

CALL TO ARTISTS

from WINNIPEG'S PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Public Art Opportunity ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE in Community Gardens and Portage Planter Project

For visual artists

OPEN CALL TO ARTISTS: REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Deadline: Tuesday, June 22, 4 pm

Budget: \$80,000

ART OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

The Winnipeg Arts Council invites visual artists to submit expressions of interest for an Artist-in-Residence project working within community gardens. The selected artist will be in residence for a 15 month period beginning in August 2010. Additionally the artist will develop a planting plan that includes sculptural elements for key planters on Portage Avenue, in collaboration with the Downtown BIZ, for installation in spring 2011. Artists must reside in, or in close proximity to, Winnipeg.



As an arm's-length agency of the City of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Arts Council funds, supports and fosters development of the arts on behalf of the people of Winnipeg.



BACKGROUND:

COMMUNITY GARDENING IN WINNIPEG

At present there exist over fifty Community Garden sites in the City of Winnipeg. Add to this two Urban Agriculture Demonstration sites, eight Farmers' Markets and over thirty Community Kitchens and we begin to see a significant amount of urban space being devoted to locally-grown food.

As diverse as the sites they develop, groups of all backgrounds and interests can be found at work in our gardens. From horticultural societies nearing their 100th year, to small clubs wishing to participate in the local food system, from seniors' groups to university students to New Canadians, in inner city lots and in neighbourhood parks each group is passionate about what they do. In turn they learn much and connect with members of their community that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to meet.

Community food growing enhances the quality of life in our neighbourhoods by creating a sense of place and enabling strong community cohesion. Today, several community groups are using gardens as a way to encourage horticultural therapy, to teach traditional or innovative growing methods and to share experiences which ultimately result in new skill development as well as significant generational and cultural exchange.

These spaces add a unique aesthetic into the physical and social character of their communities and act as gathering places or neighbourhood focal points. In each case the interplay of personal expression and social development are tried alongside the challenges of horticultural exploration.

At season's end the harvestable goods of a community garden site go well beyond the produce picked – to those involved, or to the casual observer, the sense of community they enjoy, the place that is created and the shared experiences they engage in all point to a better quality of life and create broad and healthy communities.

ARTISTS AND GARDENING

The interplay between artists and gardens is historically significant. Recently there has been a new surge of interest in the intersection between gardening and art-making. Additionally, many of the goals and benefits of community gardening are common to those of art in public places including neighbourhood revitalization and community building. Here are just a few links to some recent projects involving artists and gardening:
<http://www.fritzhaeg.com/garden/initiatives/accdcomgard.html>
<http://moparrc.wordpress.com/moparrc-artists/>
http://www.sackville.com/community/heroes/community_garden/
<http://www.conversations.org/story.php?sid=8>
<http://community.seattletimes.nwsources.com/archive/?date=20010121&slug=feapval21>
http://www.karlinn.org/wiki/index.php?title=Peralta_Garden_Commons

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE DETAILS

This is not a live-in residency. This is a fifteen month residency that will begin August 3, 2010 and continue until October 31, 2011. The selected artist will engage with City staff and volunteers committed to community gardening practices in Winnipeg. The artist will

work with select community gardens in diverse areas of the City and will engage with the public through workshops or events. This programming will be collaboratively organized between the artist, the Winnipeg Arts Council and the City of Winnipeg. The Artist-in-Residence will spend an average of 15 hours per week conducting research, facilitating concept development and designing elements for community gardens. It is expected that the selected artist will create artwork elements for integration into the community gardens. These artworks should include both functional and non-functional items. The proposed artwork(s) developed by the artist during the residency will be approved by representatives from the City and the Winnipeg Arts Council, and when completed will become the property of the City of Winnipeg.

PORTAGE PLANTER PROJECT DETAILS

The selected artist will develop a planting plan, including plant-based sculptural elements, for key planters on Portage Avenue in Downtown Winnipeg. The artist will work in collaboration with the Downtown BIZ, City staff and the Winnipeg Arts Council to develop a plan between August and October of 2010. Once the plan is approved, plants to be used in the project will be ordered in October for greenhouse development over the winter months with installation taking place in spring 2011.

The Portage Planter initiative is of a temporary but necessarily durable nature. Sculptural elements are expected to be fabricated of sound materials and in a method that will withstand the elements and a high traffic environment for a period of three to five years, using perennials if plant-based. Surrounding plantings are expected to be seasonal; a detailed planting plan will permit gardeners to re-plant the planters according to the artist's vision in subsequent years.

The Downtown BIZ will take stewardship of the project once the initial installation is complete, monitoring the planters regularly and ensuring repairs and replanting occur should any vandalism take place. The Downtown BIZ will engage volunteers within the community, such as Friends of the Conservatory, to assist with the planting and tending of these key planters.

ARTWORK GOALS

The artist's residency work and the resulting permanent artworks should directly address community gardening practices. The gardens should not be considered "galleries" or "backdrops" for the works of art but an integral component of the artwork itself. The artworks should be created from a combination of plant- or land-based elements as well as from other environmentally sound materials and more permanent materials. The artworks should be expressed as functional elements such as water delivery systems, innovative growing mediums, habitat for beneficial insects or animals, as well as non-functional works.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE OBJECTIVES

Artists working in public environments present a unique opportunity for community interaction. Some of the goals of this program include:

- The integration of an artist's perspective in community gardening
- Opening the artistic process to the community through public events and/or engagement with the public
- Creating permanent works of art that evolve from the research and insight gleaned from the artist's engagement in community gardens
- Drawing attention to community gardening practices in Winnipeg.

ON-SITE INFORMATION MEETING

Artists are invited to attend an on-site meeting to engage in conversation about the residency opportunity on **Wednesday, May 19 at 5:30 pm** at the **Riverview Community Garden, Churchill Drive at Baltimore Road**.

SITE LOCATION and PARAMETERS

The artist will have the opportunity to engage with diverse groups. Garden sites will be selected from large scale allotment sites which accommodate hundreds of gardeners. There are sites devoted to bridging the gap between young and old participants, inner city efforts to assist low income families, gardens in neighbourhood parks as well as those offering recreational opportunities to the elderly. As mentioned above, installations will be integrated into the site as either functional apparatus to assist growing efforts or structural elements which increase community connectivity.

Information on sites throughout the city of Winnipeg can be found at www.winnipeg.ca/publicworks/ParksandFields/CommunityGardens/communitygardens.asp

RESOURCES AVAILABLE for the selected ARTIST

The artist will have access to office space in the Public Works Department. City staff will assist the artist in a variety of ways such as for research, providing access to the garden sites and gardeners, and helping to facilitate public programming, etc. City staff with expertise in garden related disciplines will be available to the artist for guidance on plant materials and care guidelines.

BUDGET for ARTIST RESIDENCY and PLANTER PROJECT

The total budget for this project is \$80,000: \$37,500 artist fee for a 15 month period at \$2500 per month, and up to \$42,500 for both the commission of permanent artworks for integration into community gardens AND for the Portage Planter Project. The commission fee must include all costs relating to the artworks and plantings including, but not limited to materials, technical consultation, fabrication, insurance, installation, permit fees, documentation, all applicable taxes, etc.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

Open to professional visual artists*. While it is desirable for the artist to have experience with gardening and plant materials, there will be a number of experts in the field that the artist will have access to.

Artists must live in, or in close proximity to, Winnipeg.

**The Public Art Policy defines a professional artist as a person who is critically recognized as an artist; possesses skill, training and/or experience in his or her artistic discipline; is active in and committed to his or her art practice; and has a history of public presentation.*

SELECTION CRITERIA

Artists' expressions of interest will be reviewed on the basis of:

- Artistic excellence, quality of artwork and professional experience of the artist

- Sensitivity to the context of community gardening
- Evidence of broad thinking and conceptual clarity
- Ability and willingness of the artist to work with the community through workshops and other public events
- Ability to work well with a wide range of people including community members, City staff, horticulturalists, arts professionals, and professionals in other fields
- An expressed desire to create artwork in and for a public realm.

SELECTION PROCESS

A selection panel of qualified individuals will review the applications based on the project goals and selection criteria, and recommend up to three artists for interviews. A final recommendation will then be made from the short-listed artists, if appropriate.

The artist selected for the residency and commission will be required to enter into an agreement with the City of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Arts Council which will contain provisions including but not limited to right of ownership and use, warranty and insurance.

Please note that the Winnipeg Arts Council is not compelled to award the project based on the submissions received.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Artists wishing to be considered must submit a complete package. Please submit, in English, one copy of all application documents typed or written in black ink on white, **letter-sized paper (8½" X 11")** suitable for photocopying as outlined below. Please **DO NOT staple applications or bind them in any way** in folders, binders or plastic covers. Applications must include the materials listed below in the following order:

1. The completed **Application Form** (page 8 of this document).
2. A **Written Expression of Interest** detailing:
 - Why the context of community gardens is important to the artist, what impact it would have on the artist's work, and how the artist's work would contribute to community gardens in Winnipeg and to the planters on Portage Avenue
 - The artist's experience working in the public realm
 - The importance of the residency to the artist's career.**(maximum two pages)**
3. **Curriculum Vitae** or **Artistic Résumé** including education/training, public presentations, bibliography of critical reviews of your work, awards and other activities relating to your artistic practice **(maximum three pages)**.
4. A brief **Statement of Artistic Activities** for the past twelve to eighteen months. Describe your recent artistic activities, professional development, and experience with community engagement **(maximum two pages)**.
5. **References:** names, addresses, phone and e-mail for two references who can speak to your art practice and interest and/or experience in community-based projects.

6. **Support Material Documentation List** – Please follow the attached template(s) on page 9 of this document).
7. **Support Materials** – Please include examples of your work for the selection committee to review, accompanied by a corresponding documentation list. See below for Support Material Guidelines.
8. **A self-addressed and stamped envelope (SASE)** for return of support materials if you wish your materials returned. **Please ensure that the envelope is appropriate to the support material and contains sufficient packing material as well as sufficient postage. Please note that only support materials will be returned with a SASE, not the written application documents.** If you do not wish your materials returned, please check the appropriate box on the application form.

SUPPORT MATERIAL guidelines

All applicants must include examples of previous work and/or work in progress for the selection committee to review. While you may choose to show a selection based on your complete body of work, emphasis on recent work is usually best, and any work that relates to public engagement that may be similar to a residency context would be useful to view. **Since the examples submitted should demonstrate the quality of your work, it is essential to send only the highest quality materials that best represent your work.**

All support materials must be clearly marked with the applicant's name, the work's title, and any special instructions. *For examples featuring collaborative works, specify the applicant's role in the creation or execution of the work*

Do not submit original artwork. While taking reasonable care, *the Winnipeg Arts Council will not accept responsibility for loss of or damage to these works.*

Support material may include a **maximum of 3** of the following:

- printed samples/excerpts from books, catalogues, programs or other published materials (maximum 10 pages, suitable for photocopying)
- a PC compatible CD-ROM with up to 15 jpeg image files* (*please see Digital Support Materials Specifications*)
- DVDs, or CDs, appropriately labeled (*please see Digital Support Materials Specifications*). You may submit up to 2 clips with a maximum combined running time of 5 minutes.

Excess support material will not be accepted or shown to the selection committee.

***Digital Support Material Specifications**

- Submit 72 DPI **.jpg** image files to a maximum of 1024 x 768 pixels, RGB or grayscale only (no CMYK)
- Title each image with your initials and the number that corresponds to your documentation list (for example: AC01, AC02...AC15).
- Don't submit compressed files (WinZip, Stuffit, etc).
- Don't submit materials that require software, plug-ins, extensions or other executables that need to be downloaded or installed.
- Don't embed photographs in documents such as Word or PowerPoint.
- For **video** files, only submit files that can be accessed on a PC computer with RealPlayer, or played on a DVD player.

Please note that slides, VHS tapes and audio cassettes are no longer accepted.

DEADLINE

Complete proposal packages must be received on or before **Tuesday, June 22 by 4:00 pm**. (This is not a postmark deadline). All supporting materials must accompany the application. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be accepted. Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted. The Winnipeg Arts Council will not be responsible for applications lost in transit. While all reasonable care will be taken in the handling of materials, the Winnipeg Arts Council cannot take responsibility for lost or damaged materials.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the application package reaches the WAC office by the deadline. All applicants will receive a notice by mail or e-mail that their application has been received. If you have submitted an application and do not receive notification within two weeks of the deadline date, please contact the WAC office.

Please send complete proposal packages to:

Tricia Wasney, Manager-Public Art
Re: Artist-in-Residence in Community Gardens
Winnipeg Arts Council
103 – 110 Princess Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1K7

ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE

May 19, 2010	On-site meeting for artists
June 22	Deadline for receipt of expressions of interest
July 12-23	Selection Process
August 3	Residency begins
August-October	Design phase for Portage Planters; order plants; visit community garden sites
November 2010-April 2011	Research for development of community garden artworks including community consultation
May-June	Installation and opening of works for Portage Planters
July-September	Installation of works for community gardens
October 15	Opening of community garden artworks
October 15-31	Closing out of project.

For additional information or questions please call:

Tricia Wasney, Winnipeg Arts Council, (204)943-7668 or e-mail at twasney@winnipegarts.ca

The Art Selection Committee will include:

Community Garden Co-ordinator for the City of Winnipeg
Downtown BIZ Project Co-ordinator
Community Garden participant
Two artists

The Winnipeg Arts Council reserves the right to choose to not recommend any application, proposal or finalist and to terminate or re-advertise any project.

For more information on past Artist-in-Residence projects, please visit the Gallery of Public Artworks at http://www.winnipegarts.ca/index.php?/wac-pages/pub_art_gallery/. For any Call-To-Artists updates please check the web site at www.winnipegarts.ca.

**Public Art Opportunity:
Community Gardens: Artist-In-Residence
Call to Artists APPLICATION FORM**

Attach one copy of this form to the top of each application copy.

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ E-mail _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Artistic medium _____

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____

Checklist of materials included in the application packet in the following order:

- Application Form (this page)
- Written Expression of Interest (**maximum two pages**)
- Curriculum Vitae or Artistic Résumé (**maximum three pages**)
- Brief Statement of Artistic Activities (**maximum 2 pages**)
- Names and contact information for two references (letters of reference not required)
- Support Material Documentation List(s) (**page 9 of this document**)
- Support Material of Representative Work (images, etc.)

And please check one:

- I have included a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of support materials.
- or
- I do not want my support materials returned.

Send submissions to: Tricia Wasney, Manager-Public Art
Re: Artist-in-Residence in Community Gardens
Winnipeg Arts Council
103 – 110 Princess Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1K7

*Complete proposal packages must be received on or before **4:00 pm on Tuesday, June 22, 2010** (not a postmark deadline). Incomplete, late, faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted.*

Please let us know how you found out about this opportunity _____

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Community Gardens: Artist-In-Residence
SUPPORT MATERIAL DOCUMENTATION LIST TEMPLATE



You may use this sheet or attach additional sheets that follow this template

Applicant's Name: _____

All support materials must be clearly marked with the applicant's name, the work's title, the program applied to, and any special instructions. DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL ARTWORK.

CD-ROM with up to 15 jpeg image files

No	Date	Title	Medium	Dimensions	Description/Details
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