



A Tod Williams Billie Tsien designed addition to Savidge Library was opened in 2013. *John W. Hession photo*



Leonard Bernstein was in residence three times and composed his *Mass* at MacDowell. *Bernice B. Perry photo*



Edward MacDowell's log cabin was the model for the 32 studios built on The Colony's 450 acres. *Jonathan Gourlay photo*

THE MACDOWELL COLONY FACTS & FIGURES

MacDowell Colony

The MacDowell Colony is one of the nation's leading contemporary arts organizations and provides essential support for emerging and established artists by bringing together diverse, multidisciplinary talent to exchange ideas and pursue creative work.

Location

MacDowell Colony

100 High Street
Peterborough, NH 03458

MacDowell NYC

521 West 23rd Street
New York, NY 10011

Visiting MacDowell

Though MacDowell's residency campus in Peterborough is only open to the public on Medal Day each August, organizations and press should contact Jonathan Gourlay at (603) 924-3886 to schedule a visit.

MacDowell NYC's office and event space in Chelsea is open during business hours and for scheduled events.

History

Composer Edward MacDowell and pianist Marian MacDowell established the Colony in 1907 to stimulate creativity and enhance expression in American culture. As the preeminent multidisciplinary artist residency program in the nation, MacDowell has provided essential support to more than 8,400 women and men from around the world. MacDowell Fellows have won 91 Pulitzer Prizes, 844 Guggenheim Fellowships, 109 Rome Prizes, 33 National Book Awards, 31 Tony Awards, 32 MacArthur Fellowships, 15 Grammys, 8 Oscars, and 8 National Medals for the Arts. The Colony was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 1997, and remains one of only a few organizations and the only artists' colony to have received this prestigious honor.

Mission

The mission of The MacDowell Colony is to nurture the arts by offering creative individuals of the highest talent an inspiring environment in which they can produce enduring works of the imagination. The sole criterion for acceptance is artistic excellence, which The MacDowell Colony defines in a pluralistic and inclusive way. MacDowell encourages applications from artists representing the widest possible range of perspectives and demographics who are investigating an unlimited array of inquiries and concerns.

Fellowships

Each year through a competitive open application process, more than 300 artists, 60 percent of whom are admitted to MacDowell for the first time, are awarded Fellowships in the following seven disciplines: architecture, film/video arts, interdisciplinary arts, literature, music composition, theatre, and visual arts. A Fellowship, with an average value of \$10,000, consists of exclusive use of a private studio, accommodations, and three prepared meals a day for two weeks to two months. There are no residency fees and anyone may apply. Selection is made solely based on talent by anonymous panels of distinguished professionals in each artistic discipline who rotate off the panels in staggered three-year terms. An artist may re-apply throughout their career to return to MacDowell. More than 15,000 Fellowships have been awarded since 1907.

Leadership

MacDowell is a nonprofit governed by a volunteer board of directors headed by Chairman, author, and visual artist **Nell Painter** and presided over by President Andrew M. Senchak. Executive Director Philip Himberg and Resident Director David Macy lead the program staff. There are currently 63 board members, half of whom are artists.

Public Programs

The MacDowell Colony brings together the community with the art and artists in free programs to expand appreciation of the arts. **MacDowell Downtown** is a free series of presentations open to the public by MacDowell Fellows that takes place on the first Friday of the month from March to November in downtown Peterborough. Each season of MacDowell Downtown features a wide array of programming, including film screenings, readings, performances, talks, and more. **MacDowell in the Schools** brings the excitement of the creative process to the classrooms of the Monadnock region. Students in grade school, high school, and college have all benefited from the time and expertise of MacDowell Fellows as they share their passion and their work with the next generation of artists and art lovers. Events at **MacDowell NYC**'s new presentation space in Chelsea includes monthly gatherings small and large, public and private, to engage artists and the larger public in dialogue about important issues across artistic disciplines. Having increased its program by 30 percent to more than 300 fellowships each year, MacDowell will use the platform to drive support for initiatives such as increasing support for journalism, bringing greater equity

and diversity to the arts, increasing financial support for childcare, and reducing other barriers to a residency.

Medal Day

MacDowell's largest public event, Medal Day, is a joyful celebration of America's leading voices in art. The Edward MacDowell Medal in the Arts is bestowed each year to an artist who has made a lasting cultural contribution in their field. Since 1960, MacDowell has awarded the Medal to a leading voice in American culture, from **Thornton Wilder** to Toni Morrison, and from Sonny Rollins to Louise Nevelson. This free event attracts over a thousand people every August for a ceremony, picnic, and open studios with artists-in-residence.

Events and Public Support

MacDowell is a 501© 3 nonprofit organization that raises funds to cover its \$4.5 million annual operating budget. As such, it is one of the largest publicly funded supporters of individual artists in the country. The Colony's endowment of \$35 million is the result of occasional campaigns to ensure the sustainability of the program. Annual giving is a primary source of income. Donors are encouraged to participate at all levels and many artists make contributions throughout their lifetimes. The MacDowell Colony **National Benefit in New York City** brings together artists, patrons, and leaders in the arts and business worlds each spring, raising critical operating support for the residency program. All proceeds from the National Benefit support Fellowships for residencies for the more than 300 artists who come to the Colony each year from all corners of the globe. The MacDowell Colony's **New Hampshire Benefit** is held at the Colony each year and brings together artists-in-residence, MacDowell supporters, and business leaders for an intimate community celebration of art and artists. The annual Chairman's Evening is held the first week of December in New York City. Past participants include Laurie Anderson, Margaret Atwood, Lin-Manuel Miranda, **Ta-Nehisi Coates**, Patty Smith, Salman Rushdie, Paul Simon, Stephen Sondheim, and Zadie Smith.

Join the conversation on social media by mentioning **MacDowell Colony** and using these hashtags: #MacDowellColony, #MadeAtMacDowell, #MacDowellFellow

Facebook: MacDowellColony | **Instagram:** [@macdowellcolony](https://www.instagram.com/macdowellcolony) | **Twitter:** [@MacDowellColony](https://twitter.com/MacDowellColony)

Media Contacts:

Jonathan Gourlay / MacDowell Colony / jgourlay@macdowellcolony.org / 603.924.3886