

Retreat & Residency Programs at Hopscotch House

The Retreat Program

KFW's Retreat Program offers up to six days free of cost at Hopscotch House to artists, activists and allies who live and work in Kentucky and whose goals are to create art, gain a deeper understanding of feminism, and strengthen their understanding of their art and social change goals. The program brings together artists, activists, and allies in a feminist space located on 10 acres of land. Retreats support participants at all stages in their artistic, feminist and social change development.

During retreats, participants have time to focus fully on the goals of their stay. The natural environment allows for renewal of feminist, artistic and activist commitments, while creating space for inspiration for developing new work, strategies, and ideas for participants to take back to their communities.

KFW's Retreat Program operates approximately ten months out of the year. With no minimum length of stay, participants can request up to six days that best suits their individual or group needs.

To support the creative and social change development of women who have financial barriers, KFW offers a limited number of small stipends. Retreats are open to individuals and groups. Individuals under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

KFW's Retreat Program recognizes that honoring diversity and supporting creative expression are important and interconnected values. Participants scheduled to share space at Hopscotch House with other individuals and groups may meet participants with diverse expressions of cultural identity; from varying communities of place; and with a range of worldviews, races, ethnicities, gender identities, sexual orientations, and levels of ability.

How to Request a Retreat: Information about requesting a retreat is announced on www.kfw.org and in KFW's weekly e-newsletter, *The Hot Flash*. Before requesting a retreat, first determine if you want to participate in an **Individual Retreat** or **Group Retreat** by reviewing the following sections.

Individual Retreats

Day-Only Stays work well for individuals who want to use the informal and homelike setting, workspace and surrounding land but do not require overnight accommodations. Participants may request a single day or a series of days that are dispersed across the session.

Overnight Stays work well for individuals who wish to use the overnight accommodations in addition to the meeting spaces and surrounding land. Overnights are good for individuals traveling from a distance or for participants who wish to have extended retreat time.

Eligibility Requirements

- Individual requesting the retreat lives and works in Kentucky, or is a former longtime KFW community member seeking special permission for a retreat that will further work benefiting women and girls in Kentucky.
- Individual requesting the retreat will not use Hopscotch House for for-profit activities.

Criteria for an individual retreat request

- Individual requesting retreat is working in the areas of feminism, art and/or activism.
- Individual requesting retreat can clearly explain why participating in a retreat at Hopscotch House will advance her feminism, art or activism.
- Focus of the retreat is on advancing artistic expression, deepening an understanding of feminism and advancing social change for women and girls in Kentucky.
- Individual requesting retreat has a goal or plan for taking her artwork, ideas, or understandings back into her community

Examples of Successful Individual Retreats

A visual artist participates in a six-day retreat to explore video and installation. She gains experience working with multi-dimensional space and strengthens the feminist content of her art. A stipend provides her the financial support to take time from work to develop her artistic practice. Her focus is on creating sculptural forms with found objects. She will teach youth the new techniques she learns.

A poet participates in a five-day retreat to finalize and format her collection of feminist themed poems for publication. Her work is accepted for publication and her chapbook is now available in hard copy and online, which creates broad opportunity to impact social change.

Group Retreats

Day-Only Stays work well for groups of seven or more who want to use the informal and homelike setting, workspace and surrounding land but do not require overnight accommodations.

Overnight Stays are for groups of up to six women who wish to take advantage of the overnight accommodations in addition to the meeting spaces and surrounding land. Overnights are good for groups traveling from a distance or for participants who wish to have extended retreat time.

Eligibility Requirements

- Group contact person and majority of group members live and work in Kentucky.
- Groups may not use Hopscotch House for for-profit activities.
- Group consists of two or more people, with the majority arriving and departing on the same days.
- Group designates a contact person to communicate with KFW's Retreat Programs staff to insure a successful retreat experience.

Please note: Men may participate in day-long group stays but may not participate in overnight stays at Hopscotch House.

Criteria for a group retreat

- Group requesting retreat is focused on feminism, art and/or activism.
- Group focus of the retreat will be on advancing artistic expression, deepening an understanding of feminism, and/or advancing social change for women and girls in Kentucky.
- Group requesting retreat has a goal or plan for taking their newly developed work, ideas, or understandings back into their communities.

Examples of Successful Group Retreats

Five visual artists participate in a six-day retreat to create work for a fundraiser that supports a school building effort in Ghana, West Africa. The group is able to advance their art-making skills together, discuss issues that affect women and girls in Kentucky, and consider the global intersections of social change with their work at home.

An inter-generational retreat brings together mentors with teenage girls representing various nationalities and educational levels. The adults arrive first to discuss their mentoring process. The teenagers arrive on day two. Together with the mentors, the girls explore writing approaches for creating a magazine they publish and distribute to teen girls. The goal of the publication is to empower the girls who read it as well as the girls who produce it.

The Residency Program

The Summer Residency Program (SRP) encourages women to advance their artistic development, participate in building community within a feminist setting and deepen their understanding of art, social change and activism.

Founded in 2006, KFW's Summer Residency Program at Hopscotch House has fostered many of Kentucky's most diverse feminist social change artists and art activists. By supporting individual and collective artistic development with a focus on social impact, the Summer Residency Program is an important component of the growing and inclusive feminist social change movement in Kentucky.

Artists with varied backgrounds, worldviews, cultural heritages, and sexual orientations are encouraged to apply. The communal environment created by the residents offers fresh thinking and cross-fertilization of ideas. Summer Residents regularly report that these kinds of exchanges inspire new insights, which strengthen their individual work.