CALL FOR PROPOSALS

THE RAGDALE RING

DEADLINE MARCH 3 2017

PRESENTED BY THE RAGDALE FOUNDATION
RAGDALE INVITES ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS TO APPLY FOR A DESIGN-BUILD STUDIO RESIDENCY LEADING TO THE INSTALLATION OF A TEMPORARY, OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE VENUE.

Ragdale, the nationally acclaimed artist residency program in Lake Forest, Illinois, invites architects, artists, and designers to apply for the opportunity to design, build, and exhibit the 2017 Ragdale Ring, a temporary theatre to house summer concerts, performances, and events.

We are seeking inventive, site-responsive, large-scale submissions that explore intersections of architecture, sculpture, landscape, public art, and performance disciplines. Proposals that consider contemporary, fanciful, and functional interpretations of the original Ragdale Ring, designed by architect Howard Van Doren Shaw in 1912 as an outdoor garden theatre, are encouraged (see Shaw’s design below).

A jury of architects, artists, and architectural historians will select a single project to realize at full scale on Ragdale’s grounds. The winning designers will receive a $15,000 production grant to fund the project as well as a three-week design-build residency for a team of up to ten individuals. The residency will include a large studio, housing, and three meals per day in May and June 2017. The project must be completed by June 8.

ABOUT RAGDALE
Ragdale is a nonprofit artists’ community located on architect Howard Van Doren Shaw’s country estate in Lake Forest, 30 miles north of Chicago. In 1976 Shaw’s granddaughter, Alice Judson Hayes, transformed her family’s summer home into an artist’s retreat to provide time and space for artists to create important new work.

More than 150 residencies and fellowships are now offered annually to creative professionals of all types, making Ragdale one of the largest interdisciplinary artists’ communities in the country. Ragdale offers a retreat setting where, at any given time, 13 artists-in-residence experience uninterrupted time for dedicated work, a supportive environment, dynamic artist exchanges, 50 acres of idyllic prairie, and a family-style dinner each evening.

ABOUT THE 1912 RAGDALE RING
Howard Van Doren Shaw designed the original Ragdale Ring as an outdoor theatre to accommodate the plays of his wife, Frances. Audiences of 200 to 300 guests sat on Shaw-designed benches in a circular orchestra paved with grass and surrounded by a low limestone wall. The raised stage featured wings formed by evergreens and columns topped with baskets of stone fruit. During performances banners and Japanese lanterns were displayed around the theatre. Shaw also crafted a sophisticated lighting system with tiers of floodlights and spotlights as well as many of the theatre’s props and costumes.
PROJECT GUIDELINES

Applicants are encouraged to visit Ragdale prior to submitting their application. Projects may be sited in your choice of varied locations including a gently sloping lawn area of approximately 80’ x 80’ located immediately behind the 1897 Arts and Crafts Ragdale House bordered by a garden, woods, and 50 acres of native prairie. A flat lawn area of similar size is located between the Ragdale House and Barn House. Photos of the Ragdale campus are available at ragdale.org. The installation and its location are subject to approval by Ragdale staff as well as the City of Lake Forest. The winning team must provide its own insurance while constructing the project at Ragdale. The project must meet safety requirements to be able to withstand the effects of outdoor conditions and public use. Proposals are open to any interpretation of the original Ragdale Ring but should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The structure, in its entirety or parts, should accommodate up to 300 temporary seats (such as our guests’ picnic blankets and lawn chairs) as well as a stage with a minimum size of 20’ x 16’.

2. A light rain/sun shelter within the stage area should be incorporated to protect performers and equipment.

3. The proposal should address plans for the reuse, recycling, and dispersal of all material used in the project.

4. A preliminary budget should be included that identifies expenses related to the $15,000 production grant. If the budget exceeds this grant, the proposal should include potential additional funding sources and in-kind donations.

5. Renderings and sketches should be included as part of the proposal.

6. Present evidence of your team’s qualifications in sufficient detail to demonstrate your capacity to complete the project as you have described it.

VISIT RAGDALE.ORG FOR SITE DETAILS, IMAGES, AND FAQ
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants should submit project proposals through ragdale.org via our Submittable online portal no later than 11:59 pm on Friday, March 3, 2017. Proposal review and notification will take place by March 20.

A completed application includes:

1. **Written Proposal** – An explanation of up to 1,000 words that clearly describes the project and its relationship to the historic Ring as well as its anticipated use.

2. **Visual Proposal** – A selection of 10 digital images and/or a maximum 5-minute video that show plans, renderings, and drawings of your proposed structure.

3. **Previous Work Samples** – A selection of 5 digital images that show related ideas and concepts. Each file submitted should have a title, date, and brief description of work.

4. **Resume/CV** – A current resume/CV for each team member should include information about education, work, and teaching experience, exhibition history (if applicable), awards, grants, residencies, and other relevant information, including links to websites, blogs, etc.

Submittable accepts documents (.pdf), images (.jpg, .jpeg, .png, .gif, .tiff, .tif, .bmp, .tga), audio (.mp3, .wma, .ogg, .flac), and video (.m4v, .mov, .mp4, .wmv, .flv, .asf, .mpeg, .mpg, .mkv).

AWARD AND RESIDENCY

One project will be chosen. Its designers will be awarded a $15,000 production grant towards realizing the proposed project. The winning team will also receive a design-build residency for up to three weeks, which includes a studio plus full room and board for up to ten people during the months of May and June 2017. The project must be completed by June 8. Note: A preview event will occur on June 4.

ELIGIBILITY

Architects, artists, and designers are invited to apply. Applicants do not need to be registered architects. Those outside of the Chicago area are eligible to apply, but additional funds for transportation will not be available. Production grant funds may be used for transportation as long as overall quality of the project is not sacrificed.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- Project proposal (written and visual)
- Previous work samples
- Resume/CV
- $40 application fee

QUESTIONS

Applicants may email questions to admissions@ragdale.org.

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**TIMELINE**

- Mar. 3: Deadline for submissions
- Mar. 4-19: Jury process
- Mar. 20: Notification to winning team
- March/May: Off-site Production
- May 22: Design/Build Residency begins
- June 4: Preview event for patrons
- June 8: Ragdale Ring complete