



# **SOMArts CURATORIAL RESIDENCY**

## **LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)**

### **INFORMATION & GUIDELINES**

**SOMArts Cultural Center**  
934 Brannan Street | San Francisco, CA

**Gallery Hours**  
Tuesday–Friday: 12–7pm & Saturday: 12–5pm

*Photo credit: Visions into Infinite Archives, Curated by Black Salt Collective, January 2016. Photo by Dan Fenstermacher*



## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Curatorial Residency is to provide emerging curators with the support and mentorship they need to execute a large-scale exhibition in SOMArts' Main Gallery. The residency is designed to offer artists and curators tools to further their curatorial practice.

The strongest proposals are those who serve SOMArts' mission of leveraging the power of art as a tool for social change.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- Prioritizes applicants from communities who have been historically denied opportunities in contemporary art institutions.
- Open to any individual, collective, group, or non-profit organization (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.
- Must be based in or resides in San Francisco or Alameda County and has done so continuously for at least two years prior to the due date of the LOI.
- Must be at least 18 years old
- Applicants that have received a SOMArts Curatorial Residency within the previous two years are not eligible to apply again as lead applicants. Past recipients may participate as collaborators for a different project.
- Proposals will not be considered for one-person exhibitions, or exhibitions that are largely dependent on a general call to artists, or are inappropriately scaled for the 31,000 square foot gallery.
- 501c3 non-profit and fiscally sponsored organizations with operating budgets greater than \$100,000 are not eligible to apply. Projects may not be part of the primary programming of an established 501c3 organization with an operating budget greater than \$100,000.
- Full-time students at the time of the residency are discouraged because of the anticipated intense schedule during production but we are open for dialogue. Reach out to Curatorial Partnerships Manager, Carolina Quintanilla at [carolina@somarts.org](mailto:carolina@somarts.org) with questions.



**ARTISTS/CURATORS SELECTED RECEIVE** 9 months of access and support from SOMArts' experiences staff to mount a large scale 4 week exhibition and community engagement activities in SOMArts' Main Gallery during one of the following exhibition runs:

**November 29, 2018–January 8, 2019**

**January 24–February 26, 2019**

**March 14–April 16, 2019**

Community engagement 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 audience.

SOMArts also offers :

- A \$5000 project grant
- Installation support
- Technical & event production support
- Community engagement & public relations support
- Monthly workshops (April–August)

Curatorial Residents must be available to attend an advocacy or donor cultivation event and must submit a final report within 60 days of project completion.

## HOW TO APPLY

The first step is to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI)

**Deadline: November 21, 2017, 5pm.**

Apply Here: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4642515>

### Online Info Session

Wednesday, November 1, 2017 7:00–8:00pm.

An opportunity to talk to the Curatorial Residency program organizers online and ask any questions you might have about the application process or the residency. If interested, email Curatorial Partnerships Manager, Carolina Quintanilla at [carolina@somarts.org](mailto:carolina@somarts.org) to RSVP.

Applicants will be notified of the results of the preliminary review by **Wednesday, December 6, 2017.**

There will be a mandatory Q:A meeting at SOMArts on **Tuesday, December 12, 2017, 6:00–7:30pm. Applicants will know the final status of their proposal by January 20.**

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## ABOUT THE SELECTION PROCESS

The first step is submitting an LOI. From there, a select number of applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. LOI's will be evaluated by SOMArts staff based on alignment with SOMArts' mission and feasibility of the proposed project. Full proposals are evaluated by a jury of arts professionals, artists, and curators.

### Selections Criteria

The selection is based on:

- Artistic quality of the work to be shown including evidence of creativity, innovation and/or technical skill;
- Clarity, power and nuance of the curatorial concept
- Capacity of the curator or team to carry out the proposed exhibition;
- Viability of the project and budget;
- Dynamic engagement with one or more of the Bay Area's cultural communities
- Vibrancy of proposed public presentations: ability to connect artists and audiences through multiple dimensions of participation and/or education.