



Artists Working in Education in collaboration with The Mitchell Street Library Request for Qualifications

Gathering Art, Stories and Place: Community Art Residency

Project Summary:

DESCRIPTION:

Artists Working in Education, Inc. in collaboration with The Mitchell Street Library seeks an artist or artist team/collective to work collaboratively with teens, community members, assistant artists, and neighborhood experts to create two temporary public art installations and one permanent public art installation throughout 2018 that directly engages and benefits the Mitchell St. Library and Historic Mitchell Street Neighborhood, and is centered around youth and community voice. The projects must take place on Historic Mitchell Street or in the Mitchell Street Library, and require regular programmed hours working with a core group of teens to complete the project. All media and forms of public art will be considered including but not limited to the following: spoken word performances, musical performances, dance, happenings, video and electronic media, 2-D and 3-D visual installation, etc. Emerging and established artists are encouraged to apply. Artists are encouraged to contact John Kowalczyk, john@awe-inc.org, with any questions regarding this request for qualifications.

The goal of this project is to empower the Historic Mitchell Street Neighborhood community to create, share, and celebrate diversity through storytelling and public art, specifically engaging teens in the process. The Milwaukee Public Library has made a commitment to foster creativity in the Mitchell Street Library where every person who gathers is equal. Our partners and community leaders believe that the project will inspire individuals and organizations to look beyond their identities of origin to find commonality in a spirit of growing awareness and appreciation for art and each other.

PROJECT SPECIFICS:

The purpose of this Artist in Residency Program is to encourage an artist or artist team to utilize their skills to collaborate with a core group of Milwaukee teens and Historic Mitchell Street community members to develop socially engaging public art experiences or projects within the historic Mitchell Street Neighborhood. The selected artist or artist team will collaborate with a core group of Milwaukee teens and community members to express their voice utilizing the artists expertise and facilitation. The medium or way your ideas are expressed should also be a collaborative decision made with the core group of teens. Projects should demonstrate a direct benefit for the Historic Mitchell Street community, whether tangible (i.e., beautification) or intangible (i.e., awareness).

The selected artist or artist team will be required to make the necessary connections to ensure community participation, and devise a plan for engaging teens and community members in the creation of themes, context, and the artwork itself with support from Artists Working in Education. Work within the community would begin February 2018 and continue through the end of the 2018 calendar year. The selected artist

or artist team will also be able to consult with the “Listening to Mitchell” artist team for inspiration and Historic Mitchell Street Neighborhood networking. The Mitchell Street Library also has audio and video equipment available for the artist or artist team to utilize.

WHAT:

Artists Working in Education’s Artist in Residence (AIR) Program provides opportunities to engage teams of local artists and youth to make decisions about land use, public space, and neighborhood revitalization through the creation of public art. Together, we create inclusive & collaborative public art projects that align youth driven planning with broader community goals. Projects may create neighborhood infrastructure, contribute to neighborhood beautification, or tell a story about a pertinent issue through public art.

WHY:

Public art has the ability to bring the arts into people’s everyday lives, brighten blighted blocks and inspire a new vision of what is possible in our neighborhoods. Each of these factors demonstrates the power and ability of the arts to shift perceptions, create identity and inspire pride within our neighborhoods. This project has the power to expand the boundaries of a typical library setting to be seen as a space to foster creativity, equity, and appreciation for arts. Untold stories will find a voice and be represented in the community and archived in the library’s collection.

WHO:

Participating artists and youth will gain an understanding of the public art process, learn from and talk to key decision makers and share ideas with the wider community. The artist’s role is to teach the design process from idea conception through creation and installation. A.W.E. provides project management and engages neighborhood stakeholders in the process to fuel research, aid in site selection and participate in a culminating celebration. Additional experts in the fields of natural science, architecture, graphic design and urban planning may be utilized based on the scope and scale of each project.

WHERE:

Residency will take place in and around The Mitchell Street Library and the Historic Mitchell Street Neighborhood. Studio Space will be provided within the Mitchell Street Library.

ELIGIBILITY:

Open to all artists and artist teams 18 years or older. Preference given to artists with a strong connection to the Historic Mitchell Street Neighborhood in Milwaukee, WI. Artists who live in, were born in, or have family in the Historic Mitchell Street Neighborhood are highly encouraged to apply.

PROJECT BUDGET AND COMPENSATION:

The Artist in Residence chosen for this project will be awarded a \$15,000 stipend which requires leading a three part teen residency program with 130 program hours throughout 2018, completing 2 temporary public art projects or installations, and completing 1 permanent public art installation. The Artists in Residence would meet with the teens weekly and for additional special events. Additional special events include celebrations for completed projects, community engagement sessions, and planning meetings. Payments will made upon project milestones throughout 2018.

There is a separate budget for materials, installation, expert consultation, contractors, and fabrication depending on the project's' scope, scale, and needs. AWE will work with the artist to coordinate any contractors, fabricators, or experts needed to create and install the piece of art.

Time commitment and compensation break down through 2018:

-February 2018 - May 2018 (School Year):

2 hours a week with teens, 2 hours a week of planning and community engagement, additional time as needed to complete the project. \$3,500 Artist Stipend

-June 2018 - August 2018 (summer):

6 hours a week with teens, 4 hours a week of planning and community engagement, additional time as needed to complete the project. \$8,000 Artist Stipend

September 2018 - December 2018 (School Year):

2 hours a week with teens, 2 hours a week of planning and community engagement, additional time as needed to complete the project. \$3,500 Artist Stipend

HOW TO APPLY:

Artists may upload digital files and email to john@awe-inc.org or send a CD or DVD containing digital application materials to Artists Working in Education Inc. 4315 W. Vliet St. Milwaukee, WI 53208.

A complete application should include (1) Cover Letter, (2) Resume, (3) Documentation of Previous Work, (4) Image List, (5) References:

1. Letter of Interest- Briefly introduce yourself and your art practice. How is your art shaped by narrative and storytelling? Describe any previous experience in working on large scale community based public art projects. Describe your relationship to the Historic Mitchell Street Neighborhood. Expand on any experiences you have as being a teaching artist, specifically with teens. How do you see yourself involving community and teens in the conception, design, and creation of the public art projects. What is your availability for 2018?
2. Resume- Limit of 3 pages, If applying as an artist team or collective please list all members of the group and submit a resume for each member, please include address and contact information on resume.
3. Documentation of Previous Work- Up to 6 images and/or video clips up to 5 minutes of previous projects or work may be submitted.
4. Image List- Images and videos must be accompanied by a Word file (.doc or .docx) listing the title of each project or work depicted, year completed, media, location, and dimensions.
5. References- Please provide up to 3 references familiar with your art and/or teaching practice and your relationship to them. Please provide names, phone numbers, and email addresses for your references.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Each RFQ will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Artistic Merit
- Quality of previous works and qualifications of the artist
- Potential for success
- Understanding of project goals
- Evidence of community involvement/commitment

- Experience working on large scale public art projects
- Art Teaching experience
- Cultural Relevance to the Historic Mitchell Street Neighborhood

SELECTION PROCESS:

A Selection Committee made up of a Neighborhood Leader, Professional Artist, Program Director, and a Milwaukee Public Library Representative will review all complete submissions and select finalists. Each finalist will be invited to interview. After the finalists are interviewed the selection committee will select an artist to commission for the residency.

SCHEDULE (subject to change):

January 26th, 2018 - deadline for submissions

February 2nd, 2018 - review and selection of finalists, notification sent

By February 14th, 2018- finalist interviews with selection committee

By February 16th, 2018 - artist or artist team selected, notification sent

February 26th - December 31st, 2018 - residency takes place

ABOUT ARTISTS WORKING IN EDUCATION:

AWE's mission is to provide youth in Milwaukee with arts enrichment programs that advance learning, enhance human potential, and cultivate community. Our programs weave arts and culture into the community development process to spark imagination, create social connections, and develop creative community design solutions that reflect the values and concerns of the neighborhoods where we work.

QUESTIONS:

For questions or additional information please contact:

John Kowalczyk

Program Director

4315 W. Vliet St.

Milwaukee, WI 53208

E: john@awe-inc.org

T: 414-933-3877