

Fact Sheet

Ragdale Foundation

1260 N. Green Bay Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045
(847) 234-1063
www.ragdale.org

WHAT

- The Ragdale Foundation is the fourth largest artists' community in the country and the largest interdisciplinary one in the Midwest. Ragdale, a nonprofit organization, is a member of the Alliance of Artists' Communities (www.artistcommunities.org).

WHERE

- Ragdale is located on the grounds of noted Arts and Craft architect Howard Van Doren Shaw's summer retreat in Lake Forest, IL, just thirty miles north of Chicago. Shaw (1869-1926) designed the Ragdale House, his family's summer home and built it in 1897.
- The Ragdale House and gardens, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are among the few surviving intact examples of the Arts and Crafts movement in the country.

WHY

- The mission of the Ragdale Foundation is to support writers and artists in a retreat setting and to make the arts more accessible to the public. This is accomplished through three core program areas: the artists' residency program, community programs, and preservation of the historic site.

WHO

- In 1976, Alice Ryerson Hayes (1922-2006), granddaughter of Howard Van Doren Shaw, founded Ragdale. For 30 years, Ragdale has provided thousands of artists with an enriching environment where they can work and explore new areas free from the interruptions of daily life.
- Up to 12 artists at a time, including writers, visual artists, composers, choreographers, and performance artists, are accepted for residencies of two to eight weeks. Residents create their own schedules and gather together for dinner.

HOW

- The application form and guidelines may be downloaded at www.ragdale.org, or requested via phone or email. Postmark deadlines are January 15 for residencies between June and December, and June 1st for residencies between January and early May. Qualified professionals in each discipline evaluate applications on the quality of their work samples. Professional recognition is helpful but not essential.