



The Outer Ear Residency (OER) is a week-long residency at Experimental Sound Studio (ESS) in which all of the Studio's resources and platforms are made available to the artists. The goal of the residency is to facilitate experimentation and the creation of new work at any phase of the creative process. The Residency is purposefully open and flexible, allowing artists to work with ESS staff on an approach that best serves their present artistic goals.

ESS will cover round trip travel to Chicago and accommodations for out of town artists.

All artists-in-residence receive a stipend of \$1,000.

ESS's Managing Director Adam Vida is the primary OER contact. His email is adam@ess.org.



RESOURCES

Facilities for rehearsal and recording. Artists-in-residence can schedule up to 16 hours with one of ESS's professional engineers or can facilitate their own sessions.

Studio A

Studio A is an 800-square-foot multi-track live recording studio with isolation room and a separate control room. It is ideal for tracking live bands, acoustic instruments, or chamber ensembles, and comes complete with an arsenal of electric pianos and a 5'8" Young Chang baby grand. The live room has movable sound absorption and deflection panels in order to reshape its acoustic qualities to accommodate a wide range of musical and production approaches. The adjoining isolation booth is perfect for voice, drum kit, or instrument separation.

Studio B

Studio B is a mixing, mastering, and soundtrack suite with overdub booth. The Studio features a clean, naturally non-reverberant sound that is ideal for mixing and mastering, especially with the range of software tools from Izotope, Avid, Waves, and others available in the suite. Equipped with a large LED TV and surround sound capabilities, it is also an excellent setting for cinema sound design and soundtrack mixing – in fact, it's designed to accommodate every facet of audio post-production, including ADR, foley, sound effects editing, etc. Studio B's uncolored acoustic transparency and accurate monitoring means you hear exactly what your audience will hear.

For a full list of available equipment visit <https://ess.org/recording/>



Artists in residence will have access to **ESS's Creative Audio Archive** which houses documentation from ESS's 32 year history as well as a number of other collections including the Sun Ra/El Saturn Collection, the Malachi Ritscher Collection, Penumbra Music Collection, and a Links Hall Collection, among others. Some material may be available for use depending on permissions; artists-in-residence can work with the Archives Manager should they wish to use any material from the Archive.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION & ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Limited funds for additional performers, installation costs, etc are available. Costs towards public presentation are not expected to come out of the artist-in-residence stipend.

Performance

Performances at ESS usually take place in the versatile and acoustically pristine Studio A live room or in our beautiful outdoor garden.

ESS additionally has partnerships with a number of spaces and venues around Chicago. We are happy to work with artists-in-residence to hold performances elsewhere in the city.

Exhibition

Audible Gallery at ESS is a 400 square foot project space focusing on intimate exhibitions that feature or are somehow driven by sound as medium, subject, or a cultural force.

Florasonic

Initiated in 2001, Florasonic is an ongoing series that commissions artists to create sound installations for [Lincoln Park Conservatory's Fern Room](#). Florasonic is the only ongoing sound installation commissioning program in the United States.

Workshops

ESS can help set-up and facilitate workshops at our Studios.

MARKETING & DOCUMENTATION

ESS will work with artists-in-residence to document and market work-in-progress and events in a manner that aligns with the goals of the artist while in residence. The Studio has professional audio and video recording equipment, cameras, and live streaming capabilities.

