



**WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL**

Public Art Program

WITH ART

Program Description

WITH ART is a program that creates opportunities for collaborative art projects between community groups and artists of all disciplines in Winnipeg. The program is based on the belief that WITH ART communities can explore issues, ideas, and concerns, voice community identity, express historical and cultural spirit, and create dialogue.

Central to the WITH ART program is the principle that exploration and the process of art-making are of utmost importance. The engagement between community and artist culminates in a work of art and a public event such as an exhibition or performance. WITH ART is designed to be flexible and experimental and truly collaborative. Both communities and artists will be asked to approach the process without preconceptions of what the final product will be. Artists and community groups will create a project based on community goals, the artist's working methods and the partnership that subsequently develops.

The type of project that might develop could include:

- Site-specific artworks;
- Documentary artworks such as books, videos, or exhibitions;
- Performances, plays, concerts, readings, or dances.

These are suggestions only, intended to spark possibilities. The goal of the program is that the final project be an expression of the collaboration between artist and community.

To be eligible community groups must be located in Winnipeg. Artists outside Winnipeg are welcome to apply but WAC is unable to provide additional travel funds. WITH ART is not a children's art or amateur art program although community participation by citizens of all ages is encouraged.

ARTIST PARTICIPATION

Artist refers to 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. A call will be issued to Winnipeg artists in all disciplines for expressions of interest to participate in the program. The artists selected will form a roster from which a match will later be made with a community group. The matched artist will receive funding to carry out the project and will collaborate with the community group on the details of the budget.

WITH ART is interested in artists working in all art forms such as:

- visual arts: public art, film and video, photography, installation, multi-media and other visual art forms;
- performing arts: performance, music, dance, theatre; or
- literary arts: writing, story-telling, poetry.

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

- Artistic excellence, quality of artwork and professional experience of the artist;
- Evidence of broad thinking, conceptual clarity and problem-solving capabilities;
- Ability and willingness of the artist to work collaboratively with community members on a shared goal;
- Experience with community-based art projects;
- Ability to work well with a wide range of people including community members, City staff, arts professionals, and professionals in other fields;
- An expressed desire to create artwork in a public realm.

Interdisciplinary and team approaches are welcome. Artists should not apply with a specific community partner in mind.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community refers to a group of people brought together by any number of forces including geography, tradition, culture, lifestyle, common experience or spirit. Community groups must have a history of working together. A call will be issued to community groups wishing to work on a common goal, theme or idea through the art making process. The selected community group will work with the Winnipeg Arts Council to select an artist from the roster whose art practice they feel best suits their interests. When a final match is made, the artist will receive funding for the project but will collaborate with the community group on the budget details.

Community groups' applications will be reviewed on the basis of:

- Expression of a shared goal to explore through art, including but not limited to issues such as identity, social history, cultural expression, or the environment;
- A commitment to working collaboratively with an artist to explore these community issues;
- A willingness to enter the process without a predetermined idea about the outcome;
- The belief that the art-making process is unique and valid way to express community identity and concerns;
- Community cohesion and evidence of a history of working together as a group;
- A commitment of community time to work on the project.

Community groups must be situated within the City of Winnipeg. Communities may include groups that have a shared heritage, history, mission, identity or interest. Organizations that receive operating funding from the Winnipeg Arts Council or are fully funded agencies of the City of Winnipeg may not apply. Community groups should not apply with a specific artist in mind.

COLLABORATION

The goal of WITH ART is to match community groups with artists to work out a project together in a truly collaborative way. For this reason community groups are asked to not have a specific project or end-product in mind when applying but rather an idea of themes or goals they wish to explore. Similarly, artists should not apply with a specific

community partner in mind. Once an artist and community group are matched, they will develop a budget and implementation plan describing their goals for the project. The selected artist and community group will be required to enter into a Working Agreement, facilitated by WAC, that outlines the roles and responsibilities of all parties as well as rights of use and ownership.

*WITH ART is not a grant program for communities or artists to receive funding for projects already underway.

WORKING AGREEMENT

The selected community group and artist will be required to enter into a Working Agreement, facilitated by WAC and endorsed by the City of Winnipeg, that outlines the roles and responsibilities of all parties as well as rights of use and ownership.

FINAL ARTWORK

The final artwork will become the property of the City of Winnipeg but with broad allowances for use by the various parties. Copyright will remain with the artist.

SELECTION AND MATCHING PROCESS

Artists applying to become part of the roster will be selected by a panel composed of people with experience in art and community development. The selection will be based on a written proposal and artist's support materials. Artists will be considered on the basis of experience with community collaboration, a dedication to their art form and the ability to commit to the time required to carry out the process. Participation by an artist in a WITH ART project will not be guaranteed until a match is made with a community group.

Community groups applying to the program will be asked to submit a detailed letter of interest for review by a selection panel composed of people with experience in art and community development. Community groups will be selected on the basis of community cohesion, a willingness to work in an open-ended way with an artist without a pre-determined outcome or product, and the commitment of community time to support a collaborative creative process.

Facilitated by WAC staff and the selection panel, the participating community groups will review the artist roster and select a shortlist of artists whose art practice would be most compatible with their interests and goals. Following an interview process between the community groups and artists, a final match will be made.

BUDGET

Artists or artist teams* matched with a community group will receive a planning fee of \$3000 in the initial stage of the project. The artist and community group will work together during this period to formulate the kind of ideas they wish to explore, as well as develop a budget and implementation plan.

Funding of up to \$13,000 will be made available to the artist to carry out the project, based on a payment schedule and approval by WAC of the budget and implementation plan. Community groups will not receive funding but the budget will be developed in collaboration between the artist and community group. The budget must include an artist fee for the implementation stage of the collaboration as well as cover all aspects of the project including but not limited to planning, community consultation, materials, insurance, and any other resources necessary to complete the project.

*Artists working as a team must share the \$3000 planning fee.

PROCESS OVERVIEW

1. Call to artists is issued for expressions of interest.
2. Selection panel recommends artists to form roster.
3. Call to community groups to participate in program is issued.
4. Selection panel chooses community group(s) to participate.
5. Each selected community group, in collaboration with WAC, selects an artist to work with from the roster based on review of materials and interviews.
6. Matched artist enters into a contract with WAC and the City and into a Working Agreement with the Community Group, facilitated by WAC; artist receives first phase of project funding.
7. Artist and community group meet to develop ideas, plan and budget.
8. Budget and plan are approved by WAC and funding is released.
9. Artist and community work on project with regular reporting process to WAC.
10. Project culminates in a public event.

WITH ART PROJECTS Completed or in Development

WITH ART was initiated in 2006. Through this unique program, several thousand people from diverse communities have participated in and been impacted by art projects that explore community identity and issues. Several projects are now completed and others are in development:

COMPLETED:

- *Elwick Community Centre*: Artist Dimitry Melman-Komar and the Elwick Community created a vibrant mosaic tile mural for the outdoor walls of the community centre located at 30 Maberley Road.
- *The Birthing Project*: Artist Judy Jennings and the Manitoba Maternity Care Action network collaborated on a glass installation reflecting images of birth that is now on view in the windows at the Women's Health Clinic, 419 Graham Avenue.
- *Spence Community Compass*: Artist Leah Decter with the Spence Neighbourhood Association collaborated on a permanent installation at Furby Park, on Furby north of Ellice, that explores notions of home through mosaic, indigenous plantings and text.

IN DEVELOPMENT:

- *Winnipeg First Nation: Heart of a Home*: Filmmaker Jim Sanders and the Manitoba Urban Native Housing Association created a film that explores Aboriginal housing in Winnipeg. The film will have its world premiere in January 2009.
- Filmmakers Ervin Chartrand and Jim Agapito are working with the youth of the Immigrant and Refugee Organization of Manitoba to create a rap song, video and making-of documentary that reflects the immigrant and refugee experience.
- Documentary photographer Jon Schledewitz is collaborating with residents of Dorchester House on a photography and book project that examines the lives of the residents of the halfway house.
- Photographer Sarah Crawley is working with the Eritrean Community of Winnipeg on a photography project that explores the immigrant experience from the point of view of women and mothers.

For further program information, or to receive the Call to Artists and Call to Communities please contact Tricia Wasney, Winnipeg Arts Council, (204)943-7668 or e-mail at twasney@winnipegarts.ca or visit www.winnipegarts.ca.

The Winnipeg Arts Council funds, supports and fosters development of the arts on behalf of the people of Winnipeg.