



CALL FOR  
PROPOSALS  
THE  
RAGDALE  
RING  
2020 THEME:  
**MOBILITY**

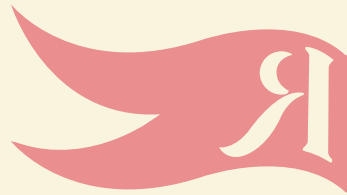
DEADLINE  
MARCH  
22  
2020



PRESENTED BY THE RAGDALE FOUNDATION

For the 8th annual Ragdale Ring competition, we are introducing a theme to encourage thoughtful solutions around a singular yet robust topic. This year's theme is *Mobility*.

WHAT DOES *MOBILITY* MEAN FOR YOU AND WHAT CAN *MOBILITY* DO TO CHALLENGE CONVENTIONAL ARTIST/AUDIENCE INTERACTIONS IN THE RAGDALE RING? WHAT NEW FORMS OF PERFORMANCE MIGHT IT OFFER? PARADES? PROCESSIONS? WHAT IF THE RING ISN'T FIXED TO A SITE, BUT COULD BE CONFIGURED AT MULTIPLE SITES OVER THE COURSE OF THE SUMMER? COULD *MOBILITY* ACTIVATE THE ENTIRE FIVE-ACRE RAGDALE CAMPUS? IN YOUR COMPETITION ENTRY, PLEASE ADDRESS HOW YOUR DESIGN RELATES TO THIS THEME AS WELL AS THE OPPORTUNITIES IT OFFERS FOR PERFORMANCES, SITING, PROJECT LONGEVITY, ALTERNATIVE USES, AND MORE.





# 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 2020 Ragdale Ring, a temporary theatre to house summer concerts, performances, educational programs, and events.

We are seeking inventive, site-responsive, large-scale submissions that explore intersections of architecture, sculpture, landscape, public art, and performance disciplines. The selected installation will invite dialogue and public engagement with experimental, site-responsive artistic works and the designed environment. Proposals that consider contemporary interpretations of the original Ragdale Ring, designed by architect Howard Van Doren Shaw in 1912, are encouraged (see Shaw's design below).

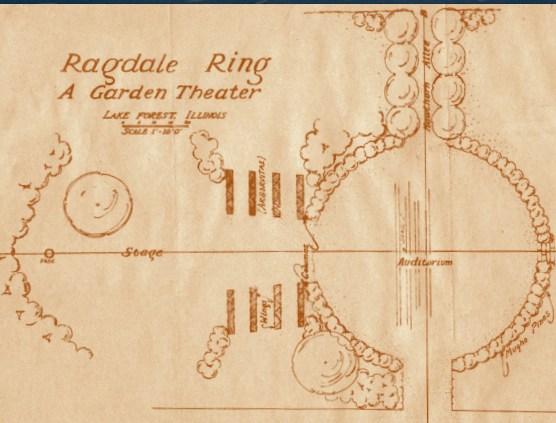
A jury of architects, artists, and architectural historians will select a single project to realize at full scale on Ragdale's grounds. The winning designers will receive a \$15,000 production grant to fund the project as well as a three-week design-build residency for a team of up to ten individuals. The residency will include studio space, housing, and three meals per day in May and June 2020. The project must be completed by June 12.



## 2020 THEME: MOBILITY

### GOALS

- Produce a Ragdale Ring that can be (re)located almost anywhere
- Activate a variety of locations on Ragdale's nearly 5-acre campus
- Offer designers and artists new, meaningful opportunities to realize leaps in experimental processes, materials, collaboration, and performance
- Heighten direct interactions between artists and audiences



### 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.

Nearly 200 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 would parade from the Ragdale House, through the garden, and into the Ragdale Ring where they were seated on on Shaw-designed benches. The Ring was paved with grass and surrounded by a low limestone wall. Its 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 will be sited on a variety of outdoor lawn and garden areas near the 1897 Arts and Crafts Ragdale House. In the event of rain, performances may move indoors. Photos of the Ragdale campus are available at [ragdale.org](http://ragdale.org). Proposals are open to any interpretation of the original Ragdale Ring but should adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1 The project must be mobile—able to be relocated to a variety of locations on Ragdale’s campus with minimal cost or effort.
- 2 The installation, in its entirety or parts, should accommodate a minimum of 150 seats (such as our guests’ picnic blankets and lawn chairs) as well as a stage area with a minimum size of 20’ x 20’.
- 3 The proposed stage may be built or consist of existing lawn, but should suitably and safely feature and support professional performers from a range of disciplines (music, dance, spoken word poetry, storytelling, etc.).
- 4 A light rain/sun shelter near the stage area is preferred to protect performers and electronic equipment.
- 5 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.
- 6 The proposal and related budget must include plans for the reuse, recycling, and/or dispersal of all material used in the project.
- 7 Renderings and sketches should be included as part of the proposal.
- 8 Present evidence of your team’s qualifications in sufficient detail to demonstrate your capacity to complete the project as you have described it.
- 9 The winning team must provide its own insurance while constructing the project at Ragdale.
- 10 The project must meet safety requirements to be able to withstand the effects of outdoor conditions and public use.
- 11 The installation and its location are subject to approval by Ragdale staff as well as the City of Lake Forest.



VISIT [RAGDALE.ORG](http://RAGDALE.ORG) FOR  
DETAILS, IMAGES, AND HISTORY

PROMOTIONAL PARTNER





## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants should submit project proposals through [ragdale.org](https://ragdale.org) via our Submittable online portal no later than **11:59 pm on Sunday, March 22, 2020**. Proposal review and notification will take place by March 27, 2019.

### 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 5-8 digital images that show plans, renderings, and drawings of your proposed structure. Optionally, 3-5 minute video can be included.
- 3 **Previous Work Samples** – A selection of 5 digital images that represent your portfolio of work. 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, .tif, .tiff, .bmp, .tga), audio (.mp3, .wma, .ogg, .flac), and video (.m4v, .mov, .mp4, .wmv, .flv, .asf, .mpeg, .mpg, .mkv).

## AWARD AND 10-PERSON 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 2020. The project must be completed by June 12.

## ELIGIBILITY

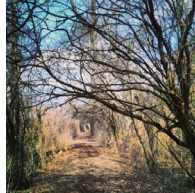
Architects, artists, and designers are invited to apply. Applicants do not need to be registered architects. Those outside of the Chicago area are eligible to apply, but additional funds for transportation will not be available. Production grant funds may be used for transportation as long as overall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

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Project proposal (written and visual)
- ☐ Previous work samples
- ☐ Resume/CV
- ☐ \$25 application fee

## QUESTIONS

Applicants may email questions to [admissions@ragdale.org](mailto:admissions@ragdale.org).



## TIMELINE

<b>Mar. 22</b>	Deadline for submissions
<b>Mar. 23-27</b>	Jury process
<b>Mar. 27</b>	Notification to winning team
<b>April/May</b>	Off-site production
<b>May 25</b>	Design/Build Residency begins
<b>June 12</b>	Ragdale Ring complete
<b>June 17</b>	Public opening



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