

January 23, 2007

Call for Curators: Proposals Wanted

Lower Manhattan Cultural Council is opening its archive of over 250 resident artists' work to the curatorial community. This is a call for proposals for three or four simultaneous guest-curated exhibitions to be mounted in Fall 2007. The exhibitions along with a series of events in Fall 2007 will be part of a celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the Council's artist residency program, marking a decade of progress and evolution.

But exhibition proposals should not be retrospective or all-inclusive. Proposals should include artists selected from the Council's residency archive and, most of all, should be informed and inspired by the curator's interest and perspective.

For more information, please read on. The selected exhibitions will be presented downtown in Fall 2007. Projected dates are November 5 through December 14, 2007.

A Brief History

Three walls and a view. That has always been the concept of our artist residency program - giving artists doorless studios in a shared workspace to encourage productivity and inspire interaction and collaboration.

From 1997 to 2001, in the upper reaches of the World Trade Center, more than 130 artists worked in rooms with extraordinary views - and initially the view was the central theme of the Council's artist residency program. Cityscape painters were prominent at the beginning and the program was called *WorldViews*. The program evolved into supporting artists in all media because of the World Trade Center's vast sightlines and rich historical and socio-political context. Even as the artists shared a building with an international business and financial purpose, their daily studio work followed lines of inquiry, research, and imagination alongside the realm of commerce. The scope of the panoramic view from the 91st and 92nd floors allowed artists to get up and out of the grid, and to see their city from another vantage point - to address the "view" and "viewpoint" on a number of visual and conceptual levels, providing the genesis of this program. Working on Wall Street took on a completely new meaning.

Since its inception, the Council's residency, now called *Workspace*, has provided free temporary studio space to almost 250 artists and writers. Moving locations after the destruction of the World Trade Center has resulted in our placing artists in some of the most architecturally and historically significant buildings in New York, including the World Financial Center, the Woolworth Building, and our current locations at 120 Broadway (The Equitable Building) and 200 Hudson Street in Tribeca. Now the largest artist residency in New York City, the program was recently expanded to serve up to 30 residents annually for a 9-month season. During their tenure artists are not asked to complete specific projects or fulfill a set of criteria. They are simply asked to have a full and productive studio practice and they are given the opportunity to meet with fellow artists, curators, writers, and other arts professionals.

The Process

- Step 1: Read Call of Curators description.
Step 2: Attend one of two curatorial meetings at the Council's office 125 Maiden Lane, 2nd Floor (See Directions below), Tuesday, February 20, 6pm or Monday, March 5, 10am and pick up source materials.
Step 3: Research
Step 4: Submit Proposal to the Council's offices by 5 PM Friday, March 30

Your Proposal

The guest-curated exhibitions will draw exclusively from the archives of the Council's past resident artists. Exhibitions should be first and foremost driven by the individual vision of the proposing curator. There are no restrictions on exhibition theme but the exhibitions should be informed by a conceptual or artistic issue of the curator's choice and should present one of many perspectives on the work of selected former resident artists. The Council is particularly interested in exhibition proposals that imagine what the relationships among artists and artwork from this particular archive could be, what the relationships have been and most importantly what they will be in the future

Artists will be drawn from the Council's resident artist alumni archive (season 2007-08 artists excluded). The number of artists and works will be guided by both the curator's vision and the amount of exhibition space available (see below Space: Details).

Proposals should include artists and works that are the most representative of the curator's ideas as well as include ideas about related projects, special events, and/or temporal moments in public space.

300 Words or Less

Also Required

- 1 page resume including list of curated exhibitions and/or bibliography
- Narrative Bio - 100 Words or Less
- 10 jpegs to accompany proposal
- Projected Budget: capped at \$5,000 including for example artists' fees (Minimum fee of \$100/artist), shipping, special non-standard installation needs
- PLEASE NOTE: Attendance at the meeting is required and is the only way to obtain necessary research materials.

Guest Curators will be expected/required to:

- Contact your selected artists
- Secure the artwork/projects
- Submit checklist for the Council's approval
- Oversee installation and de-installation of your show
- Work with the Council to secure appropriate assistance for installation and de-installation
- Manage proposed budget
- Consult with the Council's staff on marketing materials, press, and outreach*
- Be present at exhibition opening and other related events

The Council will take care of...

- Curatorial stipend of \$1,000
- Providing the space
- Curatorial assistance and oversight via Residency Director, Residency Manager, Director of Art Spaces, Art Spaces Associates
- Production assistance, ie. art handlers, space manager, gallery sitter
- Marketing, promotion and event management with the Council's Marketing and Development team

*All four accepted shows will be marketed collectively, and will open together on one dedicated night.

Space Details

We hope to have 2 raw spaces and 2 finished gallery spaces.

Contact:

Erin Donnelly, Residency Director, edonnelly@lmcc.net, no phone calls please.

Directions to Lower Manhattan Cultural Council 125 Maiden Lane, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 1003: Take the 2/3 to Wall Street. Exit at Wall St. and walk east on Wall St. towards Pearl Street and away from Trinity Church. Turn left onto Pearl, walk 3 blocks north and turn right onto Maiden Lane.

American Express is the lead sponsor of the Council's 10-year residency anniversary.