



SOMARTS
cultural center

THE COMMONS CURATORIAL RESIDENCY LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES—2012-2013 SEASON

About The Commons Curatorial Residency

Through The Commons Curatorial Residency, SOMArts Cultural Center (South of Market Arts, Resources, Technology, and Services) provides grants to San Francisco artists creating and exhibiting new work. These grants function as an integral component to the SOMArts Main Gallery programming. This financial support enables artists to continue their professional development, form new collaborative partnerships, and engage community residents through programming that serves the mission of SOMArts: to promote and nurture art on the community level and foster an appreciation of and respect for all cultures.

Artists/curators selected for exhibition funding will receive project grants up to \$1500, exhibition space in the SOMArts Main Gallery, installation, technical and event production support, and community engagement/public relations support valued at \$23,000. Four residencies are awarded each season and are designed to support emerging and mid-career artists, as well as artists exploring new and challenging ideas.

The first step towards receiving a SOMArts Commons Curatorial Residency is to submit a LOI (see below for guidelines and application instructions). From there, a select number of applications will be invited to submit a full proposal. The LOI stands as a preliminary view of the larger project and will be evaluated in consultation with an advisory panel of arts professionals, artists, and curators for full invitation. Full proposal submission is by invitation only.

Eligibility

SOMArts receives support from the San Francisco Arts Commission and follows the SFAC's eligibility requirements for individual artist commissions.

The Commons Curatorial Residency is open to any individual, collective, group, or non-profit organization that is located in and/or resides in San Francisco and has done so continuously for at least two years prior to the due date of the LOI. Additionally, this individual or organization must be able to document a two-year history of creating and presenting original artworks or cultural events to the public. All lead applicants must be at least 18 years old, and may not be enrolled as a full-time

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student at the time of the application nor at any time during the grant period.

If lead applicant or partnering organization has received the Commons Curatorial Residency for two consecutive years, they may not apply for a third consecutive year, and must wait for one cycle before reapplying.

Projects involving multiple artists, such as collectives, teams, ensembles, etc. are eligible to apply (lead applicant must meet all of the eligibility requirements). The lead applicant must be the primary point of contact for the project/proposal and this person may only be lead applicant on one proposal. However, this artist may be included in other proposals as a participating artist. Only one artist per group/collective may apply. Priority will be given to projects where the majority of collaborators live in San Francisco.

Evaluation Criteria

The Commons Curatorial Residency Advisory Panel will use the following criteria to select full proposal applicants:

- Artistic excellence of the proposed exhibition including evidence of creativity, innovation and/or technical skill;
- Applicant's arts, curatorial and/or organizational experience;
- Capacity to fully execute proposed exhibition;
- Viability of the project and budget;
- Dynamic engagement with one or more of the Bay Area's cultural communities
- Vibrancy: ability to connect artists and audiences through multiple dimensions of participation and/or education.

Commons Curatorial Residency Participation

If selected, all Commons Curatorial Residency recipients will be expected to work with the SOMArts staff to:

- Develop community engagement activities – activities may include work-in-progress events, panel discussions, talk-back sessions, artist talks, gallery tours, educational forums or other activities to highlight an artist's work and engage audiences;
- Attend an advocacy or donor cultivation event – grantees may be required to participate in at least one advocacy or fundraising activity on behalf of SOMArts;
- Submit a final report – All **Commons Curatorial Residency** recipients must submit a final report within 60 days of project completion.

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Letter of Intent

The LOI is the first step to receiving an invitation to apply. Please provide the following information outlined as below.

1. Lead applicant's full name
2. Lead applicant's full contact info including
 - a. Mailing address
 - b. Phone number
 - c. Email address
 - d. Website (if applicable)
3. Title of proposed exhibition
4. Exhibition project statement (75 words max)
5. Brief description of the exhibition content and the community or communities that this exhibition serves and/or represents (200 words max)
6. How does this show serve the SOMArts mission: to promote and nurture art on the community level and foster an appreciation of and respect for all cultures (200 words max)
7. List any partnering organizations, their missions, and a brief description of what the proposed partnership entails
8. Brief description of public programming to accompany the exhibition
9. A detailing of the lead applicant's qualifications (200 words max)
10. Lead applicant resume or CV
11. List of contributing artists, and URL's (if available)
12. A preliminary budget containing the following items:
 - a. Exhibition preparation expenses
 - b. Personnel expenses
 - c. Other expenses
13. Up to five supporting images
14. Supporting images index, listing title, artist name, medium, date created

LOI Submission Instructions

LOI's are due by 5 pm (Pacific Standard Time) Thursday, November 3rd, 2011. LOI's must be submitted as a PDF attachment and sent via e-mail to gallery@somarts.org with the subject line "*Commons Curatorial Residency LOI 2012-2013*". Applications that fail to apply with this subject line will be disregarded. Applications that do not follow the specific guidelines as indicated above will be disregarded. Applicants

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that do not meet all the eligibility requirements may not apply. Applicants will be notified of the results of the preliminary review no later than Wednesday, November 16, 2011. Full applications will then be due Tuesday, December 6, 2011.

Commons Curatorial Residency Question and Answer Sessions

SOMArts will sponsor three Q&A sessions for interested parties to learn more about the program.

Online Info Sessions:

Monday, October 17 at noon and Tuesday, October 25 at 6:30pm

An opportunity to talk directly to The Commons program organizers online and ask any questions you might have about the application process or the opportunity. RSVP is required. Go to

<http://commonsonlineqa2.eventbrite.com>

In-person Info Session and Gallery Tour:

Thursday, October 20, 2011, 6:30pm to 7:30pm

RSVP: <http://commonsonlineqa2.eventbrite.com>

Frequently Asked Questions

You can also view the SOMArts Commons Curatorial Residency [Frequently Asked Questions](http://www.somarts.org) page at <http://www.somarts.org>.

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