Headlands Artist in Residence FAQ

Am I eligible to apply?

Any artist—based anywhere in the world—is eligible to apply if they can speak basic English and are not enrolled in a degree granting program at the time the residency would occur.

Can I bring my partner or collaborator?

AIRs (Artists in Residence) are permitted to have a partner or guest stay with them in their room for up to two weeks. It’s sometimes possible to house a collaborator in a separate bedroom if the visit is scheduled with us far enough in advance of the residency.

Can collaboratives apply?

Yes, but Headlands can only accommodate collaboratives of up to three artists living on site. There is no member size limit for San Francisco Bay Area-based collaboratives who request live-out residencies (meaning they would not live on site).

In your application for a live-in residency, make clear if you are applying as a collaborative that will live on site together for the duration of the residency, OR if one member of the collaborative is applying as a primary artist and another collaborator will just be making short term visits to Headlands.

Can I bring my family?

Families may join the AIR for up to four weeks in a home we’ve designated the “Family House.” One family at a time is accommodated in the Family House: the AIR has sole use of the three bedrooms and bath on the second floor of the house and shares the common areas of the house (the living room, dining room, butler’s pantry, and kitchen) with a Headlands Program Intern. The Program Intern lives in the bedroom with bath behind the kitchen on the first floor. AIRs are welcome to bring a partner, spouse, or caregiver with them to provide childcare.

During their Family House stay, AIRs are welcome to bring their partner and children (as well as any guests staying with them in the Family House), to the dinners our chef prepares for all AIRs five nights a week, free of charge.

**Stays at the Family House are limited to up to four weeks, however, because of demand, the average Family House stay is two weeks.** Use of the Family House must be negotiated far in advance of a residency, and there is a question in the application form about the Family House. Delaying communicating to us that you would like to use the Family House WILL decrease your chances of being afforded accommodation in it.

Can I bring my pet?
No, the housing at Headlands is shared and pets cannot be accommodated. Only service dogs (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act) can be accommodated.

What is the regular, non-family AIR housing like?

Headlands has four AIR houses, three of which originally housed Army officers’ families. The three houses each accommodate three AIRs and a Headlands Intern. Each AIR has their own bedroom and shares a bathroom. They also share the common areas of the house, meaning the living room, dining room, butler’s pantry and kitchen. There are front and back porches and a coin operated washer and dryer in the basement of each house.

The Writers’ House has three live/work spaces and two bedrooms that are occupied by AIRs who have studios elsewhere. The kitchen and two bathrooms are shared by the residents and there is a coin operated washer and dryer in the basement.

Will I have access to cell phone and internet service in my living quarters?

Because of Headlands semi-remote location there’s no cell phone or internet service in the AIR houses. Each house is equipped with a landline phone that dials out to 415 area code numbers for free. A calling card is needed for other local area codes or long-distance phone calls. The landline phones can receive calls from anywhere in the world.

Cell phones can connect to the wi-fi in our main buildings. Cell phones also usually work on top of hills—a five- or ten-minute walk from the houses and studios.

Do the studios have wi-fi?

Most of the AIR studios have wi-fi, with the exception of the Writers’ House live/work spaces. Our internet is more robust than it used to be, but it cannot accommodate streaming or large uploads or downloads, except perhaps during very late night or early morning hours.

Can Headlands accommodate AIRs with special dietary needs?

Yes, Headlands Chef can accommodate most special dietary needs.

Is there public transportation to Headlands?

There is no longer any public transportation into Headlands. It stops just outside of the national park where we’re located. Lyft and Uber do both come out to Headlands.

Is it okay to bring my car?
Yes, and we encourage AIRs who can to do so.

Does Headlands provide transportation?

Headlands supports arrival and departure logistics, but does not provide ongoing transportation services throughout a residency. Headlands does, however, provide access to two cars that are shared among the AIRs.

How accessible is Headlands?

While a significant amount of Headlands' campus and housing facilities are on ground floors and wheelchair accessible, not all aspects of Headlands' buildings, campus, and surrounding park are fully accessible. There are no elevators in Headlands' buildings and there are unpaved trails and paths throughout the campus and park. Headlands can and has accommodated artist residents using wheelchairs in ground floor living spaces and with ground floor studios. Artist meals are shared in a ground floor space. Headlands is committed to being open to and accessible to all artists.

How do I apply for a stipend?

You do not need to apply. All AIRs receive a stipend.

How do I apply to the McLaughlin Awards or the McEvoy Family Award?

Headlands partners with underwriters to offer residencies that include cash awards. Applicants are automatically considered for any award for which they are eligible. For more information and criteria please see: https://www.headlands.org/programs/#awards

Please Note: The Chiaro and Chamberlain Awards require separate applications.

Does Headlands pay for my travel?

Yes, Headlands pays for AIRs roundtrip airfare. For AIRs who choose to drive, Headlands will give the AIR the equivalent airfare amount.

Do my chances of acceptance increase if I opt for a shorter residency over a longer one?

No, that has no effect on acceptance.

Can I submit links to my video/film on Vimeo or YouTube?
Yes, submissions should not cumulatively exceed 30 minutes in length and can be up to 250MB each. If videos are password protected, please be sure to include login information in the description field. You can also list links on a PDF uploaded in the media section of your application (please include any necessary passwords to access).

**Is it possible to submit both jpegs and video?**

Yes, you may submit up to 12 SlideRoom uploads in total. They can be any mix of jpegs, audio, or video. Audio submissions can be up to 30MB per file, and can also be submitted through SoundCloud.

**May I submit more images than specified in the SlideRoom application?**

No, you have 12 media uploads in total. Images can be up to 5MB each.

**What if my contact information or reference information changes after I've submitted my application online?**

Email the Residency Manager, Holly Blake (hblake@headlands.org) with any changes.

**Can I edit my application after it has been submitted?**

Yes, email the Residency Manager, Holly Blake (hblake@headlands.org). She will “Un-Submit” your application so that you can make changes. After you’ve made the changes, you can then re-submit your application. No additional application fee is charged. The SlideRoom system does not allow Headlands to make changes to an application.

**What if I have technical problems with the SlideRoom application?**

All technical questions should be emailed to support@slideroom.com. SlideRoom is very responsive to artist inquiries.

**May I snail mail my application and supplementary materials to Headlands?**

Yes; please address such applications as follows:

AIR Program  
Headlands Center for the Arts  
944 Fort Barry  
Sausalito, CA 94965

**When will I hear back? What is the decision-making timeline?**
Jurors review the applications over the summer and panels meet in the fall to select finalists, who are then interviewed (by Zoom) by Headlands Staff. Notification to all artists will occur in the late fall, usually by the end of November or early December.