

Nelia Harper & Krista Rogers' Notes on Artist in Residency – Central School, Artist in the Attic

What Worked:

- Size – great to have a large space. Perfect for having different stations (work station, display, teaching station, etc.)
- Krista – updated signage, connected to the community, connection to MacRostie.
- Social Media connections for promotion through the MacRostie.
- Elevator.
- Great meeting people, connecting with art community, having a place to work, show work, meet with models, some sales.
- Fun sharing ideas and inspiration with the other artists and collaborating on projects and events.
 - Started inviting other local artists to share their works on First Fridays, and people loved the variety of art.
- The environment is magic and the sunsets are amazing through the windows.

What Didn't Work:

- The condition of the space on arrival – filthy, lights not working, water damage, limping refrigerator, walls needed a coat of paint.
 - The leaky roof (brown water in buckets and splattered throughout entrance) is what often greets people
- Expanding Water Damage - inability to use the kitchen/entry space effectively.
- No WIFI
- Heat! So hot (all the time)
- Noise – from the heating register
- Lighting – very difficult light for painting – cast shadows from beams, butterflies, multiple light sources, flickering bulbs, inability to control light.
- Building – too empty, not open on weekends or during events

What Was Missing

- WIFI – an essential utility these days
- Clarity on 1st Friday – signage, locking the building, Herald Review, maps/flyers, etc.
- Clarity on resources available to us – MacRostie, teaching opportunities, show opportunities, press release, social media/marketing of Artists in the Attic.
- Information of the building.
- History of Artists in Residence through the years.

Possibilities

- Artist Highlights/Spotlights – press release, poster at MacRostie, artwork on display, social media posts, etc., visit by Committee members, City Council, art groups, etc., outside of First Friday Art Walk
- Information on AIR in other locations to encourage visitors
- Additional activities in the building to encourage visitors/sales
- At least one 'formal' reception with snacks/drinks, or sponsors of the artists by local businesses to provide some food/beverage on First Fridays. Possibly music as well.
- Half the people who come in want to know more about the building. It would be great to have information posted by the doors explaining what each room used to be.
- It would also be helpful to have good signage inside the attic describing what the artist residency is and who is involved highlighting GRACC, City of GR, and the MAC.