

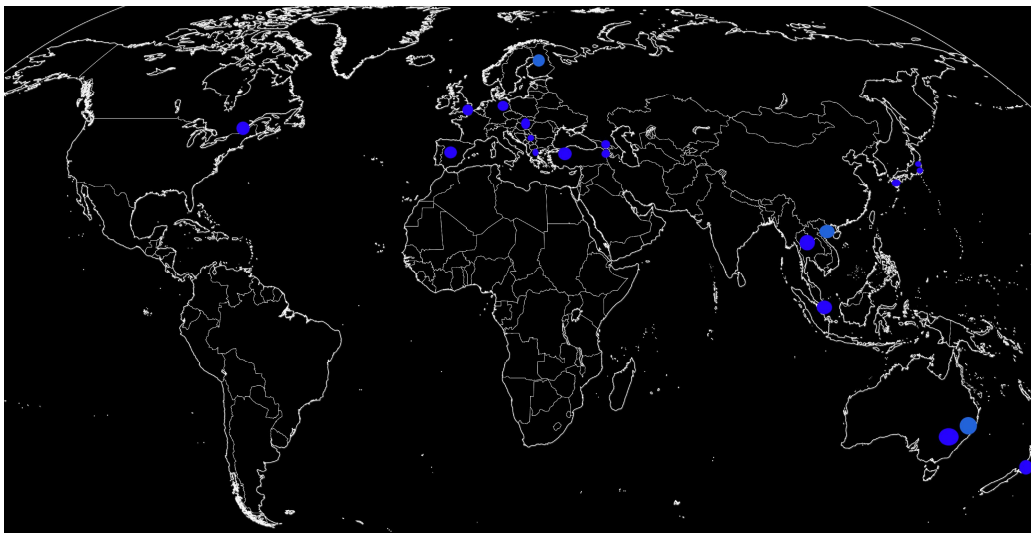
# Microresidence Research Analysis

August-October 2011 Youkobo Art Space

Youkobo sent out a survey to 160 different residence programs across the world which we felt may correspond with the term "Microresidence". The intention of this survey was to gain an insight into the range of small scale independent residence programs being facilitated world wide, the kind of support they offer to artists, the emphasis of their programs, their organization and vision towards a proposed "microresidence network".

We received 22 responses from Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Canada and across Europe. Here we have attempted to collate and analyze these responses. We do not claim these results to show a universal trend in microresidencies and our sources of data are of rather limited number and only from certain regions of the world so can not be said to representative of microresidencies in general, however from the answers we have very kindly received from these surveys we have been able to put together an overview of information which includes residence programs from many different regions of the world, working in many different circumstances. We hope this survey will encourage an appreciation of these differences as well as commonalities between the various residence programs and provide the first step in examining the presence and important role of microresidencies.

Part of this survey was also to gauge interest in creating a microresidence network and gain opinions on how such a network should function. Based upon the responses of each organization we have drawn up some very simple suggestions on how to move forward in the formation of this network, which we hope you may all still have interest to be part of.



## **List of Responding Organizations**

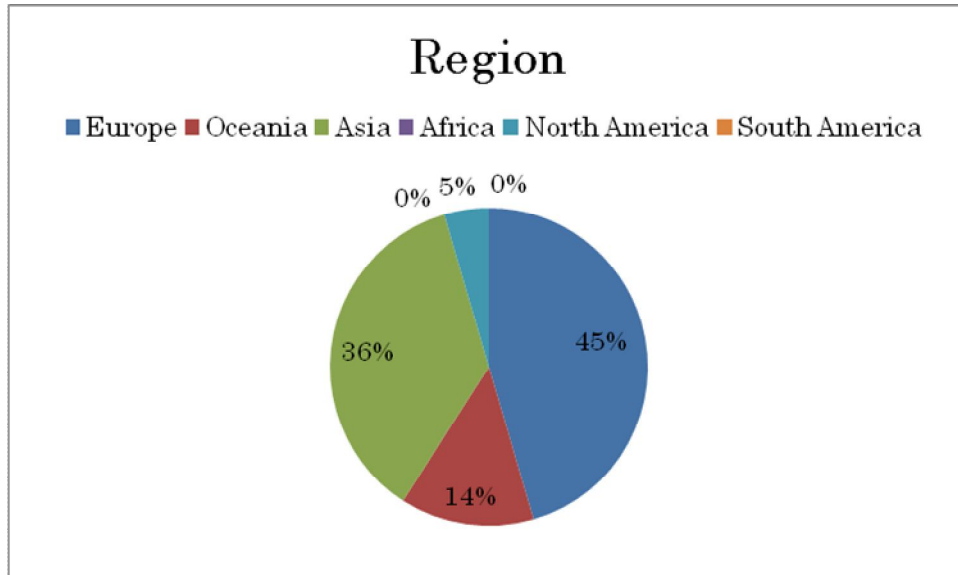
### International

1. BigC – Australia [www.bigci.org](http://www.bigci.org)
2. Low&High – UK <http://lowandhighplatform.wordpress.com/>
3. Ne'-Na Contemporary Artspace– Thailand <http://nena-artspace.org>
4. AcoSS – Armenia <http://www.acoss.org/>
5. NPS – New Zealand <http://www.newpacificstudio.org/>
6. GeoAir – Georgia <http://geoairresidency.blogspot.com/>
7. Kitchen Budapest – Hungary <http://www.kitchenbudapest.hu/en>
8. Perte de Signal – Canada <http://www.perte-de-signal.org>
9. Caravansarai – Turkey <http://www.caravansarai.info/>
10. balkankult – Serbia <http://www.balkankult.org/bk/>
11. medea electronique – Greece <http://www.medeaelectronique.com/>
12. Frise – Germany <http://www.frise.de/>
13. Art Break – Finland
14. Nha San Duc Studio – Vietnam <http://www.nhasanstudio.org/>
15. artistay – France <http://artistay.com/home.html>
16. imagine Residency – Australia <http://www.artinmotion.com.au/residency.html>
17. INSTINC – Singapore <http://www.instinc.com>

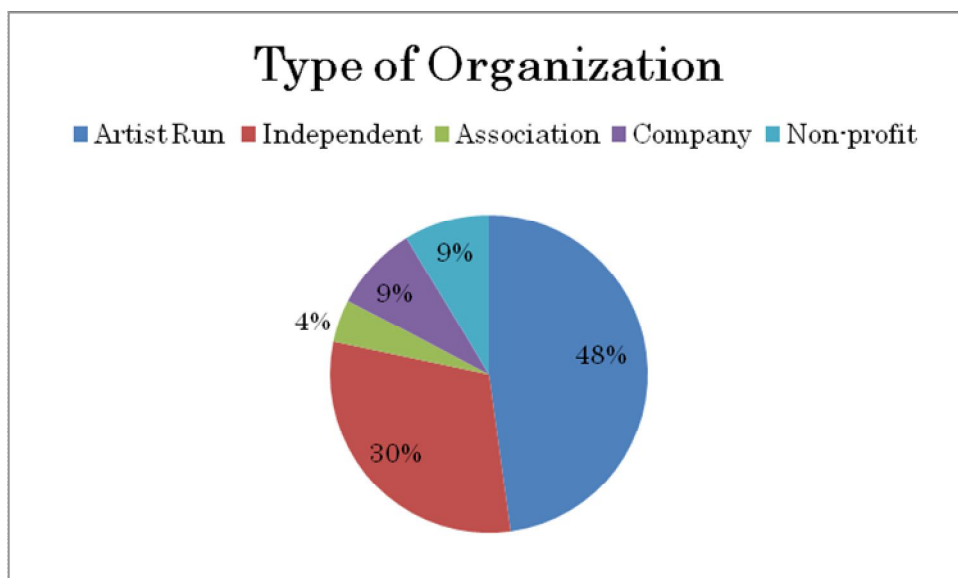
### Japan

18. Studio Kura <http://www.studiokura.info/>
19. Artist-in-Residence Sakuragawa <http://www.asahi-net.or.jp/~tq3m-asg/>
20. Yugakutei Residence [http://apoc-mie.org/yugakutei/air\\_record.html](http://apoc-mie.org/yugakutei/air_record.html)
21. 3331 <http://www.3331.jp/en/>
22. Youkobo Art Space <http://youkobo.co.jp/>

## Analysis of Microresidence Research Survey



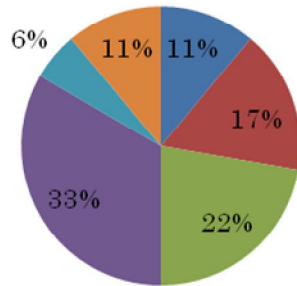
The largest number of residencies are based in Europe, shortly followed by Asia (half of which are based in Japan), a small number are based in Oceania and North America, while no responding residencies are based in South America or Africa.



Most organizations define themselves as artist run or independent

## Residence Duration

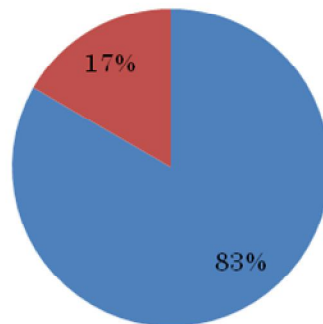
■ 2 weeks    ■ up to 1 month    ■ up to 2 month  
■ up to 3 month    ■ up to 6 months    ■ up to 1 year



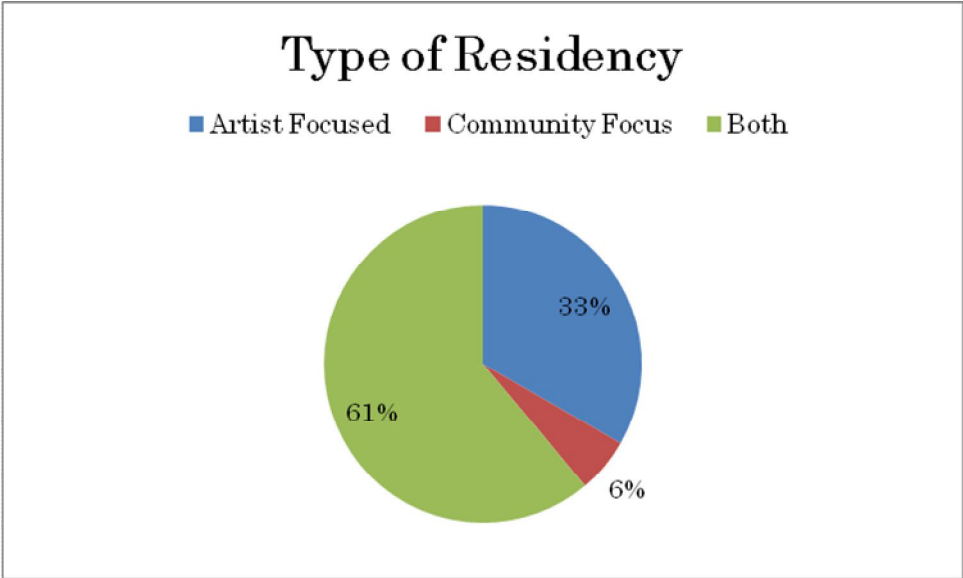
Most residence programs can cater up to a 3 month duration of residence, with a significant percentage being focused on 1-2 monthly residence projects.

## Residence Period

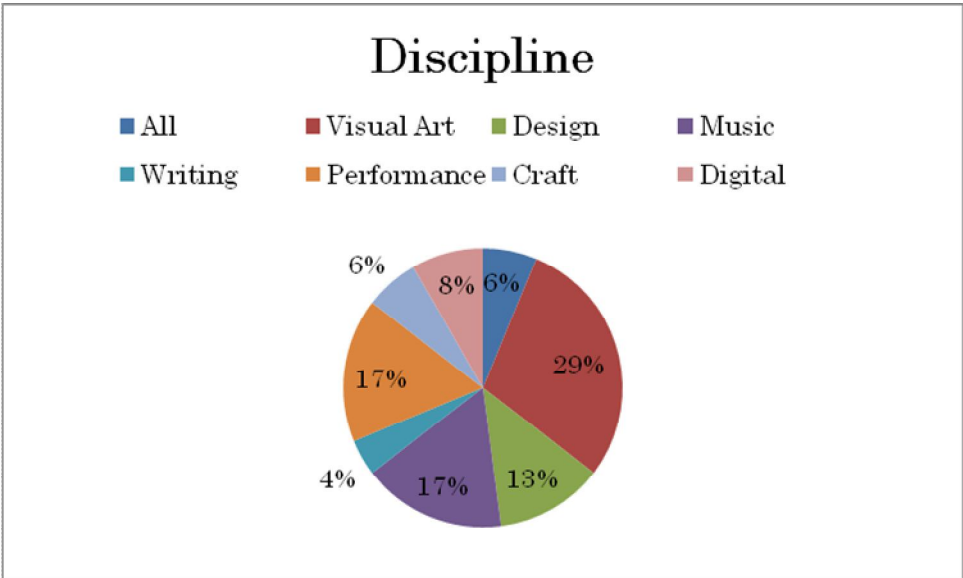
■ All Through Year    ■ Certain times



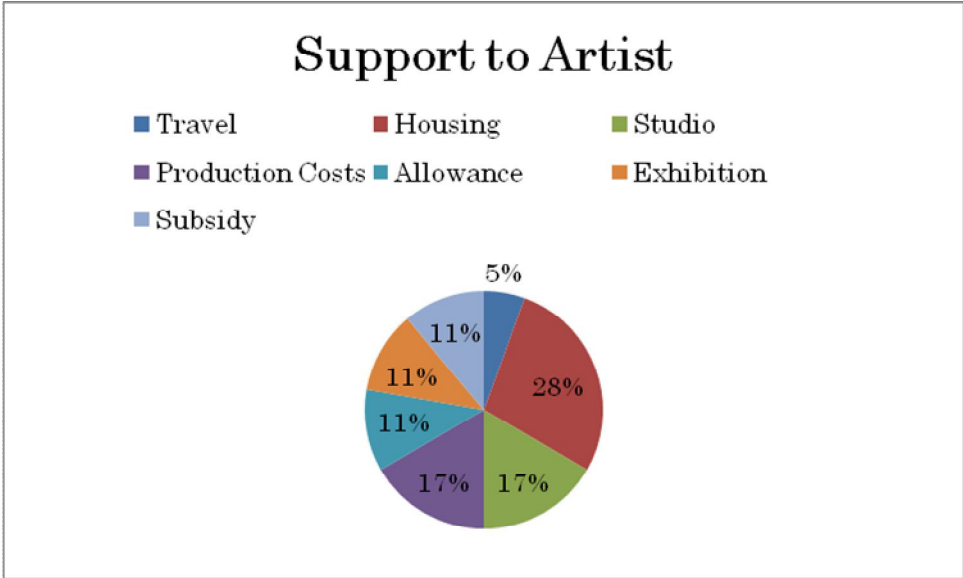
The strong majority of residence facilities hold their programs throughout the year



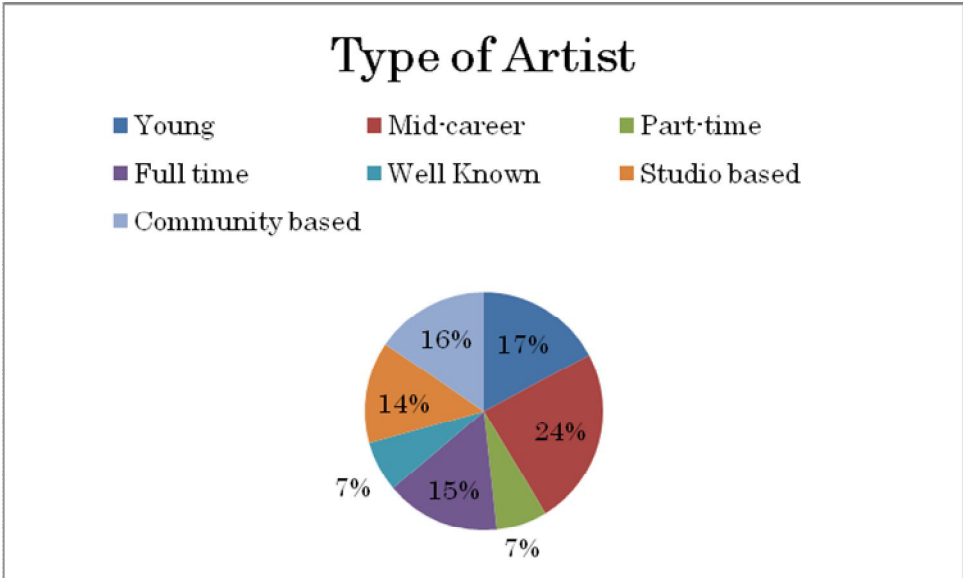
Nearly half of the organizations define their residence program as both artist and community focused. One third of the organizations position themselves as artist focused and only 6% define themselves as community focused.



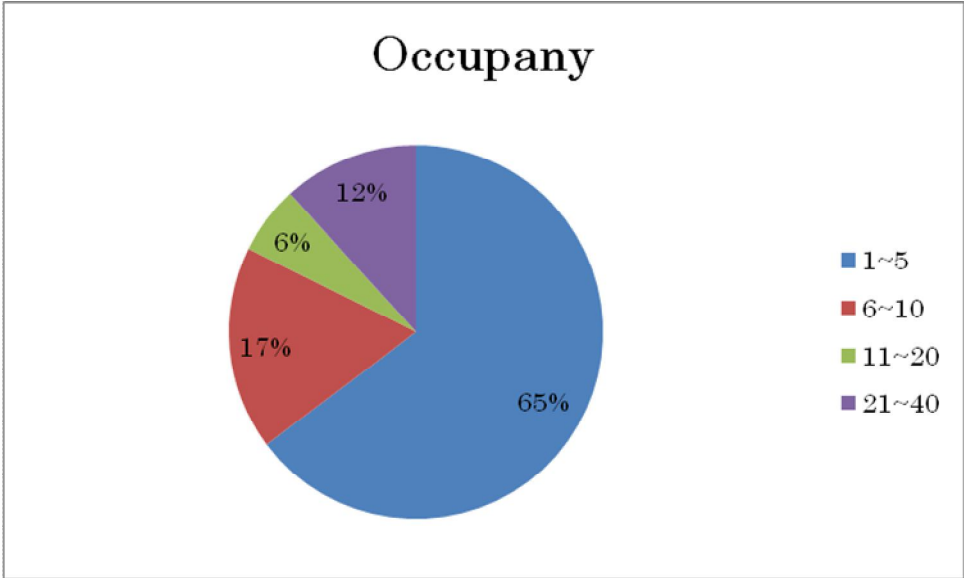
There is a wide spectrum of art forms supported by the residencies, with visual art being a core focus, accompanied by music and performance.



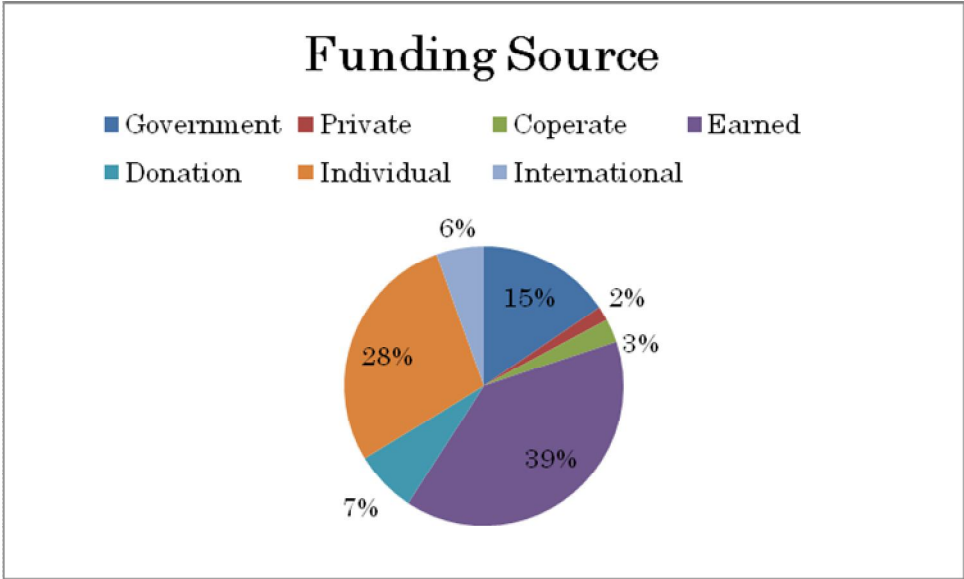
Support provided to artists is mainly focused on accommodation, as well as significant support provided towards studio and production costs.



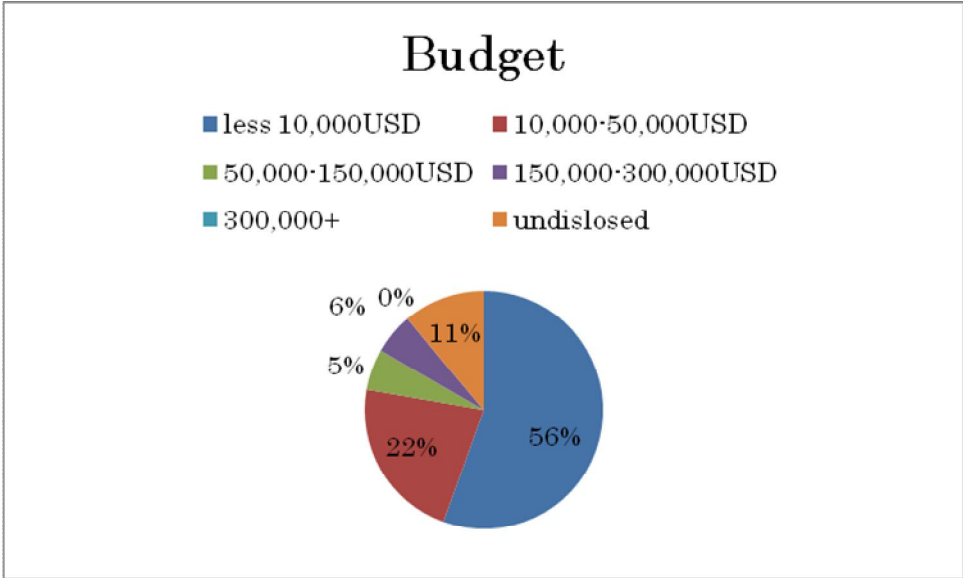
There a wide range of different artists participating in these programs. With one quarter being mid-career artists, along with significant presence of young, full time and community based artists.



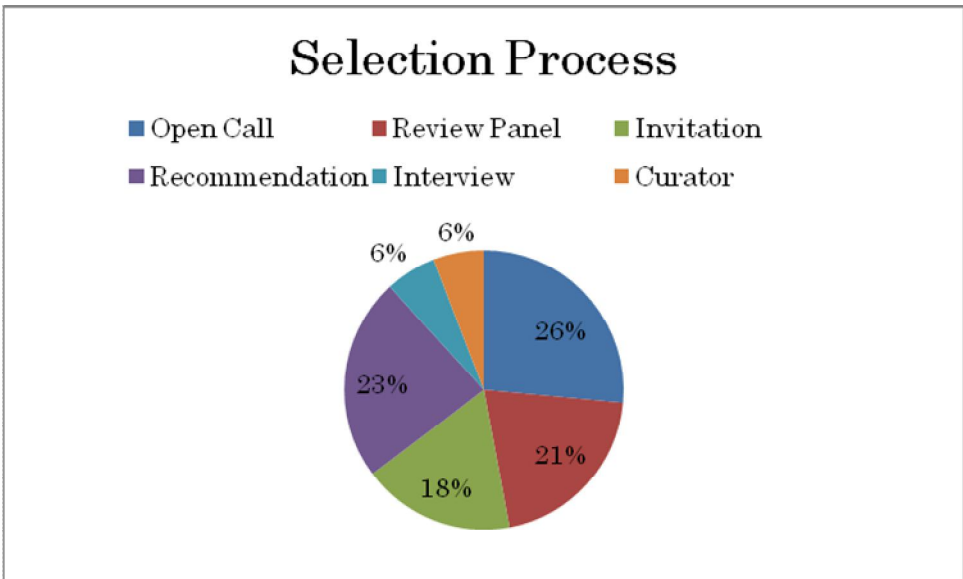
The majority of residence programs cater for small numbers of artists at any one time ranging between 1-5 persons



More than one third of all income for residence programs comes from earned income, illustrating that micro-residencies often depend on being self-sustaining. Furthermore with 28% of income coming from individual contributions this reflects the dependence on individual funds and personal dedication to such programs.

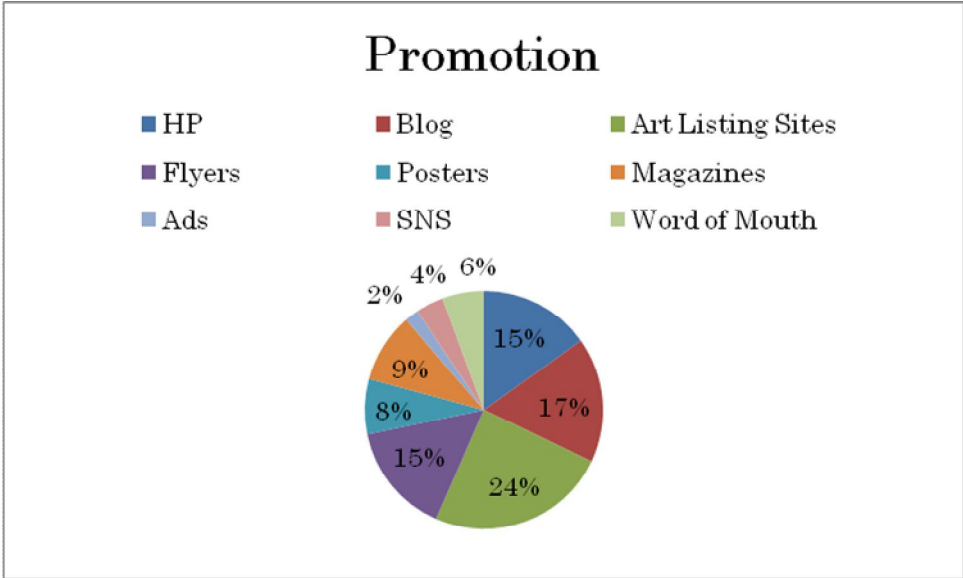


This demonstrates that the majority of microresidence programs work on a small budget under 50,000USD

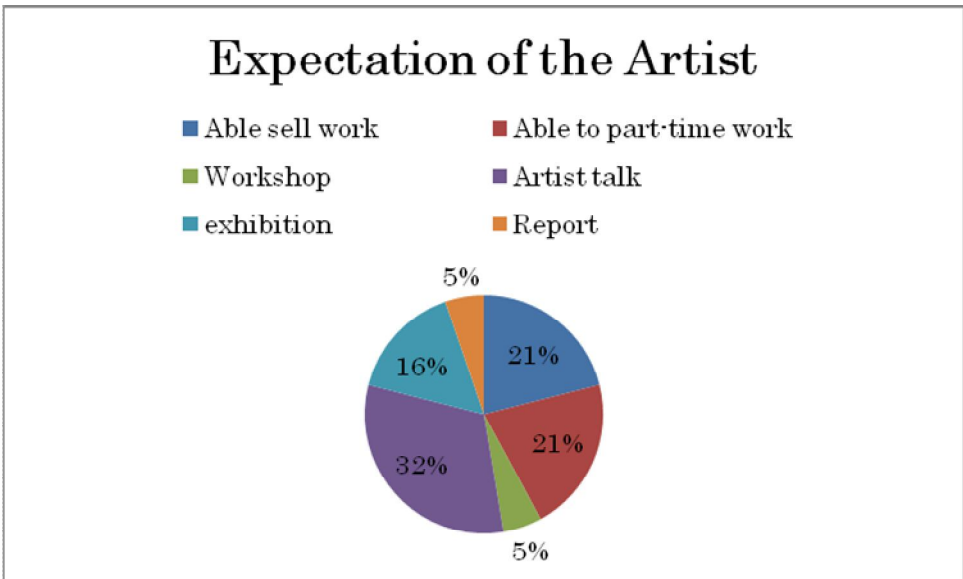


Models based on open calls, review panels and recommendations are most prevalent amongst the residence programs

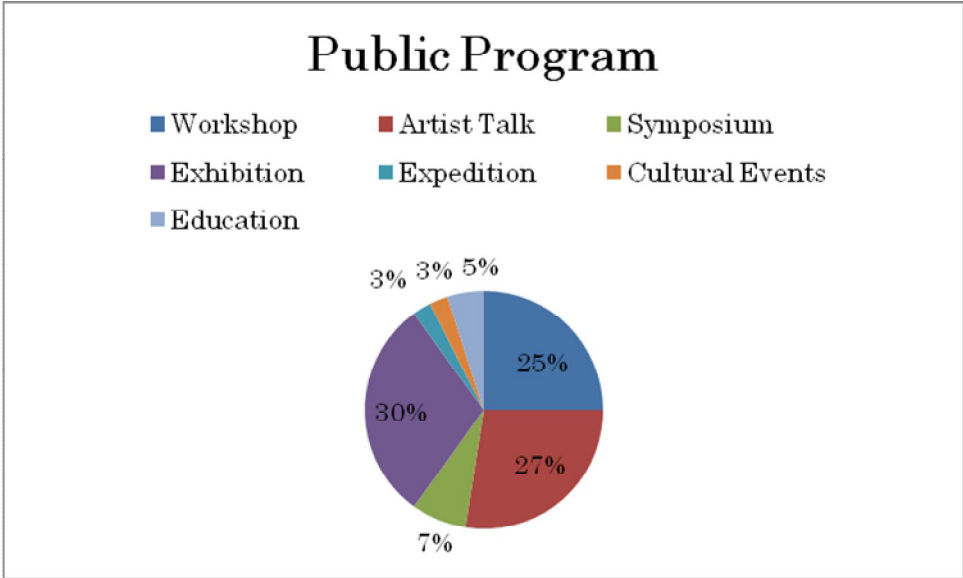




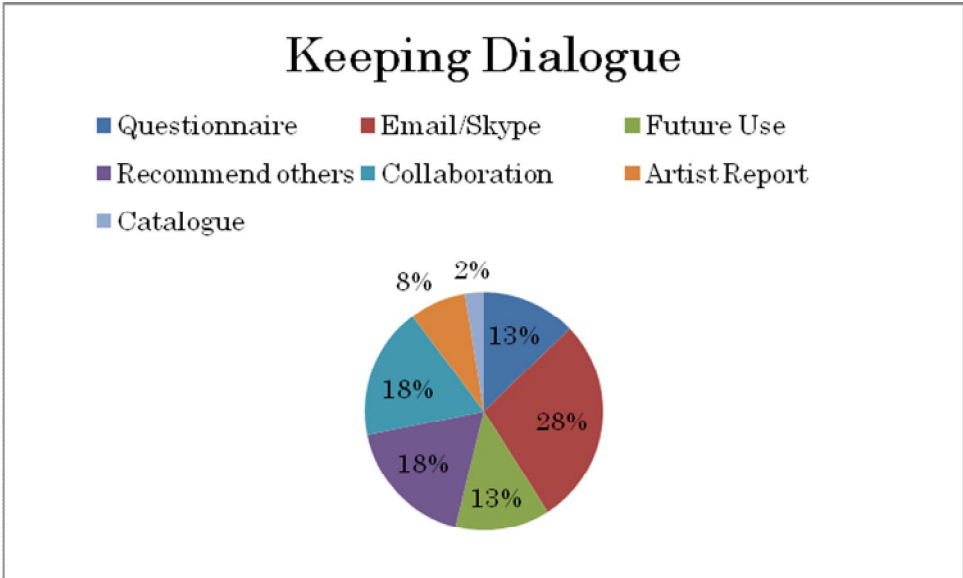
Art listing sites are most heavily relied upon in the promotion of residence programs, followed by blogs, websites and flyers



Generally artists are expected to hold an artist talk as part of their residence program followed by 21% expected to hold an exhibition, as well as being able to undertake part time work.



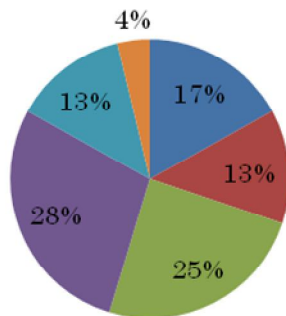
As part of the residence program it is often the case that the artist engages with the local public through exhibitions, workshops and artist talks.



As one may predict dialogue between the residence organization and participating artist after the residence program is largely conducted online via email and skype etc, however there is also a significant outcome of future collaborations emerging between the artist and organization.

## Facility for Local Artists

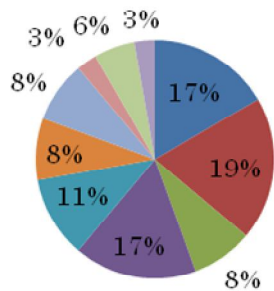
■ Studio      ■ Gallery      ■ Event Space  
■ Meeting Space   ■ Rehearsal Space   ■ Library



Generally all the spaces surveyed provided some level of facilities for local artists as well as the residence artists. These are largely centred on meeting spaces and event spaces.

## Other Activity

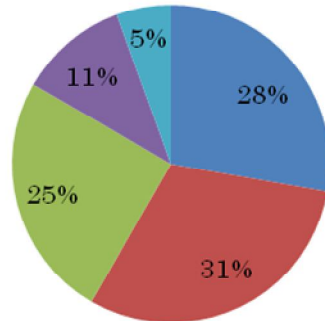
■ Exhibition      ■ Workshop      ■ Festival      ■ Research  
■ Consulting      ■ Publishing      ■ Education      ■ Social  
■ Public Lecture      ■ Film



Most organizations are not only concerned with running an artist in residence program but have a large range of other activities which are reflected in this graph, with workshops, exhibitions and research appearing to be a particular focus.

## What is Microresidence?

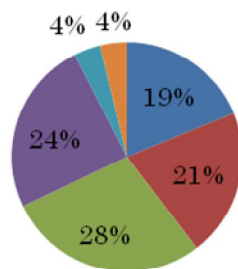
■ Small Scale ■ Independent ■ Alternative ■ Short term ■ Local



The graph demonstrates that there is no single answer to such a question with small scale, independent and alternative being placed in general equal weighting.

## What wanted from micro-network?

■ Publicity ■ Advice ■ Exchange  
■ Collaboration ■ Network ■ Funding



We would like to understand more about the benefits which potential members would wish to gain from joining our proposed network. We can see here clearly the greatest demand is for exchange, then followed by a strong urge to collaborate and share advice, while if such activity could also contribute to the publicity of the organizations this would also be welcome.

We also asked a range of qualitative questions which can not be collated into simple graphic form but the responses are listed here below.

### **Why did you create a residence?**

- Meeting point for creators
- International and cultural exchange
- Time and space for experimentation
- Support for young artists
- Improve local understanding of art and culture
- Distributing info about the world through artists – broadening awareness
- Multicultural cross media dialogue
- Professional development
- Growing creative communities
- Inspire new actions by new setting
- Collaboration
- Engage new context
- Critical discussion
- Local education

### **What is the role of a microresidence?**

- Don't know what is micro
- An alternative to institutions
- An alternative economy
- Individual driven which has + and – points
- A space more personal and with more freedom
- Support for young artists
- Connecting with community

- Quick turnaround

### **Issues you would like to deal with**

- Need for alternative space
- Need to share experiences and audience
- How to get funding
- Strengthen grass roots activities
- Alternative economy
- Improve programming
- Make connections with curators and writers
- Building community

### **How should members cooperate as part of the network?**

- Residency exchange
- Directors/staff/ researcher exchange
- Collaboration project between artists in different residencies on set topic
- Exchange experiences ideas
- Joint workshops
- Research collaboration

## **What next?**

Having collated this range of information we would like to consider the next steps in realizing the proposed microresidence network. Before establishing a full framework for this network we would like to engage in closer dialogue with all of those who have kindly contributed to this initial research and to begin a debate upon the necessity of microresidence programs and their important contribution to the art scene.

## Facebook

We would first like to engage in such dialogue very simply through a facebook group in which all participants may freely share their concerns and opinions. We would like to offer key topics of debate in this forum and gather your responses. This facebook community will only be open to members of the network so we hope it may be a space in which we may all openly and honestly share information and experiences. We hope you may be keen to use this forum actively.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=100003277898057> "Microresidence Network"

## Ustream

We would also like to make the suggestion of holding regular online discussions via ustream.

We will be holding the first of these discussions on 24<sup>th</sup> December with 3 other members INSTINC (Singapore), Nha San Studio (Vietnam) and Studio KURA (Fukuoka, Japan). We have merely created an account on ustream which all members are also free to use and share their own discussions on issues related to artist in residence schemes. You may inform all members of the network via facebook as to any plans you may have to organize your own discussion events and we hope we may join you live, or at least have the opportunity to watch the recording after the event. Please contact to [microresidence@gmail.com](mailto:microresidence@gmail.com) if you are interested to host such a discussion event.

<http://www.ustream.tv/user/microresidence>

## Newsletter

We would like to initiate a newsletter which we will release at least once a month informing all members of the progress of the network, as well as sharing information between the various organizations and providing information about opportunities etc.

If you would like to include particular news in such a news letter please contact to [microresidence@gmail.com](mailto:microresidence@gmail.com)

## Homepage

It is our intention to develop a dedicated website for the microresidence network in which all

members will be introduced and information of various events and collaborations can be shared. We feel it is important to build dialogue between all members before such a platform is made so we would first like to encourage discussion via facebook and ustream before launching this website.

#### Research and Collaboration

We would particularly like to drive forward in a questioning of the role of microresidencies in the art field and wider society and to further engage in research into the various models for such programs. We hope that as a network all members may be able to engage in and contribute to such research, which may also lead to further collaborations too. We hope that such research could be collated by October 2012 to be presented at the Res Artis General Meeting to be held in Tokyo, where we hope to gain greater visibility for microresidence initiatives.

We are of course open to your suggestions on how to take this network forward and would be very glad to receive any advice you may have. What we would most like to emphasize is that in this small network each member is upon an equal footing and is able to contribute actively its construction and direction. We look forward to the dialogues which will start from this point and thank you very much for your interest in this initiative.

Tatsuhiko Murata – Director of Youkobo Art Space

Emma Ota – Microresidence Network Coordinator