

Call for Proposals – Artist-in-Residence at the McCord Stewart Museum and the Biosphère



The McCord Stewart Museum, in partnership with the Biosphère – Espace pour la vie, is pleased to launch a call for proposals as part of its Artist-in-Residence program.

In Quebec's recent history, Expo 67 remains a defining moment of collective projection into the future. Through its pavilions, innovations and visual narratives, the event conveyed a worldview shaped by faith in progress, technology and humanity's capacity to transform its environment. Today, in the context of climate upheaval and a profound rethinking of our relationship with the living world, those visions of the future take on a very different meaning.

To mark the 60th anniversary of Expo 67, the McCord Stewart Museum and the Biosphère are joining forces to host an artist residency. The Museum will provide access to its collections and curatorial expertise, while the Biosphère offers a unique foothold on the historic Expo 67 site and a strong commitment to socio-ecological transition. This residency invites artists to explore the legacy of Expo 67 as a living space: a reservoir of objects and images, ideas and utopias to be reactivated rather than a simple record of the past. It is a space where yesterday's promises overlap with today's uncertainties. The project aims to foster a dialogue across temporalities: the futures imagined in the past, the one we inhabit today and those still to be invented.

This partnership also anchors the residency in a landmark site: the former United States Pavilion, now a museum dedicated to the environment. Working on the very grounds of Expo 67, within an architectural icon that embodies the technological ambitions of its time, offers a tangible experience of the tension between yesterday's optimism and today's ecological urgencies. The residency is rooted in this dynamic, bringing together multiple perspectives (across disciplines and across time) to imagine desirable futures.



Jean-Louis Frund,
*Crowd in front of the United States Pavilion,
Expo 67, Montreal, 1967.*
Gift of Jean-Louis Frund,
MP-1994.1.14.18,
McCord Stewart Museum

This six-month residency will take place from July to December 2026. It will allow the selected artist to draw inspiration from the McCord Stewart Museum's collections and the Expo 67 site for a research-creation project. Please note that no studio space is provided; the artist must have access to their own workspace.

The residency will culminate in a solo exhibition presented in two complementary parts:

1. Gallery exhibition at the McCord Stewart Museum (1,000 sq. ft.)

2. Outdoor exhibition consisting of double-sided 2D panels installed at the Biosphère

Compensation

The artist in residence will receive a fee of \$4,000 for research and production, along with \$12,000 in exhibition rights fees. Per diems and travel expenses are not covered by the Museum or the Biosphère.

This research-creation residency offers exceptional access to the Museum's collections, along with support from its collections and research management and exhibition production teams. The Biosphère's programming and exhibition production teams will also provide support.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must hold professional artist status as defined by the *Act respecting the professional status of artists in the visual arts, film, the recording arts, literature, arts and crafts, and the performing arts* (CQLR, chapter S-32.1), and in accordance with their contracts with presenting organizations.

The Museum and the Biosphère consider an individual to have professional artist status if they meet the following criteria:

→ They self-identify as a professional artist

→ They create works on their own behalf

→ Their work is exhibited, produced, published or publicly presented in recognized professional venues

→ They have received recognition from their peers as a professional artist (e.g., honours, awards, grants, jury invitations, selection for fairs or similar distinctions)

Selection jury

The artist will be selected by a jury made up of at least two members of each of the responsible organizations and two external members.

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

→ Originality of the artistic approach

→ Relevance with the theme

→ Sensitivity to the McCord Stewart Museum's collections, the site of Expo 67 and environmental issues

Important dates

→ Call for proposals: May 1, 2026

→ Project submission deadline: June 10, 2026

→ Selection: June 22, 2026

→ Research-creation period: July to December 2026

→ Exhibition at the McCord Stewart Museum: March 26 to August 15, 2027 (7 months)

→ Exhibition at the Biosphère: late April 2027 to May 2028 (12 months)

NOTE: Besides the submission deadline, the timeline is subject to change.

Your application must contain:

→ Your CV

→ Ten images of your works and/or installations

→ A short biography and a description of your artistic process

→ A cover letter describing: the research-creation project, your goals, a timeline for the six months of the residency, how the residency fits into your artistic process, and the expected outcomes

For any questions, please contact:
residence-artiste@mccord-stewart.ca

Applications must be submitted by June 10, 2026,
via email:
residence-artiste@mccord-stewart.ca

The McCord Stewart Museum

A landmark in the heart of Montreal for over 100 years, the McCord Stewart Museum bears witness to the history of Quebec's metropolis as well as its influence in Canada and around the world, celebrating the vitality, creativity and diversity of the communities that make it up.

The Museum amplifies their voices by interpreting and disseminating the remarkable heritage under its custody: six expansive collections of 3.2 million images, objects, documents and works of art that make it one of North America's leading museums.

In keeping with its commitment to decolonization and sustainable development, it creates stimulating exhibitions and educational, cultural and community-engagement activities that look at the social history and contemporary issues affecting its audiences through a critical and inclusive lens, inspiring them to take action for a fairer society.

This Artist-in-Residence program was created in 2012 out of a desire to bring on a new meaning to the McCord Stewart Museum's collections through the eyes of a contemporary artist. This is a way to rediscover the collections from other perspectives. The program invites artists to take a critical and conceptual look at the collections, reflecting on the connections between their artistic practice and the objects and stories they uncover during their research. As part of this research-oriented creative activity, artists are encouraged to communicate their own interpretation of the collection and propose new ways of interpreting history in its many forms.

The Biosphère – Espace pour la vie

An architectural landmark in Montreal since the 1967 International and Universal Exhibition, the Biosphère became a museum in 1995 and joined the Espace pour la vie complex in spring 2021. Its programming brings together science, the arts and society to encourage people to live in harmony with nature and take action for socio-ecological transition. Located by the river, at the meeting point of city and nature, the Biosphère offers a wide range of exhibitions and activities that invite curious minds to better understand today's major environmental challenges and explore ways to address them. As these challenges grow increasingly complex, the need for action becomes ever more urgent. Through its mission—raising awareness, protecting and showcasing biodiversity—the Biosphère seeks to reshape our relationship with nature and inspire meaningful engagement.

