

# Kimmel • Harding • Nelson CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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## **When asked, “What did you like most about your Kimmel Harding Nelson residency,” recent responses included:**

“The balance that was struck between providing me with what I needed and leaving me to my own resources. Pat and Elizabeth both really know what they're doing - the program is run efficiently and allows for maximum productivity. I didn't know what to expect, but I was really pleasantly surprised. I really had everything I needed. The town offered options for exploring and inspiration, and was accessible. The facility was comfortable, well laid out, and well supplied. It was also a good mix of artists, and I was well matched with my roommate.” –*Anthony Barilla, interdisciplinary, 2015*

“I liked the perfect balance between time and space to focus on my studio work and the availability of Elisabeth and Pat to organize trips to local museums or other interesting spots. I very much appreciated the way the residency is organized, no mandatory events, no social pressure, a lot of privacy. I Loved the silence and the peace at KHN and the helpful and friendly and respectful way Elisabeth and Pat handle everything. And: the bikes are great!” –*Anke Becker, visual artist, 2015*

“It was one of the nicest residencies I've been to. The facilities were gorgeous; I don't want to leave my apartment to go home! Pat and Elizabeth are extraordinarily generous human beings.” –*Esmé Wang, writer, 2015*

"The Kimmel Harding Nelson residency provided me with the workspace and solitude necessary to carry out my artistic work. The composer studio was spacious and well appointed - I only wish that I could have such a good working environment back at home! I am likewise grateful that the composer studio is situated away from everyone/thing else, allowing me the freedom to work at all and any hours without fear of noise disturbing others." -*Nina C. Young, composer, 2015*

"I loved the quiet everywhere, so that I felt I could work multiple places. I also appreciated the other residents--everyone was mature and serious about their art." -*Jen Bockelman, visual artist, 2014*

“The staff: having friendly, helpful, and well-organized professionals who did everything to make my stay as comfortable and productive as possible was a particular highpoint of the KHN experience. Issues were quickly taken care of (the internet connection), and everything was run flawlessly. The center itself: the building and its general layout – both intimate and spacious - felt like a true home away from home. Having the basics provided for – on site laundry, printer and scanner, etc. - was very convenient. The private courtyard looks to be a superb place for residents to enjoy and gather in the warmer months. The living space: the apartment was superb – spacious, well-equipped, clean,

quiet, and most importantly, with a private bathroom (not always the case at other residencies). Being surrounded by art in my living space was a wonderful experience that inspired and motivated me. The studio: I really enjoyed the proximity to the apartment, and having access to both the street and the courtyard, which meant I could use spray fixative and let work dry without fear that it will be disturbed or disappear. My studio was very generous in size, and thoughtfully equipped: I really appreciated having such comfortable chairs, and a stool with which I could reach and change the ceiling lights. Having four tables (plus a drafting table) was also great as I use a great deal of surface area. The drawer and shelf storage, roll of newsprint and broom and dustpan were great to have on hand. But a truly exceptional feature of the studios at KHN are the adjustable track lights - a rare, perhaps even unique feature among residency studios - which allows one not only a professional presentation when it comes to displaying work, but also exquisite control in illuminating the workspace – a feature that was very important to me in my specialized work.

The open, self-directed program structure appealed to me greatly as it permits privacy and freedom, but also an opportunity for interaction and socializing, without imposing on individual residents' needs. The small number of residents allows for real friendships to form, and having people from different fields – composers, artists and writers - together is fantastic. As people are used to gravitating towards each other based on professional affiliation, the idea of having visual artists share apartments with writers is a good one as it promotes interaction and fruitful dialogue.

Having a weekly stipend is, needless to say, a wonderful feature of the program and quite generous given the cost of living in this part of the country.

Nebraska City was a nice surprise with its charming old buildings, brick-paved streets, quirky museums, and cheap restaurants. I only wish I had been here in time for the farmers market, but having access to the farmer's co-op was terrific.” –*Eva Nikolova, visual artist, 2015*

“I believe that the wonderful facilities and staff at the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center rendered my time there especially productive. My double-occupancy apartment was spacious, bright, quiet and clean — an environment conducive to writing. The presence of several other working artists, along with the works of former residents in my apartment and throughout the center, made me feel part of a larger community that valued art and its creation. During the open studio/gallery event, I very much enjoyed the opportunity to share my writing with the public and answer their questions. One comment from an attendee even led me to think about aspects of my work in a new way. In addition, both Elizabeth and Pat were friendly and helpful without being intrusive. When my incoming flight was delayed by several hours, Pat kindly met me at the center at 8:30 p.m. to give me my orientation. Ultimately, the residency provided validation and encouragement to me as writer; it strengthened my belief that my writing — both the particular project I am completing and my craft in a general sense — is worth pursuing. And it continues to propel me forward even now that I am home in New England.” –*Sonia Scherr, writer, 2015*

"There were lots of things I loved about the residency. The apartment was spacious and well-equipped, and the studio was a beautiful, peaceful space. Elizabeth and Pat are great -- very supportive, helpful, and interested -- and I think they do a good job balancing getting in touch with invitations and leaving artists to do their own thing. I also loved exploring Nebraska City, and I really appreciated the residency's arrangements with the local gym and the local co-op." –*Claire Stanford, writer, 2014*

"The peace and quiet. The lovely accommodations. The whimsical area. The pie!" –*Dan Fishback, interdisciplinary artist, 2014*

"I loved the facility, which was very well kept and full of art. The program director and the assistant director were wonderful. I loved Nebraska City. I think it is an ideal place to get work done, not big enough to get distracted but still offering things to do." -*Filippo Santoro, composer 2014*

"The staff were both above and beyond in terms of being welcoming, helpful, and flexible. My living area was spacious and quiet, and it's great to have a studio that's right outside, but still in a separate building." -*Beth Livensperger, visual artist, 2014*

"Nebraska City's quiet unhurried atmosphere, its people and parks, and the beautiful surrounding landscape were a continual source of creative access and inspiration. I will really miss it when I go home." -*Geoff Kronik, writer 2014*

"The composers' studio is perfect--I love the size of it, the amount of natural and artificial light, the patio, the privacy, the couch, and the piano." -*Andrew Turpening, composer 2014*

"The best part of the residency was the community of artists I found there. We respected the time and work of other people, but also supported each other and learned from one another. The isolation of the place helped with this, as did the caliber of artist present." - *Amanda Bales, writer, 2013*

"I like the fact that my time is almost 100% my own and that I can be on my own schedule. While some amount of social/communal activity is important (see below), I find my time at KHN much more productive because I can be on my own meal schedule, sleep schedule, work schedule, etc." - *Michael Remson, composer, 2013*

"There were so few distractions, and everything was set up so I could make the most of my time there. [The staff] were very kind and helpful and were part of the daily life an appropriate amount -- the get-to-know-you lunches were great and beyond that it was up to the parties involved." - *Carmiel Banasky, writer, 2013*

"Every aspect of this residency is conducive to the creation of work. The size, facilities, the feel, the people, the interaction with the community, etc... I thought the studios were nice because they were a good size, in good shape, but definitely "lived in." I wasn't worried about messing them up with a ambitious project. [The staff] are amazing. They were always there for questions and really made me feel at home. I also really liked how Nebraska City had amenities but not distractions. It's large enough to have a good grocery stores and restaurants, but not so large where it's loud and chaotic. The closeness of Omaha was also a plus. If I didn't want to wait for a material to be shipped to me, I could simply drive the hour to art supplies and speciality stores." - *Kathleen Scott Moore, visual artist, 2013*

"The comfortable surrounds in the apartments were very conducive to getting work done. The bedroom with the lovely reading chair was appreciated. The writing studio had a very comfortable

chair too and plenty of desk space. As a traveller I also appreciated the dictionary and thesaurus! Also as someone who wasn't driving, access to the shops was easy by foot. I also think that four to five residents is a terrific number, very well balanced. You get to know people but are not overwhelmed by distraction. The center is very well designed in terms of giving each artist their defined space." - *Kieran Carroll, writer, 2013*

"I liked everything! The building is lovely, the living space was much more than expected, the studio was great and had a great deal of space allowing me to pace around as I like to do, and the people were all wonderful. There is a very positive air here and it is perfect for productivity." - *Oren Boneh, composer, 2012*

"There were so many elements that made the residency conducive to productive work: the very few obligations, the smallness of the town, the homeyness of the center, the pink mexican restaurant a few blocks away. Most importantly though, the composer studio, with its piano, speakers, couch, and beautiful back patio, was a really comfortable and inspiring place to spend six weeks creating music." - *Alex Wand, composer, 2012*