

A-Z WEST

FAQ Sheet

Self-Structured Residency

What is the A-Z West Self-Structured Residency?

The Self-Structured Residency is a program for artists, writers, researchers, and creative professionals to spend time within the context of A-Z West for 1-2 weeks. This residency program is ideal for those seeking a quiet, tranquil place outside of their own studio or home to dedicate quality time to their practice and dig deep into themselves.

While we also host a free work-trade residency program that offers accommodations in our Shipping Container apartments in return for help around the compound, the self-structured residency is an alternative for those who prefer a private living arrangement that is more comfortable and less rugged.

Where will I stay?

We host residents in the A-Z West Guest Cabin - a small house with a separate bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen, as well as an outdoor shower and barbeque. The house is perfect for an individual or a couple. Most of the year the guest cabin is used to host HDTS artists or rented at market rate to help cover operating costs of the non-profit work of HDTS. But a few times a year we make it available at reduced rates to artists, writers, researchers, and curators.

How much does it cost?

Residencies in the [guest cabin](#) run at a weekly rate of \$500. Please review this link for a better sense of the cabin's accommodations. Additionally, there is a \$125 orientation and cleaning fee. Meals are not included; residents are expected to provide their own food and cook their own meals.

When can I come and for how long?

The cabin is available for self-structured residency guests for 1-2 week stays per year pending other HDTS artist or visitor reservations. Please be aware that we have tours that come through the Guest Cabin periodically but you will be given fair warning if this happens during your stay.

What resources or studio facilities will be available to me?

Your main resource is your accommodations, which are meant to provide time and space to think, research, brainstorm, and gain larger perspective on your practice.

With advance communication, residencies can include use of the A-Z West weaving and ceramics studios, but we are not able to provide private workspaces at this time. The guest cabin is itself an artwork and has many delicate surfaces, so we ask that you do not use mediums such as acrylic or oil paint, pastels, clay or other materials that could damage the artworks or surfaces. If you have special needs for your practice, please communicate with us before applying.

How do I get to A-Z West and what type of transportation do I use while I'm there?

The closest airport to Joshua Tree is in Palm Springs. It is a small regional airport that is still a 1-hour drive from A-Z West. Ontario (CA), Los Angeles, and Las Vegas can also be flown into, but each of these options is still a 2–3-hour drive away. Arriving with a car is crucial and it is the only practical means of transportation within the desert. You will need a car to obtain daily supplies, to do laundry (A-Z West does not have such facilities at the moment), and to thoroughly explore this region. Although you will want to spend most of your time at A-Z West, there are many other inspiring sites to see, and you will need a car to do so.

What's the high desert like?

This is a sprawling, rural, economically diverse, culturally and artistically rich area. We do have grocery stores, coffee shops, bars, restaurants, and a variety of cultural sites worth visiting, but everything is very spread out. Many places you will want to go to will be more than 20 minutes away and located on dirt roads. Although Joshua Tree is home to a national park that hosts millions of visitors each year which makes the area a major tourist destination, the local community is low to middle income. This means that many of the economic resources prioritize affordability; we have a local Wal-Mart, but no Traders Joe's, Whole Foods, or shopping mall.

What's the weather like?

For the most part the weather is quite beautiful but be prepared for extreme conditions—it can get very hot (110) and very cold (freezing), windy, flooding, occasional snow. It is a desert, so it is very dry and about 2,000 ft in elevation.

Can you tell me more about A-Z West?

A-Z West is an artwork created by Andrea Zittel over the span of 20 years, located on over eighty acres in the California high desert next to Joshua Tree National Park. Since its inception A-Z West has functioned as an evolving testing ground for living—a place in which spaces, objects, and acts of living all intertwine into a single ongoing investigation into what it means to exist and participate in our culture today. If you'd like to visit A-Z West before applying for a self-structured residency, we recommend coming on one of our regularly scheduled public [tours](#).

How do I apply?

Please send us:

- One-page personal bio (description of yourself) – include who you are, what experiences have led you to apply to visit A-Z West and a brief description of why you would like to visit.
- The date range that you are interested in
- Two references and their contact information.

Applications and inquiries should be sent to info@hdts.site.