

Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, Aomori Public University

Artist in Residence Program 2025 “CAMP”

Program Overview and Application Guidelines

1 Program Overview

Since its opening, Aomori Contemporary Art Centre (ACAC) has conducted an Artist in Residence (AIR) program via open call nearly every year. This year’s open call AIR is intended to provide people involved in a wide range of cultural and artistic pursuits – including artists, curators, and researchers – with an opportunity to engage in creative activities while residing at ACAC. Residents will conduct research, create artwork, hold various events, and eventually present their results, all while receiving continuous support from ACAC’s curators, technicians, and staff. The activities of the residents will also be made available to the public through our website and program catalogs. The results – which may consist of artwork exhibitions, performances, workshops, presentations of research or production processes, or other formats – will be presented at this year’s presentation venue.

The residence period consists of a core period lasting for 52 days (51 nights) from October 11 to December 1, 2025, during which the participants will, in principle, reside at ACAC. If desired, participants may reside at ACAC for a maximum of 92 days (91 nights) from September 15 to December 15, 2025. Please select a residence period appropriate for your desired activities.

Due to scheduled renovation work at ACAC, the venue for the 2025 Results Presentation has been moved from our Exhibition Hall to the Aomori Citizens’ Art Gallery inside the JR Aomori Station East Exit Building, although participants will still be able to use the Creative Hall and Residence Hall during this year’s program. ACAC’s Exhibition Hall – an enormous, 6-meter-high horseshoe-shaped space surrounded by the natural environment of the Hakkoda Mountains – has always had a considerable influence on the creations produced by past residents. However, since the facility is located far from the heart of Aomori City, it is not easily accessible for many citizens. The art gallery which will be used as this year’s venue is on the 4th floor of a building occupied by a large number of retail establishments, with windows looking out over the city center. The artists will be forced to find ways to work around the constraints imposed by the architectural differences between the Exhibition Hall and the art gallery. But we consider the new forms of communication that will emerge from such challenges to be another unique aspect of this year’s program.

Each year, the AIR program is given a different title, but these titles are not themes intended to prescribe the contents of the participants’ activities. Rather, you should think of the program title as just one clue when conceptualizing the activities you plan to engage in during the residency. For ACAC, 2025 will be a period of maintenance, a period of restoration and care meant to ensure the continued use of the facilities in the future. This year’s title, “CAMP,” is an English word which carries several meanings: a temporary place of shelter; a place for conducting training in specific skills; a group sharing a given sensibility or doctrine; and the name of a subversive aesthetic style historically shared by various minority groups. “CAMP” represents the nature of ACAC as a place for artists to gather, stay, and confront their own expression while isolated from the comforts of city life; at the same time, it is also a means for surviving states of emergency and exception.

In 2025, this same “CAMP” concept will also act as the framework for nomination-type AIR events, as well as for an additional AIR by an artist to be recommended by our international AIR partners. This year’s open-call AIR will be very different from past years, but we hope you can develop activities that take advantage of these unique circumstances and help you discover new perspectives.

2 Guest Judge for 2025 program

IKEDA Kaho

Independent curator. Since 2016, she has been researching collective and DIY cultures that have developed out of indigenous cultures and social conditions, with a focus on Southeast Asia. She has an interest in interdisciplinary curation that combines forms such as exhibitions, performing arts, and educational programs. After gaining experience as a curatorial assistant at Mori Art Museum, she began working independently in 2023. She is also a program co-director of the shared studio Yamanaka Suplex, and a guest curator at the Art Center BUG and the “Rokko Meets Art 2024 beyond” art festival. Recent major exhibitions and learning projects planned by Ikeda include: “BUG School 2024: Feeling Cities with Wild Sense” (BUG, 2024); “Learning Soil Together!” (Yamanaka Suplex, 2024); and “Go Alone? Arrive Faster? Aim Further? Die Together?” (Yamanaka Suplex, 2024).

3 Number of Participants

1. International applicants: Approx. 2
2. Domestic applicants: Approx. 2

4 Program Schedule

• Residence Period

The core period of the residency will last for 52 days (51 nights) from October 11 to December 1, 2025, during which the participants will, in principle, reside at ACAC. If desired, participants may reside at ACAC for the entire program period, or a maximum of 92 days (91 nights), from September 15 to December 15, 2025.

Program period: September 15 (Mon) – December 15 (Mon), 2025

Core period: October 11 (Sat) – December 1 (Mon), 2025

• Application Period, Selection Schedule

Application period: February 17 (Mon) – April 13 (Sun), 2025 17:00 JST (UTC +9:00)

Selection schedule: April 13 (Sun) 17:00 JST (UTC +9:00) Application deadline

Early May First screening by ACAC curatorial staff

Late May Second screening by guest judge and ACAC director/curatorial staff

Late June Selection of invitees and notification of results

5 How to Apply

Screening by application form contents and a portfolio of up to 5 works.

* Please submit the following application form with portfolio **no later than April 13 (Sun) 2025 17:00 JST (UTC +9:00)**.

* If you are unable to submit the application through Google Forms, please contact us through the Inquiry form on the ACAC website.

Application Form : <https://forms.gle/bLsQGpnNqNn7LEi78>

Notes

• Before applying, please read the Application Guidelines, Application Form Instructions, and Notes on Completing the Application Form carefully.

• A confirmation message will be displayed once the application form has been successfully submitted. A copy of your completed form will be sent by email to the address you entered on the form. If you do not receive an email, please check your spam folder before contacting us.

6 Screening and Notification

Based on submitted materials, artists will be selected by 2025 guest judge Ikeda Kaho and the ACAC director and curatorial staff. Applicants will be informed of the final decision by email in late June, 2025.

7 Application Requirements

- a. Applicants must be individuals or groups engaged in artistic pursuits, including artists, curators, researchers, etc., regardless of background or genre. (Hereafter referred to as “the artist.”)
- b. The artist must understand the purpose of their visit to ACAC and be able to reside and participate during the duration of the residence period.
*Remote participation will be allowed if the organizer deems it to be necessary.
- c. The artist must present the results produced during their residency at the Results Presentation, which is scheduled to be held at the Aomori Citizens’ Art Gallery. (Results may be presented in any format, including exhibitions of artwork, performances, workshops, or presentations of research or production processes.) Additionally, the artist will participate in a panel discussion with the guest judge and other artists during the Results Presentation period.
- d. The artist must be able to communicate in English or Japanese.
- e. The artist must be in good health. (Please consult with us in advance if you require special support)
- f. The artist must cooperate with ACAC staff in the setup and cleanup of exhibitions or events held during the residence period.
- g. The artist must be willing and able to share the communal residence facilities with the other artists during the residence period.

8 About the Results Presentation

Venue: Aomori Citizens’ Art Gallery

Presentation period: November 14 (Fri) – November 29 (Sat)

* Installation: November 4 (Tue) – November 13 (Thu); Removal: November 30 (Sun) – December 1 (Mon)

* The Results Presentation, as well as installation and removal, will take place during the venue’s regular hours of operation (09:00 – 20:00).

* The specific configuration of the venue will be determined in consultation with ACAC staff and the Aomori Citizens’ Art Gallery staff.

9 Obligations of the Organizer and the Artists

The Organizer and the Artist will carry out the program upon entering into a contract which includes the following mutual obligations, which they thereby agree to adhere to throughout the duration of the program. **The costs to be borne by the Organizer are calculated based on the assumption that successful applicants will come alone to Aomori; therefore, in principle, it is not possible for others to accompany the Artists during their residency. Artists can apply as a group or unit; in this case, the organizer considers 1 artist group or unit as 1 artist, and provides expenses (travel expenses, production expenses, sub-program expenses, living expenses) for 1 person only.**

If successful applicants wish to be accompanied by family members, assistants, etc., they must consult with ACAC before traveling to Aomori. Should ACAC approve the Artist’s request, the accompanying individuals may stay at ACAC’s facilities. In this case, the Artist will bear the travel expenses and accommodation expenses (2,040 JPY per person per night) of the accompanying individual(s).

All monetary amounts noted in these guidelines include tax.

Subject	Nature of obligation
Travel to Aomori	
Travel expenses	<p>THE ORGANIZER will pay the following travel expenses according to Aomori Public University's regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Travel expenses equivalent to 1 round trip during the program period. For residents of Japan, this will be calculated as the equivalent of railway fare between Aomori Station and the train station nearest to the artist's current place of residence. For residents of foreign countries, THE ORGANIZER will pay for transportation between the international airport nearest to the artist's current place of residence and Aomori Airport, and between Aomori Airport and Aomori Station. * Expenses will be paid after the artist has arrived in Aomori. * The maximum payment amount is 100,000 JPY for those residing in Japan, and 300,000 JPY for those residing overseas. * Travel expenses will not be paid to Aomori City residents. * Expenses for the transportation of goods or materials will be borne by the artist.
Visa	<p>THE ARTIST should make arrangements for a visa to enter Japan, if required. (All costs for obtaining a visa will be borne by the Artist.)</p>
Production, Gallery Usage and Events	
Activities	<p>During the residency, THE ARTIST agrees to conduct certain activities, such as research and production related to their own artistic expression, as well as some form of presentation of the results of their residency.</p>
Artist in residence production expenses	<p>THE ORGANIZER will provide 300,000 JPY for production expenses deemed necessary by THE ORGANIZER (including costs for research, materials, exhibition installation and removal, etc.).</p>
Sub-program expenses	<p>If THE ARTIST holds a separate sub-program in addition to the Results Presentation, THE ORGANIZER will prepare and bear the costs for any materials necessary for the sub-program after due consultation with THE ARTIST. Additionally, THE ORGANIZER will pay an honorarium for the sub-program, the amount of which will be determined in accordance with the Aomori Public University regulations regarding remuneration for invited guests. However, please note that the maximum amount of payment will depend on budget availability.</p>
Studio	<p>THE ORGANIZER will allow THE ARTIST to use the Creative Hall at ACAC free of charge during the duration of the program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Creative Hall is a shared workspace. There are no private studios. <p>THE ORGANIZER will regularly clean the Creative Hall, but THE ARTIST should keep their own work area clean. When THE ARTIST</p>

	has completed their production activities related to this program, they must return all facilities and equipment to the organizer in their original condition.
Artist Activities During the Residency	
Results Presentation	<p>While at the venue, please follow the instructions of the Aomori Citizens' Art Gallery staff.</p> <p>The location of the presentation and the final plan must be decided after due consultation between THE ARTIST and ACAC staff, in accordance with the terms of use of the Aomori Citizens' Art Gallery. To facilitate the smooth management of the program, we ask that THE ARTIST holds their presentation during the designated presentation period.</p> <p>In principle, THE ARTIST is responsible for installing their exhibition works and making preparations for holding any events as part of the Results Presentation. THE ARTIST is responsible for any regular maintenance of their works that may be necessary during the exhibition period. Any such maintenance must be conducted during the venue's regular hours of operation.</p> <p>* If participating in the program remotely, installation and maintenance of exhibitions will be conducted by ACAC staff after due consultation with THE ARTIST.</p> <p>THE ORGANIZER should prepare any materials (explanatory captions, panels, etc.) deemed necessary for presentation of results after due consultation with THE ARTIST.</p> <p>If your work incorporates light or sound, please discuss and coordinate the installation of temporary partitions, the use of headphones, etc., with the other artists to allow multiple artists to share the venue. (Works which may impact other facilities in the building, such as works that produce loud noises or vibration, will not be allowed.)</p>
Handling of works after the Results Presentation	THE ARTIST is responsible for removing their works and any other additional materials after the presentation. Should THE ARTIST wish to take the work back home, they are responsible for packing the work and paying any shipping expenses.
Sub-program	A sub-program is a distinct program held separately from the Results Presentation, and may consist of lectures, performances, workshops, school visits, or other activities focused on interaction and exchange with local residents. It is possible for THE ARTIST to hold a sub-program of some sort in addition to and distinct from the main activities they will be presenting at the Results Presentation.
About Living at the ACAC	
Living expenses	THE ORGANIZER will pay living expenses for the duration of the artist's residence during the program period according to Aomori Public University's regulations. However, if THE ARTIST travels outside Aomori Prefecture for personal reasons, no living expenses will be paid for the number of nights spent outside the prefecture. The same applies if THE ARTIST arrives late or leaves early. (Living expenses are approximately 3,300 JPY/night.)

Accommodation	<p>THE ORGANIZER will provide the artist with private accommodations and accompanying facilities in the Residence Hall at ACAC free of charge during the program period (single room; 19.44m²).</p> <p>THE ARTIST can use the shared bathroom and kitchen facilities.</p> <p>THE ORGANIZER will perform regular cleaning of the Residence Hall. However, THE ARTIST must keep their private room and the bathroom and kitchen facilities clean. Upon leaving ACAC, THE ARTIST must return all facilities to their original condition.</p>
Internet	<p>THE ARTIST can use the wireless internet provided throughout the facilities.</p>
Insurance	<p>THE ORGANIZER will arrange and pay for an accident insurance policy covering the duration of the artist's residency. THE ARTIST is free to enroll in additional public or private insurance, such as health insurance, at their own expense.</p> <p><u>Works presented at the Results Presentation or any sub-programs, etc., are not covered by this accident insurance policy.</u></p>
Other	
Cooperation with recording of activities; copyright	<p>THE ORGANIZER will archive (via photographs and video) the artist's works and activities during this program. We ask that THE ARTIST cooperate with the recording of these archives. THE ARTIST retains all copyrights for work they produce during this program. However, THE ORGANIZER retains copyright for any archival photographs, video, etc., as well as the right to use any such archival material for publicity purposes. Any parties who have received prior permission from the organizer may use these archival materials free of charge.</p>
About the program catalog	<p>THE ORGANIZER will produce a program catalog and present 20 copies of the catalog to THE ARTIST.</p>
Cooperation with public relations	<p>THE ARTIST should cooperate with interview requests by the media as much as possible. However, it is possible to refuse such a request if the artist feels it would interfere with their activities or violate their privacy. In such cases, please consult with the organizer.</p>
Assistance for activities	<p>In addition to ACAC staff, ACAC works with an independent volunteer organization that supports the resident artists by providing assistance with their creative activities, interpretation services, and assistance with general living needs. Please discuss the nature of any support required with the volunteers and the organizer.</p>
About unforeseen situations	<p>In unforeseen situations such as public health emergencies, the program contents may change. In this case, the appropriate measures will be determined through consultation between THE ARTISTS and THE ORGANIZER.</p>

Examples: Length of stay and amount paid

- For a stay from October 11 to December 1, including participation in the Results Presentation only

Travel expenses: Max. 100,000 JPY if residing in Japan; 300,000 JPY if residing abroad

Living expenses: 172,590 JPY
Production expenses: 300,000 JPY

- For a stay from October 1 to December 1, including participation in both the Results Presentation and a sub-program

Travel expenses: Max. 100,000 JPY if residing in Japan; 300,000 JPY if residing abroad
Living expenses: 201,300 JPY
Production expenses: 300,000 JPY
Sub-program honorarium: 50,000 JPY

- For a stay from September 15 to December 15, including participation in both the Results Presentation and a sub-program

Travel expenses: Max. 100,000 JPY if residing in Japan; 300,000 JPY if residing abroad
Living expenses: 254,100 JPY
Production expenses: 300,000 JPY
Sub-program honorarium: 50,000 JPY

* The amount provided for living expenses may vary slightly depending on place of residence.
* The sub-program honorarium shown above is approximate; the actual amount will be determined in accordance with the Aomori Public University regulations regarding remuneration for invited guests.

10 About Aomori Contemporary Art Centre (ACAC)

Aomori Contemporary Art Centre (ACAC) is an art center offering a flagship Artist in Residence (AIR) program through its residential art facility. Since its foundation in 2001, the program has been an active platform for a diverse range of artists in their creative pursuits and presentations. Located in the foothills of the Hakkoda Mountains, residents can enjoy a rich natural environment while still being close to the center of Aomori City. ACAC's architectural design is the work of internationally-acclaimed architect, ANDO Tadao, and features the concept of "invisible architecture". The center consists of a production studio (Creative Hall) and an accommodation facility (Residential Hall), encouraging interactions with others while providing a comfortable space for visitors to focus on their creative work.

ACAC's AIR program is an initiative expected to foster a variety of expressive activities which can only be realized in this unique environment. The center aims to be an inspirational space for all involved, emphasizing interactions between domestic/international artists and local communities. Since 2009, when ACAC's management was transferred from Aomori City to Aomori Public University, ACAC has also been conducting exchanges with students studying at the university in fields such as management, economics and regional development.

11 Contact and Inquiries

For inquiries regarding application to this program, please contact us using the Inquiry form on the ACAC website.

*Please note that we are unable to respond to inquiries by telephone.

Inquiry form: <https://acac-aomori.jp/inquiry/>

Translated by Ethan SAMES