
The Espy Foundation

Residency Program Application

General Information

About the Foundation

Created in 1997, the Espy Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Oysterville, Washington, and dedicated to advancing and encouraging the literary and visual arts. The Foundation has been named for Oysterville native Willard R. Espy, a wordsmith and memoirist whose prolific career celebrated language, word play, light verse, and what Henry James once called the “visitable past:” the events in the history of time and place that can be recovered and preserved by the reach of a long memory and a gifted imagination.

The Foundation’s original focus was its literary program, which includes the Writer’s Residency Program, the Espy Award for emerging writers (administered by the Creative Writing Department of the University of Washington) and local educational programs for high school aged students. Recently the Foundation’s focus has broadened to include the Visual Arts Residency Program. In addition, the Foundation has established a small but growing library in Oysterville; its core collection consists of Espy’s personal collection of reference books that include language, word play, and light verse.

About the Residency Program

Residencies are available three times per year: Spring (March), Summer (June), and Fall (October) from the 1st through the end of the month inclusive. Residents will share accommodations in and near the serenely beautiful village of Oysterville, a National Historic District, located near the northern tip of the Long Beach Peninsula on the southwest coast of Washington state. Residents will, in addition, receive a weekly stipend for food. Our goal is to provide writers and artists with an environment in which they can pursue their work without interruption.

Eligibility

Suitable applicants are writers and artists who have demonstrated talent and commitment to their career. Both emerging and established writers and visual artists are eligible for residencies.

As there are no accommodations for partners or pets, and as Oysterville is a small and quiet rural village, people of some self-sufficiency are our ideal. Residents provide their own transportation to and from Oysterville (unless other arrangements are made with the Foundation), which is 180 miles from Seattle and 120 miles from Portland, and they are encouraged to keep a car with them for the duration of their residency.

Application Procedure

Deadline for Application:

December 1 for the Spring Residency (March)

March 1 for the Summer Residency (June)

July 1 for the Fall Residency (October)

Applications must include the enclosed application form and all required materials specified in the form. Applications and Sponsors letters must be postmarked on or before the deadlines. (Sponsors letters are acceptable by fax to (360) 665-5224 if received by the deadline.)

Application Fee:

A nonrefundable fee of \$20 made payable to The Espy Foundation must be included with your application.

Mailing:

Send the completed application form, project description, work samples (writers), images (artists), and application fee to The Espy Foundation, PO Box 614, Oysterville, WA 98641. The two sponsors' letters should be sent directly to the Foundation at the above address by the sponsor writing the letter.

Notification:

You will be notified by mail of the panel's decision approximately three to four weeks after the deadline.

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Personal Data & Project Description

1. Name

Mr. Ms. _____
Legal Name (if different): _____

2. Contact Information

Permanent Address: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____
Zip Code: _____ Country: _____
Telephone: (home) _____
(work) _____
(cell) _____
Email address: _____

3. Occupation: _____**4. Field of creative endeavor in which you are applying**

<input type="checkbox"/> Fiction	<input type="checkbox"/> Screenwriting	<input type="checkbox"/> Installation
<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry	<input type="checkbox"/> Painting	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonfiction	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Play writing	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography	_____

5. Residency period for which you are applying (select one only)

Spring (March) Deadline December 1
 Summer (June) Deadline March 1
 Fall (October) Deadline July 1

6. How did you learn about the Espy Foundation?

7. Are you interested in participating in the Espy Arts & Humanities School Program?

Yes No

8. Description of Project

On a separate sheet, please write a brief description (1-2 paragraphs) about the work you plan to do in Oysterville and the place of this work in your professional development. Please type your name at the top of the page. Please submit 5 copies of the project description.

9. Professional Documentation

Please attach a current resume or vita providing education history, awards, grants and fellowships received; artists' residencies attended and a list of professional achievements in your field.

10. Sponsor Letters

Each applicant is responsible for requesting two Sponsor's letters, sent directly to the Foundation by each of the two sponsors, discussing the applicant's professional capacity for a residency in Oysterville. Sponsor's letters must include the applicant's full name at the top of the letter. Please provide one of the enclosed letter forms to each of your sponsors for this purpose. Sponsors' letters must be received by the application deadlines. Below please indicate the name, affiliation, and phone number of the two sponsors:

1. _____

2. _____

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Work Samples

Writers

Maximum of 10 pages of representative work, preferably recent, and in English.

- The Espy Foundation requires 5 clearly reproduced copies of a typescript, consisting of a short story, a personal essay, or an excerpt from a novel or memoir, play or movie script; poets should send 10 short poems or a suitable excerpt from a longer poem.
- “Typescript” means material that has been produced by a typewriter or letter quality printer.
- All paper should be 8 ½ x 11”.
- Number the pages of submitted work consecutively in the upper right corner and paper or binder clip each copy (please do not staple).
- Submittals must be double-spaced.
- All samples must have your name at the top of the first page.
- Do not send published books; however, photocopies of selected pages are acceptable.

Visual Artists

Submit 10-15 slides or a CD with 10-15 images of recent work.

- Mark each slide/image with your name.
- Mark each slide/image with a number corresponding to numbers on an accompanying data sheet.
- The data sheet must list all images submitted along with the artist’s name, title of the piece, medium, size, and year of completion.
- Do not send portfolios or original work.

Work Sample Return

While every precaution is taken to handle work samples with care, the Espy Foundation is not responsible for their condition. Do not send originals or your only copy of any work. Work samples will be returned only if you provide a self-addressed stamped envelope of sufficient size with sufficient postage. No metered postage on returned material.

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Submission Checklist

- Personal Data & Work Description Questions 1-7
- Professional Documentation / Resume
- Description of Project
- 2 Sponsor Letters (to be sent separately)
- Work Samples
- A nonrefundable fee of \$20 made payable to the Espy Foundation