lubrun** at yushabel@haiticulturalx.org.

Online application: <http://goo.gl/DX4jdM>

Lakou NOU Application Form

Full Name:

Full Address:

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Primary Phone Number:

Email:

Website/Social Media:

Artist Discipline (Please check those that apply.)

Music Dance Visual Multimedia Film/Photography
 Literary Arts Spoken Word Other (Specify): _____

Supplemental Questions (Please attach your answers to this application)

- Artist Statement. A description of your body of work (250 Word Limit).
- For what reasons are you interested in being a Lakou NOU resident artist? (Check all that apply)

Stipend Networking Visibility of my work Leadership Building
 Opportunity to connect with the Haitian Diaspora community
 Opportunity to engage with issues affecting Brooklyn residents

- Lakou NOU resident artists will be working in one of the following Brooklyn neighborhoods: Crown Heights, Flatbush, East Flatbush, and Canarsie. Which neighborhood(s) are you most interested in working in? Do you already have a relationship with any of these communities? If so, please explain. (500 Word Limit)
- What are some ways in which you could use your discipline to enrich the neighborhood you intend to work in? (500 Word Limit)

Supplemental Documentation

1. Please attach a copy of your resume and/or C.V.

2. Work Samples

a. Visual Artists: Please upload no more than 5 JPGs, preferably at 300 dpi, which represents your best work.

b. Performing Artists: Please submit a link including up to 3 minutes of video footage.

c. Literary Artists: Please upload no more than three pages of original work.

Link to video footage:
