



People’s widespread insensitivity to plants means that we often perceive them mainly as a green backdrop—attractive, yet hardly worthy of closer attention. This partly results from the lack of obvious ways to communicate with these organisms—after all, we cannot simply talk to them! But is that really the case?

Science shows that plants do “speak” and in fact possess a wide range of ways to communicate. Although the language of plants lacks human words, it allows them to “chat” not only with members of their own species but also with other plants and animals. What, then, do plants talk about?

— Director of The University of Warsaw Botanical Garden
Prof. Marcin Zych 

The **University of Warsaw Botanical Garden**, in collaboration with the **Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art**, organizes the **Plant Talks – Artist Residency Program**, which aims to support artists who explore the world of nature, seek to understand it, and share their individual experience of being present in nature with others.

The program supports people working in the field of culture who operate at the intersection of disciplines and develop new methodologies for exploring nature. It also aims to enrich the individual experience of the Garden’s visitors by offering a different perspective on the relationships between plants and people. In addition, it

will contribute to expanding the scope of our communication about biodiversity, ecology, and our relationship with nature.

As part of the program, we offer living and working space, as well as curatorial and expert support (including botanical expertise), to cultural practitioners. We particularly encourage applications from individuals from smaller towns and rural areas, as well as students and doctoral candidates at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw.

Open Call 2026

In 2026, we are pleased to invite artists for the second time to take part in the **Artist Residency Program**, within which the Garden may become a space for your activities, a subject of research, or a field for exploration.

During your stay in the Garden, you will be able to continue work on projects and research already underway or begin a new project. We will also invite you to present your work to the public in the form of an exhibition, workshop, lecture, screening, walk, performance, or other format.

We encourage applications from individuals working at the intersection of art, ecology, education, and performance; from those researching urban green spaces; those interested in horticulture or nature conservation; and those exploring topics such as ecosystems as legal entities, plant blindness, plant biology, interspecies relationships, or plant species under legal protection.

Who is invited to participate?

Artists, theorists, and organizers; artistic collectives and individuals.

What do we offer?

- A residency stay at the **University of Warsaw Botanical Garden**, located at **4 Ujazdowskie Avenue in Warsaw**, during one of the following periods: **17 April – 29 May 2026** or **2 June – 14 July 2026**.
Honorarium: PLN 8,000 gross for one person or a two-person collective.
- **Production budget:** up to PLN 4,000 gross.
- **Accommodation** suitable for up to two people.
- **Workshop space.**
- **Access to a kitchen.**
- Access to the resources of the **University of Warsaw Botanical Garden Library**.
- Access to the resources of the **Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art** (media library, library, computer lab).

- Access to the **Garden park and greenhouses** during the Garden's opening hours.
- **Curatorial support** (Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art).
- **Substantive support** (University of Warsaw Botanical Garden – botanical expertise).
- Possibility to take part in the residency with a **companion (a child or another close person) or a dog**.
- Participation in the **joint residency program of the Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art residents**.
- **Free admission** to the galleries and cinema at the Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art, as well as **discounts** at the restaurant and café located in **Ujazdowski Castle**.

Please note that travel costs to the residency are not covered.

What do we expect during the residency?

- To ensure good cooperation with the Garden team, we will invite you to a meeting so that we can get to know each other better. We expect you to prepare a short presentation of your artistic practice within about 10 days of the start of your residency.
- Active participation in meetings with the residents of the **Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art**.
- Conducting at least one public event at the **University of Warsaw Botanical Garden (Open Studio)**, on a date agreed in advance, between **1 October 2026 and 31 January 2027**.

Application deadline – 20 March 2026.

Announcement of the results – 28 March 2026.

The jury:

- Prof. dr hab. Marcin Zych / Ogród Botaniczny UW
- Ika Sienkiewicz-Nowacka / CSW Zamek Ujazdowski
- Marianna Darżynkiewicz-Wojcieszka / Ogród Botaniczny UW
- Julia Harasimowicz / CSW Zamek Ujazdowski
- Izabela Kuzyszyn / Ogród Botaniczny UW

How to apply?

Please send the electronic version of your application as **one PDF document**, named according to the following format:

Surname_Name_PlantTalks.pdf

Applications should be sent to: **rezydencje.obuw@uw.edu.pl**

The application should include:

- **Portfolio** including a short biography (up to 200 words) and a presentation of **4 selected projects** (up to 10 pages).
- **A short statement** presenting your current artistic interests, motivation for participating in the residency, and a proposal for an activity that will present and activate your practice and methodology during the residency (one document, **maximum 1 page**).
- **A personal data processing consent clause.**

REGULATIONS for the open call for an **artistic residency at the University of Warsaw Botanical Garden**, organised in cooperation with the **Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art**

1. Organisers

The artistic residency programme, hereinafter referred to as the “**Residency Programme,**” is organised by **The University of Warsaw Botanical Garden** and the **Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art in Warsaw** (“Ujazdowski Castle CCA”).

The aim of the open call is to select residents who:

1. work at the intersection of **art, ecology, education and performance**;
2. conduct research related to **urban green spaces**, gardening or nature conservation;
3. are interested in themes related to **ecosystems** – including ecosystems as legal entities – as well as issues such as **plant blindness, plant biology, interspecies relations**, or **plant species under legal protection**.

2. Eligibility and duration

The open call concerns residencies to be carried out in **2026**.

Applications are open to **artists working across disciplines** whose practice engages with the intersections of **art, nature, science and social engagement**.

Applications may be submitted by **individual artists, duos, or collectives (up to four people)**.

The residency lasts **six weeks** and may take place during one of the following periods:

- **17 April – 29 May 2026**
- **2 June – 14 July 2026**

The organisers reserve the right to **extend or shorten the duration of the residency if necessary**.

3. Language of application

Applications may be submitted **in Polish or in English only**.

4. Artist fee

The selected artist, duo or collective will receive an **artist fee of PLN 8,000 gross**.

5. Production budget

In addition to the artist fee, a **production budget of up to PLN 4,000 gross** is available for the realisation of the residency project. The final amount will be adjusted to the individual needs of the selected resident.

This additional budget may cover, in particular:

1. curatorial, technical or production support;
2. specialist consultations;
3. production costs, including the purchase of necessary materials;
4. other justified expenses agreed with **The University of Warsaw Botanical Garden**, necessary for the realisation of the residency.

6. Accommodation

The University of Warsaw Botanical Garden will provide accommodation for the duration of the residency at **Aleje Ujazdowskie 4 in Warsaw**.

The **Artist-in-Residence** agrees to comply with the **regulations governing the use of the University of Warsaw guest apartment**.

7. Application procedure

The selection process consists of two stages:

Stage I

Applicants must submit an electronic application together with a **consent clause for the processing of personal data** to the following email address:

rezydencje.obuw@uw.edu.pl

Stage II

Selected applicants will be invited by the committee to **present their project in detail** during an individual meeting at **The University of Warsaw Botanical Garden** or **online**.

The results of the open call will then be announced.

8. Selection committee

Residents recommended for participation in the Residency Programme will be selected by a committee composed of:

- **Prof. Marcin Zych** (University of Warsaw Botanical Garden)
- **Marianna Darżynkiewicz-Wojcieszka** (University of Warsaw Botanical Garden)

- **Izabela Kuzyszyn** (University of Warsaw Botanical Garden)
- **Ika Sienkiewicz-Nowacka** (Ujazdowski Castle CCA)
- **Julia Harasimowicz** (Ujazdowski Castle CCA)

9. Schedule

- **Open call announcement:** 18 February 2026
- **Application deadline (including portfolio):** 20 March 2026
- **Invitation to Stage II and meetings:** by 27 March 2026
- **Announcement of results:** 28 March 2026

10. Residency agreement

The residency will begin after the **Residency Agreement** has been signed between the **University of Warsaw** and the **Artist-in-Residence**, no later than:

- **17 April 2026**, or
- **2 June 2026**, respectively.

Information on the Processing of Personal Data

I, the undersigned

.....

identified by PESEL number

hereby declare that, pursuant to **Article 6(1)(a) of the GDPR*** in connection with **Article 81(1) of the Act of 4 February 1994 on Copyright and Related Rights (consolidated text: Journal of Laws 2018, item 1191)**, I give my consent for the **University of Warsaw (name of organisational unit)** to publish and distribute my image recorded during my participation in the **Artistic Residency Programme at the University of Warsaw Botanical Garden**, in the form of photographs and video recordings, in particular through:

- the dissemination of my image for the purposes of promoting the **Artistic Residency Programme**, including publication on the website: <https://www.ogrod.uw.edu.pl/>
- documentation of the artistic residency at the **University of Warsaw Botanical Garden**;
- documentation of presentations of the outcomes of the artistic residency at the **University of Warsaw Botanical Garden**.

I waive:

- the right to control and approve each instance of the use of my image, including the right to approve the final version of the materials produced by the University of Warsaw in which my image is used;
- the right to require the identification of the person depicted in, including in particular the indication of my name and surname;
- any claims, including claims for remuneration, against the **University of Warsaw** arising from the use of my image for the purposes specified in this declaration.

This consent is granted **free of charge** and **without limitation as to time, territory or number of uses**.

My image may be used in various forms of electronic image processing, including cropping and composition, without the need to approve the final version, provided that it is not used in a manner that is offensive or generally considered unethical.

The use of my image may not otherwise infringe upon my personal rights.

I declare that the processing of my image for the purposes indicated above, in connection with my participation in the **Artistic Residency Programme at the University of Warsaw Botanical Garden**, does not violate my personal rights, and that I am aware that I may request access at any time to materials in which my image has been published.

I confirm that I have read the information regarding the processing of personal data.

.....

*** Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR).**

Information on the Processing of Personal Data

Data Controller

The controller of your personal data processed as part of the **Artistic Residency Programme** is the **University of Warsaw**,
ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28,
00-927 Warsaw, Poland.

The controller may be contacted:

- by post: University of Warsaw, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28, 00-927 Warsaw (please indicate the organisational unit concerned);
- by phone: +48 22 55 20 000.

Data Protection Officer

The controller has appointed a **Data Protection Officer (DPO)** who can be contacted at:

iod@adm.uw.edu.pl

The DPO can be contacted regarding all matters related to the processing of personal data by the **University of Warsaw** and the exercise of rights related to such processing.

The DPO is not responsible for handling other matters, such as providing information about the event in which you are participating.

Purposes and legal basis of processing

Your personal data will be processed for the purpose of **publishing materials on the Internet**, including on the following websites:

- <https://www.ogrod.uw.edu.pl/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/OgrodBotanicznyUW>
- <https://u-jazdowski.pl/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/centrumsztukiwspolczesnejzamekujazdowski/>

The legal basis for processing personal data is **Article 6(1)(a) of the GDPR (consent to the processing of personal data)** in connection with **Article 81(1) of the Act of 4 February 1994 on Copyright and Related Rights**.

You may withdraw your consent for the use of your image at any time by sending an email to:

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Withdrawal of consent does not affect the lawfulness of processing carried out before the withdrawal.

Data retention period

Your data will be processed **no longer than necessary to achieve the above-mentioned purposes or until consent is withdrawn**.

Data recipients

Access to your data will be granted to **authorised employees or collaborators of the controller** who must process personal data in order to perform their duties.

Data may also be shared with entities commissioned by the controller to perform certain services requiring the processing of personal data, for example **companies preparing promotional materials for print**.

In order to ensure appropriate data protection, the controller has concluded **data processing agreements** with such entities.

Transfer of data outside the European Economic Area (EEA)

Your personal data may be transferred to third countries.

Your image will be published on www.facebook.com, which means that it may be stored on servers located in the **European Union and in the United States of America**.

More information about how Facebook processes personal data can be found at:

<https://pl-pl.facebook.com/business/gdpr>

Rights related to data processing

You are guaranteed the exercise of all rights provided by the **GDPR**, including the right to:

- access your data and obtain a copy of it;
- rectify (correct) your personal data;
- restrict the processing of personal data;
- erase personal data (subject to Article 17(3) GDPR);
- lodge a complaint with the **President of the Personal Data Protection Office** if you believe that the processing of your personal data violates applicable data protection laws.

Obligation to provide data

Providing your data is necessary to achieve the above-mentioned purposes. If consent is not given, we will not be able to publish your data in accordance with the purposes described above.