PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT

Critical Mass for the Visual Arts invites artists from the St. Louis metropolitan area to submit an idea or concept that you would like to explore through a temporary work of art that will exist in the public realm. A three-person jury will review proposals and select one artist to receive up to $10,000 to realize his/her idea for the spring of 2016. Submissions are due Monday, October 5, 2015.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

An artist or artist team will be selected based on a two-phase process.

In this first phase, artists are invited to submit credentials and a preliminary written idea or concept for a project. From these submissions, the jury will select up to three finalists.

In the second phase, the three finalists will be invited to develop a full concept proposal and present it to the jury. Finalists will be awarded a stipend of $250. The final selection will be based upon the concept proposal.

THEN WHAT?

The selected artist will be awarded up to $10,000 to design, produce, and install a public artwork. Additional support will be provided by Critical Mass, as needed, including documentation, marketing, site permission, and permitting. The maximum duration of the project is six months, though works can be installed for a shorter period of time, including an event-based or episodic project.

The work can be sited anywhere in the St. Louis City.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The Public Works Project is open to artists or artist teams who reside and/or work in the St. Louis area (within 100 miles of downtown). MFA students who are in the final year of their MFA are eligible, as long as the work is not part of course-work or under the direction of an instructor.

OK, I'M INTERESTED. WHAT DO I SUBMIT?

Please submit, no later than October 5, 2015:

1. A Letter of interest (no more than two pages) summarizing the idea you are interested in developing, the relationship to your practice as a whole, and the relationship of the work to the public realm. The letter should identify a site or the type of site that you would like to install or present your work. You do not need to have site permission at this time. Please do not send renderings.
2. A resume / CV of no more than two pages.
3. A numbered list of images to coincide with numbered JPGs: number, artist, title, date, media, dimensions, cost/budget and a brief summary (up to 30 words) of the piece.

4. Images: Up to 10 images of previous works. Or, you may choose to submit 5 images and up to two websites and/or videos (60 second clips only).

Applications from collaborations/teams of two or more artists will be accepted. Artist teams may submit a resume/cv for each team member and a total of 15 images of past work or 8 images and three websites and/or video clips.

Image File Format: Images must be submitted as JPG files and be less than 1 MB each. “High quality” files at 300 dpi, no more than 1920 pixels on the longest side, are recommended for best viewing by the jury.

Image File Labeling: Files must be titled with a number indicating the viewing order, followed by the artist’s last name. Use “0” in front of single digit numbers. Do not use more than 30 characters; use only letters, numbers and underscores. Example: 01_Smith; 02_Smith. Mac OS users: Image files must be in JPEG format and include “.jpg” at the end of each image title. Example: 01_Smith.jpg.

All materials must be submitted electronically to: stlcriticalmass@yahoo.com

Attachments can total no more than 5MB in a single e-mail. If necessary, please divide images into multiple e-mail messages or use Dropbox, Hightail or a similar file sharing service.

WHAT WILL THE JURY BE LOOKING FOR?

We will ask the jury to consider the following questions as they review of the submissions.

- Does the artist clearly express the idea that he/she is interested in exploring? Is there clarity of vision and purpose in relation to the artist’s practice?
- Is the proposed idea innovative and creative?
- Does the artist articulate an interest in working in public space?
- Does the artist’s body of work demonstrate high artistic quality? An ability to execute an artwork in public space?

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

- October 5, 2015 – Applications due
- Late October – finalists notified
- Mid December – finalists submit concepts
- Jan 2016 – final selection
- spring/summer 2016 – work presented

QUESTIONS?

Call or email Meridith McKinley: 314-735-9268 or mckinley@viapartnership.com.