MISSION

To embolden creative exploration and achievement.

We give courage to and provide a setting for creative exploration and achievement by establishing a culture of excellence, generosity, and inclusivity within Ragdale’s historic campus and native prairie landscape—the essential qualities of our community’s 120-year legacy as a generative home of artistic production.

Through residencies, fellowships, and thematic collaborations, Ragdale annually supports more than 200 artists, designers, and scholars from around the world, all of whom are seeking time and space to pursue distinctive works of the imagination.

Ragdale’s commitment to cultural equity and community engagement underpins dozens of public projects each year, led by the Ragdale in Schools program. Our educational outreach empowers creative youth and their teachers with uncommon opportunities for live discourse, hands-on investigation, and mentoring, with artists who are actively defining and shaping creative culture.

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

Ragdale’s Curatorial Board plays a key role in jurying residency applications, nominating fellowship recipients, identifying timely programmatic themes, and guiding the scholarly discourse that shapes Ragdale’s activities, partnerships, and community services. The Curatorial Board includes more than 25 prominent arts, culture, and education leaders who share with Ragdale their expertise as well as their expansive professional networks.

As the Curatorial Board joins us in nominating and selecting each season’s residents and fellows from a diverse and enormously qualified pool of applicants, we collectively strive, above all, for excellence. We identify excellence through the quality of an artist’s work; its impact or potential impact; and its capacity to broaden the reach, scope, and voice of the arts.

We prize diversity in all its forms, and seek artists who we believe demonstrate the potential to effect a positive, profound, and lasting impact on the Ragdale community at large, both during and after their stay. We also consider the artist’s need for and likelihood to make best use of a residency, and we value an under-supported but essential emerging voice as highly as we do a well-established career.

In selecting Ragdale in Schools fellows, we seek artists who are additionally committed to using their art form to establish and support extended learning opportunities.
EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

We believe:

• Everyone deserves equal access to a full, vibrant creative life, which is essential to a healthy and democratic society.
• Cultural equity is critical to the long-term viability of the arts sector.
• Inequity and injustice occur when individuals have unequal access to resources.
• We must all continually hold ourselves accountable, because acknowledging and challenging our inequities is how we can effect change.
• Artists, their art, their process, and the organizations they create and support play an essential role in witnessing, demonstrating, and providing inspiration to resolve societal inequity and injustice.

We strive:

• To create a culture of equity by ensuring that all people—including but not limited to those who have been historically underrepresented based on race/ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, or religion—are represented in the development of Ragdale’s policies; its support of artists; the nurturing of accessible, thriving venues for expression; and the fair distribution of programmatic, financial, and informational resources.
• To pursue cultural consciousness throughout our organization through substantive learning, transparent policies, and consistent evaluation.
• To commit time and resources to expand more diverse leadership within our board, staff, and advisory bodies.
• To acknowledge and dismantle inequities and barriers to entry within our policies, systems, programs, and services.
• To establish and nurture programs and policies that engage the full breadth of society.