



The Artist-in-Residence Program at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum invites local visual artists, musicians, and performers to showcase their talents while engaging children and families in collaborative creative projects. Three one-month residencies are available for Summer 2026 (June, July, and August).

During their residency, artists will design and lead collaborative activities with the public, blending their artistic vision with the museum's educational framework. Given the diverse range of artists invited to submit proposals, there's flexibility regarding the outcome of each session. Our expectation is for a final installation, artwork, or performance to be showcased on-site and shared with the GRMC community.

Ideal candidates embrace collaboration with children and seek to challenge their own creative process. Applicants should demonstrate enthusiasm for engaging visitors in understanding our community's unique culture, community, and ecology.

Eligibility requires artists to excel in fostering curiosity among children and value the role of art in increasing social and environmental awareness. The application is open to various art forms, and artists must pass a standard background check before beginning the residency. The museum does not cover transportation or housing costs for non-local artists.





Artist Benefits:

- \$3,333 monthly stipend
- Access to museum tools plus a \$1,666 material stipend
- A platform to exhibit their artwork and bring their talents and perspective to the public

Artist Commitments:

- Artists will be required to host a minimum of 4 two-hour drop-in programs/demonstrations during their residencies
- Facilitate open demonstrations or programs for museum guests in order to collaborate and complete the goals of their proposal
- Complete a background check in order to work with children

Dates to remember:

Proposal/Application Deadline: April 15th, 2026

Finalists Notified: by May 1st, 2026

Calendar Breakdown of Available Sessions:

Summer 2026

- **June:** Flexible dates between June 1- June 30, 2026
- **July:** Flexible dates between July 1- July 31, 2026, including programming at the GRM Annual Day of Play Celebration on Sunday, July 26, 2026
- **August:** Flexible dates between August 1- August 31, 2026

Submissions must include the following items:

- AIR Programming Proposal. Include images to support proposal and/or examples of previous work. Fine details and logistics will be worked out in collaboration with GRM once selected.
- Brief Artist Statement/Bio
- Resume/CV
- Social Media handles
- Indicate for which month you would be available/interested in applying

To apply, click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code.



Contact: Lacey Ahmed - Director of Education & Play - lahmed@grcm.org

