



The Nordic Alliance of
Artists' Residencies on Climate Action



Future
Island
Island

The East Light Prototype: Designing Sustainable Residencies

Producer Development Programme

East Lighthouse, Rathlin Island

The East Light Prototype: Designing Sustainable Residencies

Producer Call Out

Deadline for Applications: Monday 19 October at 5pm BST

Overview

The Nordic Alliance of Artists' Residencies on Climate Action – NAARCA – unites [Artica Svalbard](#) (Norway), [Cove Park](#) (Scotland), [Narsaq International Research Station](#) (Greenland), [Saari Residence](#) (Finland), and [Skaftfell Art Center](#) (Iceland) to collaborate on research, commissions, institutional change, residency exchange, and public education around climate action.

In early 2026, NAARCA announced its role in the ongoing development of [Future Island-Island](#), an AHRC-funded project led by Professor Justin Magee at Belfast School of Art, Ulster University and Dr Clare Mulholland, School of Natural and Built Environment, Queens University Belfast. This initiative brings together community members, academics, and practitioners to co-create design-led research for a greener, more sustainable Northern Ireland economy.

Future Island-Island (FI-I) is a major collaborative project that started in 2023. As a Co-Investigator partner in phase two (running through 2028), NAARCA will contribute to [The East Light](#) – A Creativity-led Strategy for a Sustainable Knowledge Economy on Rathlin Island. This strand supports the [Rathlin Development Community Association](#) in regenerating the historic East Light lighthouse into an academic, research, and creative destination, as well as a community and technological hub for the island. The strategy aims to integrate design, skills development, and entrepreneurship, connecting Rathlin with wider green transition networks across Ireland, Scotland, the Nordics, and beyond.

Through this Producer Development Programme, NAARCA and FI-I are seeking a Producer to undertake a series of sustainability-focused residencies in 2027 centred on skills development, knowledge exchange, and mentorship. These residencies aim to foster island-driven creativity around eco-themes and will provide training on hosting and facilitating future programmes as part of Rathlin's emerging Knowledge Economy.

Over the course of one year, the selected Producer will engage with NAARCA partners, learn how each institution operates, and receive support to establish a new sustainability-centred pilot residency programme on Rathlin Island.

To be eligible, the Producer must be based in Northern Ireland and priority consideration will be given to those living on Rathlin Island.

Programme Outcomes

This programme will enable the selected Producer to learn international residency management through five organisational contexts, develop cross-sector partnership working models, and learn methods for creating climate-focused cultural programming. Through exchanges with NAARCA partners and the FI-I team, the Producer will gain the knowledge and skills required to design, host, and deliver a new sustainability-centred residency pilot for Rathlin Island while contributing to the development of its emerging creative and knowledge economy and the the long-term vision of the East Light project as a creative, research, and community hub.

Knowledge Exchange

- Understand how artist residencies across the Nordic region and North Atlantic operate, including their approaches to climate action, community engagement, and international collaboration.
- Understand the role of creativity, design, and cultural programmes in supporting sustainable development and green transition initiatives within rural communities.
- Develop knowledge of community-led and place-based approaches to sustainability in remote and coastal contexts.

Skills & Professional Development

- Design, plan, and deliver a sustainability-focused pilot residency programme on Rathlin Island in 2027.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange between artists, researchers, communities, and environmental practitioners..
- Build a professional network across Scotland, Ireland, Greenland, Iceland, Finland, and Norway through engagement with NAARCA partners.
- Gain experience working within interdisciplinary environments that bring together arts, academia, sustainability, and community development.
- Strengthen project management, communication, and strategic planning skills within an international context.

Timeline

- Applications open: Friday 25 September – Monday 19 October 2026
- Induction with NAARCA partners on Rathlin Island: 1 day during the wk/ 16 November
- Site visits of approximately 1 week to each NAARCA partner: Spring 2027
- Develop & design pilot residency programme: Summer 2027
- Residency pilot on Rathlin: Autumn 2027
- Pilot programme evaluation: Winter 2027

Financial Support

The Producer will receive a bursary of £6,000 GBP. Slow travel will be encouraged where possible, and all travel and accommodation expenses will covered. The programme budget will be managed by NAARCA partner Cove Park. For the pilot residency programme, a new budget will be developed in collaboration with the FI-I team.



Longyearbyen, Svalbard

Artica Svalbard – Norway



About Artica

Artica Svalbard is one of Norway's leading non-profit arts and culture organisations. We facilitate artistic and cultural activities on Svalbard and support the development of Norwegian and international art and culture. We seek to raise awareness of Svalbard, and the Arctic. We aim to create a platform for debate on topics that relate to our region such as culture, geopolitics, climate change, migration and minorities. A key part of Artica Svalbard's mission is to foster a deep connection between our resident artists, writers, and the local community.

We believe that creativity thrives through shared experiences and collaboration. Therefore, during their stay, we encourage our residents to host workshops, artist talks, readings, lectures, or other community events. These activities provide unique opportunities for artists, writers, and locals to exchange ideas, skills, and perspectives, enriching the cultural fabric of Svalbard. Through these engagements, we create a vibrant, inclusive environment where creativity can flourish and mutual understanding can grow.

Key Points

- Svalbard is a critical location for studying and discussing climate change. Located in the High Arctic, it is one of the fastest-warming regions on Earth, with temperatures rising up to six times faster than the global average.
- The archipelago's changing climate is visibly evident in melting glaciers, thawing permafrost, and shifting wildlife behaviours.
- Artica hosts up to three residents working in contemporary art, literature, or scientific and cultural research at any one time.



Argyll, Scotland

Cove Park – Scotland



About Cove Park

Cove Park is an international artists residency based on an outstanding 50-acre rural site in Argyll on the west coast of Scotland. We host local, national, and international artists and creative practitioners working in all art forms and at every career stage. Cove Park provides the facilities, support, and care required for the development of new ideas and projects, collaborations, and interdisciplinary practice. Residents stay on site in private accommodation with access to private studios, communal work and meeting spaces, and a library.



We host up to 12 residents at any one time, offering every resident the opportunity to meet and work alongside individuals and collaborative groups from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. We organise informal peer-to-peer events to promote discussion, the exchange of ideas and experiences, and the development of new connections.



Key Points

- As the [Argyll Beacon](#), Cove Park's ecological work is largely connected to Argyll's ancient woodland, rainforests, and threats to our unique biodiversity on the banks of Loch Long.
- Cove Park is a member of the [Green Art Lab Alliance](#) and we promote the use of sustainable, biodegradable and non-toxic materials and resources such as the [Future Materials Bank](#) and the [Circular Arts Network](#).
- Outwith NAARCA, Cove Park produces many sustainability-centred programmes including Ecologies in the Making: Sculpting Futures, Future Materials, Collective Home, and Earth Month – Cultures of Action.





Narsaq, Greenland

Narsaq International Research Station – Greenland



About NIRS

Narsaq International Research Station (NIRS) is an independent non-profit research platform with a focus on cultural and scientific research in South Greenland and how it can benefit the local population. The Research Station is located in a region of outstanding natural beauty and cultural heritage that is central for understanding some of the most urgent challenges the world is facing today.



The Research Station provides residency for projects with a specific focus on the Narsaq and South Greenland region. Projects must have a socially and environmentally sustainable approach to research and engagement with the local community and the results must be intended for public dissemination. Researchers and cultural practitioners are expected to communicate their research to the local community - e.g through lectures, workshops, film screenings, exhibitions, performances or teaching at schools, museums, community centres or organisations in Narsaq and the region. Contacts will be facilitated by NIRS in collaboration with local organisers.



Key Points

- Narsaq is located in a geographic region where many of the most important decisions currently facing Greenland are at their most visible and urgent. These are long-term decisions about sustainable development, independence, mining, environmental protection, democracy, infrastructure, tourism, cultural heritage, climate change, and Greenland's geopolitical role in the world.
- NIRS is located in a two-storey house in the middle of the town of Narsaq, South Greenland, with views towards Kuannersuit and the ice fjord.





Mynämäki, Finland

Saari Residence – Finland



About Saari

The Saari Residence, maintained by Kone Foundation, is a residence located in Mynämäki, Southwest Finland, for artists of all disciplines and nationalities. At the Saari Residence, artists and researchers can focus on their work in a peaceful rural environment and share their thoughts and experiences with colleagues. The residence's long-term activities and thinking are underpinned by an ecological approach, which also covers social and psychological sustainability. Its keywords are slowness, insight and change.

Saari Residence strives for sustainability, eco-friendliness and accessibility in all its activities. We developed the programme for ecologically sustainable activities for the Residence with Jaana Eskola, the coordinator of ecological activities at the Saari Residence, in 2020-2022.

Key Points

- The Saari Residence, which has been operating since 2008, brings together professional artists and artistic workgroups from all disciplines. Each year, approximately 50 individual artists, researchers, or working groups work at the Saari Residence.
- Saari Residence is a test platform for the future. The residence's long-term activities and thinking are underpinned by an ecological approach, which also covers social and mental sustainability. The residence provides a place and context for finding and sharing sustainable working methods and for eliminating structural inequalities that make artists' work more difficult. The goal is to be a forerunner in sustainable operating models within the international residency sector.



Seydisfjörður, Iceland

Skaftfell Art Center – Iceland



About Skaftfell

Skaftfell Art Center offers an international self-directed artist-in-residence program in Seyðisfjörður, a small village located in the East Fjords of Iceland. The residency's remote setting provides artists the opportunity to work in relative seclusion in a place that is also home to an international community of working artists. The residency offers space for contemplation, productivity, and collaboration and is ideal for artistic research and experimentation.



The dark winters, even though cold and quiet, are a time of significant artistic activity. During the summer months, when the weather is mild, the town becomes a tourist destination, and the cultural activities are less saturated. Seyðisfjörður is at once secluded and connected; it harbours the only ferry connection to mainland Europe, but the town's only connection to the nearest town and the ring road is a mountain pass that is often inaccessible in winter.



Key Points

- Situated in Iceland's subarctic climate, Skaftfells local community experiences the many facets of the climate crises first hand. The residency's remote setting provides artists the opportunity to work in relative seclusion in a place that is also home to an international community of working artists.
- Skaftfell hosts up to 3 artists, researchers, and cultural practitioners working in all artforms at any one time. Artists are not required to produce a specific outcome during their residency; however, they are invited to share their work with the community in a way they see fit for their process.



Person Specification

We are seeking an emerging or established producer with experience in cultural programme delivery, community engagement, partnership working, or project management. Applicants should demonstrate a strong interest in sustainability and climate action, excellent communication and facilitation skills, and the ability to work collaboratively across artistic, academic, and community contexts. Experience of working in the creative or cultural sector, place-based hospitality, or community development initiatives is desirable. Successful applicants will be curious, adaptable, and motivated to develop and test a new sustainability-centred residency model for Rathlin Island through learning, mentorship, and international exchange.

- Must be currently based in Northern Ireland, priority consideration will be given to residents of Rathlin Island
- Must be able to work with a degree of flexibility within other commitments
- Valid passport and confident traveller
- Experience producing community initiatives, hospitality events, and/or creative projects from inception to completion (include but not limited to: festivals, performances, residencies, exhibitions, community fundraisers, weddings, conferences, etc.)
- Experience managing timelines, budgets and multiple stakeholders
- Experience monitoring and evaluating programme outcomes and strong organisational, interpersonal, and written communication skills; ability to work independently and use initiative
- Experience working across art, research, or community contexts
- Ability to synthesise learning from different organisations into practical application
- Curiosity and willingness to learn from diverse approaches and comfortable with ambiguity and experimentation

How to Apply

Applications should be submitted by CV and a covering letter that set out clearly how your experience meets the proposed criteria outlined in the person specification, with reference to specific examples.

Completed applications must be submitted by 5pm on Monday 19 October 2026.

Applications should be sent by email to Cove Park's Senior Producer Alex Marrs at alex@covepark.org.

We can accept submissions in audio or video formats if this is preferable to a written application. If you have a disability, please let us know if there are any reasonable adjustments to the application process that would be of assistance to you. If you would like to discuss options, or need help making your application, please contact [Alex Marrs](#) directly.

We will acknowledge receipt of your application. This acknowledgement will include a link to NAARCA's anonymous Equalities, Diversity & Inclusion monitoring form for completion and we would be grateful for your time with this.

The applications will be shortlisted for interview by representatives of NAARCA and FI-I, representing different lived experiences and fields of knowledge. NAARCA does not use any AI Tools to assess submissions.

All applicants will be notified if their submission has been shortlisted for interview by Friday 23 October 2026. Interviews will take place via Zoom during the week of Monday 26 October 2026 and the questions will be provided in advance.

Equalities, Diversity & Inclusion

NAARCA believes that social, psychological, cultural, and environmental sustainability are completely intertwined and need to be considered as a whole. We are acutely aware of the lack of diverse perspectives and lived experiences within the international discourse around the cultural sector's responsibility to the environmental crisis, and we are determined to address this issue. We want our residencies, programmes and resources to be open, inclusive and welcoming to all. We continue to assess how we work towards achieving greater equality and representation within all levels of the partner organisations and across all NAARCA programmes.

NAARCA aims to provide a safe and positive environment for everyone, and to actively dismantle discrimination based on age, disability, gender identity, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy or parental status, race including skin colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. Additionally, we aim to dismantle discrimination based on accent, educational background, gender expression, hair texture and hairstyle, immigration status, language ability, markings and/or tattoos connected to spiritual rituals from pre-colonial indigenous cultural practices, neurodiversity, physical and mental health, size, and socio-economic status or background.

As language, terms, and expressions inevitably evolve, we are committed to reviewing this statement regularly – and as often as it becomes appropriate – with our local, national and international communities.

Personal Data

Please note, we will store applications electronically for one year. The data contained within your application will not be used for any purpose other than short-listing, running, and evaluating the programme. We will not share your details with any third parties without obtaining permission from you to do so.

For further information please contact:

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naarca.art

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Future Island-Island is one of four UK Green Transition Ecosystems and part of the flagship Future Observatory: Design the Green Transition programme, the Design Museum's national research programme for the green transition.

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