

CALL FOR ARTISTS

PUBLIC | ARTISTS COLLABORATIVE RESIDENCY

The 2017 Public Artist Collaborative Residency program will provide an opportunity for 3 local artists from the Charlottesville area working with varied mediums to utilize our gallery as a pop-up studio space for the months of July and August, with a group exhibition in September. Artists will develop their practice in cooperation with each other over the course of 3 months. This pioneering program emphasizes a strong collaborative element by placing artists in close proximity and supporting them in the development of a shared vision for an outreach activity and a gallery exhibition. The program will further the development of the arts in Charlottesville by providing financial support, organizational support, publicity, and space to selected artists. It will accomplish all this while feeding the intrigue and interest of the community and putting a spotlight on creative collaboration.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In keeping with our mission to bridge diverse communities through the arts, the Public Artist Collaborative Residency program provides a unique opportunity for 3 selected artists to explore their practice in a fresh communal environment, in proximity to other artists, with the expressed purpose of pursuing diversity in collaboration.

GOALS

1. Spotlight 3 talented artists in Charlottesville
2. Provide physical space (a scarce resource) for uninhibited creative development
3. Financially support qualified artists to do good work
4. Facilitate and showcase a meaningful collaboration among diverse artists

HOW IT LOOKS

- This experimental collaboration will transform a neighborhood art gallery into studio space for 3 diverse local artists for the duration of 3 months (July, August, and a group exhibition in September).

- Artists will use the space free of charge and each will receive a total of \$1,000 stipend to support their efforts over the three months.
- The gallery will remain open to visitors, allowing the public a unique look at their collaborative process.
- Artists will have a key to the building and may come and go at will, utilizing the gallery as their own shared art studio.
- During the residency, the artists will work toward developing and executing a concept for a group gallery exhibition for the month of September and an outreach activity to take their collaborative efforts into the community.
- While artists will have access to the space at all times, regular programming will occur in the space during these months. This means the artists' works in progress will be visible to the public. Artists must work in a manner in which accommodates other programs. Artists will be expected to tidy up to allow for shared use of the space.

PROVIDING SPACE

This project contributes an innovative method to alleviating one of the most pressing burdens artists face in Charlottesville—affordable studio space. Though this project alone is not a comprehensive solution, by temporarily converting a gallery into studio space, we will provide a creative, replicable solution that may be adopted by other non-profits and businesses, while showing our support for community artists. Selected participants will be given a set of keys and will have all the privileges and responsibilities of maintaining the gallery as their own collaborative studio space. Artists will maintain regular hours for visitors interested in observing the creative process in action. In this way, the artists' collaborative process functions as a unique, dynamic art exhibit.

PROVIDING SUPPORT

Each commissioned artist will receive a stipend to support their efforts during the residency. These funds can be used for supplies and materials or as supplemental income to support their creative practice. In addition to financial support, The Bridge will use its experience and organizational structure to provide creative guidance, publicity, and community connection. The Bridge will remain in active support of the project, working to ensure valuable outcomes for the participating artists.

THE PRODUCTS

1. By maintaining an open door to the public and inviting the community to experience the collaborative process, the artists will essentially participate in an intriguing 3-month performance piece.

2. The Public Artist Residency Program will result in a group gallery exhibition showcasing the work of the artist residents that is conceptualized, created, and exhibited over the course of the 3 month period.
3. The artists will develop an outreach element to their collaborative work that takes place beyond the walls of the gallery and engages the community. The Bridge will put its resources behind efforts to support a successful effort that is meaningful to the community and artists.
4. Community artists will build valuable skills for diverse collaboration while benefiting from the inspiration and cross-contamination of a communal work environment.

SELECTING ARTISTS

The Bridge is accepting applications for the Public Artist Creative Residency **through April 15**. Applicants should submit the following:

- A one-page résumé including website link
- A digital version of your work in one of the following formats – 4 images (jpg), 2 sound (mp3), 4 documents (pdf), or link to a video.
- A one-page explanation of your work and interest in the program as well as any information the jury should consider when reviewing your candidacy.

A jury of diverse creatives and community thinkers will select 3 qualified artists based on the following criteria:

- Caliber of work
- Potential for personal/artistic growth
- History of/interest in collaboration
- Eagerness to work in a public setting
- Ability to maintain project commitments

Additionally, the jury will make an effort to ensure representation of a diversity of mediums as well as cultural and gender diversity. Submission materials should be sent to info@thebridgepai.org. Selected artists will be announced beginning of May.