While artist residencies have traditionally provided opportunities for artists to work in solitude, many residency programs today are designed specifically around artists engaging the local community. How can artist residencies be a platform for engaging communities in meaningful and responsible ways? What do artists need to succeed in community-engaged work, and how best can residency programs serve those needs?

This tipsheet is excerpted from a larger body of resources, initiated in 2014. For more resources, please visit www.artistcommunities.org/socialpractice

1. **Align this work with your mission.** Have a clear and authentic intention of why you want to bring artists and the community together and what impact you hope to have.

2. **Be community-centered.** Relevance and needs of the community should drive the work, and the community should be involved in shaping projects. Active engagement and collaboration, and an investment over time, are essential to address complex social issues.

3. **Be artist-centered.** Consider the artist as an integral part of community-engagement and as a partner with the institution and the community, rather than as a tool for serving a need.

4. **Selection and willingness of the artist** are fundamental to success. Develop a process and criteria that will identify artists well suited to community-engagement and to your particular community.

5. **Prepare in advance, but let projects evolve on-the-ground.** Support artists in planning and learning about the community before a residency, but allow for plans to crystallize once an artist is present.

6. **Time is critical.** Shorter residencies may be best suited for artists who already have community-engagement skills, pre-planned projects, and/or engaging partners the organization already has a relationship with. Longer residencies can support artists still building social-practice skills, more open-ended work, and exploring new partners and audiences within the community.

7. **Commit resources.** Facilitating meaningful, in-depth engagement between artists and your community takes time, money, and staffing.

8. **Manage expectations** around the artists-in-residence and the community. Consider what happens to relationships and projects after the residency.

9. **Be a liaison.** Understand and frame the community context for the artist, and be willing to facilitate relationships. This is an ongoing process, not just a step taken at the beginning.

10. **Foster mutual respect** between artists, the community, and the organization(s).