

LaSonia Ragsdale  
4314 S. Nicholson Ave., Apt. 48  
Saint Francis, WI 53235  
(414) 520-9187  
lasonia.ragsdale@gmail.com

Dear Pfister Artist in Residence Judges,

I would be honored to become the 13th Artist in Residence at the prestigious Pfister Hotel. I've been a teacher for 8 years and I am currently an art teacher at Notre Dame School of Milwaukee, working with children K-8th grade. I have my BFA in graphic design and my MA in Education from Alverno College.

Within my art I work with oil and acrylic paints, as well as beading, illustration, and spoken word. I use black and vivid colors as overlapping textured layers in impasto and impressionist styles that I've used in my florals and portraits. My art is growing to become pieces that start conversations about social and racial issues by using visual art and spoken word as a safe stage to have uncomfortable yet necessary discussions. I am entering the next chapter in my life's story as a professional, self sustaining artist and the Pfister Artist in Residence is a step on that journey.

What has drawn me into applying for the Pfister Artist in Residence is the fact that the Pfister has an historic investment in the arts that is present in it's one-of-a-kind collection of Victorian art, as well as supporting local artists through this program. After being given a tour of some of the Victorian art pieces by former Pfister Artist in Residence Todd Mrozinski and his wife and artist Renee Bebeau I was soon inspired for my legacy piece to be based on the artwork The Stars by Edward Bisson, the gown laced with stars drew me in. Some ideas that I have are holding classes in watercolor painting, and creating art of the surrounding views of the ever growing Milwaukee downtown area from the Blu.

All consideration for this amazing opportunity is greatly valued and appreciated. More of my art, spoken word, and exhibitions can be viewed online at [www.lasoniaragsdale.com](http://www.lasoniaragsdale.com). Thank you for taking the time to review my application.

Respectfully,

LaSonia Ragsdale