



SOMARTS
cultural center

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**SOMARTS CULTURAL CENTER
SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR COMMONS CURATORIAL
RESIDENCIES, 2012-2013**

October 6, 2011, San Francisco, CA– Today SOMArts Cultural Center’s Executive Director, Lex Leifheit, announced an open period for 2012-2013 proposals to The Commons Curatorial Residency, which allows emerging and mid-career artists and curators to continue their professional development in one of the largest open-air gallery spaces in the heart of San Francisco. Individuals, collectives, or non-profit organizations who wish to apply are required to submit a letter of intent no later than February 3, 2011.

Up to four Commons Curatorial Residencies are awarded each season, culminating in a month-long exhibition and becoming an integral part of SOMArts’ Main Gallery programming. Recipients receive project grants up to \$1,500, exhibition space, technical and event production support, and community engagement/publicity support valued at \$23,000.

Leifheit commented, “The Commons Curatorial Residency program emphasizes dynamic engagement of Bay Area artists and audiences. Through the lens of each exhibition, SOMArts is using art as a catalyst to build strong partnerships, promote radical self expression, and connect individuals to communities.”

Established in October 2009, The Commons Curatorial Residency program reflects SOMArts’ core values of promoting and nurturing art on the community level and fostering an appreciation of and respect for all cultures. From multicultural community benefit organizations to contemporary dance groups, past awardees have risen with zeal to the challenges of curating a two-story, 3,100 sq. ft. exhibition space and engaging diverse audiences.

The proposal criteria emphasizes dynamic engagement of Bay Area cultural communities. The Commons Curatorial Residency will favor proposals which connect artists and audiences through multiple levels of participation or education. Full requirements and submission procedures for prospective applicants can be found online at www.somarts.org/exhibitions/submissions.

SOMArts will sponsor three Q&A sessions for interested parties to learn more about the program. An in-person question and answer session with an accompanying facility tour will be held on Thursday, October 20th, 6:30PM. Online information sessions will be held on Monday, October 17th at 12PM and Tuesday, October 25th at 6:30PM. RSVP is required for all Q&A sessions: <http://commonsonlineqa2.eventbrite.com>.



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ABOUT SOMARTS CULTURAL CENTER

SOMArts (South of Market Arts, Resources, Technology, and Services) was founded in 1979 and operates the South of Market Cultural Center, one of four city-owned cultural facilities in San Francisco.

SOMArts supports exhibitions, performances, classes and other collaborations that serve its mission: to promote and nurture art on the community level and foster an appreciation of and respect for all cultures.

For more information about upcoming events, space rentals and technical services, visit www.somarts.org or call 415-863-1414. SOMArts programs are supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission's Community Arts and Education Program, with funding from Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund and the San Francisco Foundation.

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