

FLUXNET Artist Residency Pilot Program

FLUXNET Overview

Our understanding of climate change depends on our understanding of ecosystem fluxes—how things like carbon, water, and energy move between the Earth (the biosphere) and the air (the atmosphere). These fluxes are regulated by ecosystem processes including photosynthesis and evapotranspiration and are also affected by human activities and natural disturbances including agriculture, burning of fossil fuels, drought and fire.

Scientists around the world have set up nearly 1,000 towers instrumented to constantly collect data about carbon, water, and energy exchanges between the Earth and the air – they are observing how the biosphere breathes. There are towers in forests, grassland, croplands, wetlands, shrublands, savannas and the ocean in North America, Europe, Asia, South America, Africa. All of this data is shared through a global network called FLUXNET.

FLUXNET is also much more than its datasets. It is a scientific community dedicated to understanding and communicating how ecosystems function and how Earth systems are changing. Having flux data in one place allows scientists to do big-picture thinking about climate change and develop Earth system and climate models. Scientists also examine details of specific ecosystem processes and how they vary around the globe and throughout time. FLUXNET data and models are then used to inform local and international ecosystem management efforts and climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

FLUXNET Artist Residency

The [FLUXNET Artist Residency Pilot Program](#), funded by NSF and in partnership with the Patricia Valian Reser Center for the Creative Arts ([PRAx](#)), will provide a unique opportunity for scientists and artists to engage in collaborative inquiry about FLUXNET. The pilot residency program and participating FLUXNET researchers include:

- **Chris Still**, Oregon State University, FLUXNET Metolius cluster
- **Dennis Baldocchi**, University of California, Berkeley, FLUXNET California Delta cluster
- **Marcy Litvak**, University of New Mexico, FLUXNET New Mexico cluster
- **Maoya Bassiouni**, University of California, Berkeley, FLUXNET network

Artist Selection

We broadly define the arts to include visual arts, performing arts, media arts, and creative writing. The process of pairing artists with faculty fellows will be led by Ashley Stull Meyers, the Horning Chief Curator of Art, Science, and Technology at the Patricia Valian Reser Center for the Creative Arts (PRAX). Artists will formally apply to the program by completing the [registration form](#) by 15 June, 2024.

Artists selected for this program will have:

- A compelling visual, performative, or multi-media creative practice.
- An interest in scientific or technical research and discoveries.
- An openness to multi- or interdisciplinary collaborations.
- Commitment to learn alongside the FLUXNET researcher in lab or fieldwork activities and to involve the researchers in artistic investigations and experiments when appropriate.

We would be happy to address questions or set up a time to discuss potential collaborations in advance of an application (maoya@berkeley.edu, ashley.stullmeyers@oregonstate.edu).

Terms and Expectation

This fellowship thrives on clear communication and mutual respect, deep curiosity about inquiry and research, and openness to new experiences or unexpected insights.

Each researcher/artist team will:

- Commit to the one-year artist residency program period
- Partner on curiosity-driven exploration of questions and ideas central to their shared interest in flux, ecosystem and climate science.
- Create and participate in a creative intellectual community.
- Coordinate mutually beneficial artist residency stays and field site visits. In person stays may be split into multiple blocks and video conferencing used for remote residency.
- Work with a program lead to develop a work plan and budget.
- Attend online orientation and participate in kick-off and closing events (details below).
- Attend quarterly online check-ins with program leaders.
- Participate in public programming and events connected with the fellowship.
- Submit final fellowship requirements (see details below).
- Provide programmatic feedback throughout the fellowship.

FLUXNET researchers will:

- Involve the artist in research activities, immersive lab or field work experiences, and relevant meetings or idea incubation conversations.
- Participate in “reverse residency” activities by learning about the artist’s methods of inquiry, experimentation, and creative practice.

- Accompany artist to visit field sites and provide a safe outdoor working space (if appropriate) and indoor desk/working space at the university.

Artist fellows will:

- Actively engage and collaborate with FLUXNET researchers, including the lab principle investigator, postdocs, and students (e.g., attend lab meetings, participate in field work)
- Visit the field site at least once during the residency.
- Develop a new project or creative work that engages with FLUXNET. Projects should be created with a public audience of non-specialists in mind.
- Submit a mid-fellowship progress report (2p, February 2025) including a plan for one additional outreach event for your work, either solo or in collaboration with other artists.

Fellowship requirements and events

Fellowship orientation and kick-off:

- Fellows will attend an online orientation meeting (Summer 2024, date TBD) for Q&A about the program and logistics.
- Fellows will participate in a kick-off event at the Ameriflux Annual meeting in Berkeley (4-6 Sept, 2024) including social gatherings, attending scientific presentations, artist panel discussion / breakout session, and artist poster presentations.
- If mutually beneficial and practical, artists may begin creative and intellectual exchange with the FLUXNET researchers to develop their project before the official kick off but with the understanding that stipend payments may not be available before September 2024.

Project final requirements:

- Fellows will document their work to be cataloged on the FLUXNET and PRAX websites. This documentation may be used in program-relevant promotional materials.
- Fellows will share their work and participate in the events and exhibition hosted by PRAX at Oregon State University (Fall 2025, date TBD).
- Fellows will share their fellowship experience and project in a brief recorded interview for a series that will be published online.
- Fellows will submit a brief final reflection about their experience (max 3 pages)

PRAX center closing event:

- Fellows should plan to be in Corvallis, OR for two days (Fall 2025, date TBD).
- Visual artists will need to transport work to Corvallis and budget those expenses using their stipends.
- Resources available upon request for exhibition: black box theater, concert hall
- Program leads will develop FLUXNET creative outreach activities and work with interested fellows to create opportunities for engagement within the local community, FLUXNET community and students (e.g., via a lecture, conversation, interactive activities).

Funding

Each artist will receive up to \$15,000 to support their time in residency, artistic needs, travel, and artwork shipping. Funding will be received as a stipend and is taxable income. Payments will be issued at the start of the program and upon submission of the mid-fellowship report.

We will reimburse actual travel costs for artists to attend the kick-off workshop (September, 2024) in Berkeley, CA and the closing exhibit in Corvallis, OR (Fall, 2025).

Tentative Timeline

- May - June 2024 - Artist interviews and selection
- July- August 2024 - Fellowship on boarding and online orientation meeting
- September 2024 - Residency kick-off at the Ameriflux meeting. First stipend payment.
- September 2024 - September 2025 - Artists do residencies. Quarterly online meetings.
- February 2025 - Mid-fellowship report submission. Second stipend payment.
- September 2025 - Residency ends. Artists submit final fellowship requirements
- November 2025 - Performance/exhibition at PRAX with all artists/scientists
- February 2026 - Final work cataloged, interview videos released and used publicly.