

City of Olympia Arts Program

Artist in Residence Program

BACKGROUND: The Arts Commission has identified a gap in the City's efforts to make public art accessible to low-income and traditionally underserved populations and proposes an Artist in Residence (AIR) program to meet this need. The AIR program will require that the artists propose and implement a variety of unique opportunities for the city's diverse communities to participate and benefit from the art making process.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this document is to establish a City of Olympia Artist in Residence program. This is consistent with the Art Commission 2020 Work Plan that was approved by the Olympia City Council on June 16, 2020.

GOALS: The Artist in Residence Program hopes to address the following goals:

- Provide opportunities for underserved community members to participate in the art making process
- Broaden the community experience of the arts
- To create connection with the City of Olympia and the greater community.
- Enhance the quality of citizens' lives

AUTHORITY: Policy of the Olympia Arts Commission, Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation, and the Olympia City Council.

1.0 Policy:

1.1 The Olympia Arts Commission is responsible for providing Artist in Residence recommendations to the Olympia City Council. The Olympia Arts Commission, using an inclusive jury process, will evaluate the applicants according to stated criteria.

2.0 Selection Process:

2.1 A 3 or 5-member jury, selected by the Arts Commission shall be convened to review the Artist in Residence submissions. The Arts Program Manager shall serve as facilitator to this panel.

2.2 Prior to the submission deadline, the Arts Commission will offer a free workshop to prospective applicants, clarifying the application and selection process. In future years this panel will include former Artists in Residence, who can share their individual experiences.

- 2.3 Applicants must be teaching artists who reside in Thurston County and be at least 18 years of age.
- 2.4 Submissions require a resume and samples of work, as part of the application package.
- 2.5 Residency shall be project based, for a period of time from 1 to 6 months.
- 2.6 The City will design each Artist in Residence Call for Art with the following elements:
- Identified underserved community
 - Opportunity to teach art making skills
 - Required culminating event or exhibition for the general public
- 2.7 The jury recommends to the full Arts Commission one Artist in Residence and an alternate. The Commission's recommendation will be communicated to the City Council for formal acceptance or rejection.
- 2.8 For their term of service in the community, each Artist in Residence will receive a project award from the Municipal Art Fund.

3.0 Selection Criteria:

- 3.1 The jury reviews each application for aesthetic quality, potential for community engagement, and appropriateness of project for identified population, all equally weighted.

3.1(a) ***Aesthetic Quality***

- Do the work samples exhibit strong aesthetic merit?
- Are the works consistently strong? Does the applicant demonstrate a commitment to continuing their art practice?

3.1(b) ***Potential for Community Engagement***

- Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of the needs of the underserved community with whom they will be working?
- Does the applicant have experience teaching art?

3.1(c) ***Appropriateness of Project for Identified Population***

- Does the proposal support the artist's ability to engage Olympia's citizens in meaningful ways to further the arts in our community?
- Does the proposed project create capacity for participant success?

4.0 **Administration**

- 4.1 Each selected Artist in Residence will enter into an agreement with the City.
- 4.2 Each Artist in Residence will manage their own schedule, be the point of contact for all programming inquiries from the public, arrange details for their programs, and coordinate press releases with the City's Arts Program staff.
- 4.3 The City reserves the right to cancel or discontinue the Artist in Residence term of service at any time, with or without cause and with or without notice to the artist or public.

Park Director _____