



SOMArts PERFORMING ARTS 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

The Black Woman is God opening reception, photo by Liam Brooks



PURPOSE

What would you dream up if you had access to a 5,580 square foot space (including 1,470 square foot stage), a weekend and production support? SOMArts wants to know!

Prioritizing queer work and underrepresented artists, the program's purpose is to provide access to mentorship and support to emerging curators to produce a weekend-long festival of performing arts. 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 queer work and underrepresented artists
- Open to any individual, collective or group (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
- Proposals will not be considered for one-person performances, or proposals that are largely dependent on a general call to artists, or are inappropriately scaled for our very large space.
- 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 with questions.

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RESIDENCY PERKS

Selected through an open call, one performing arts curatorial resident will benefit from 3 months of planning and mentorship from SOMArts staff and other leaders in Bay Area performing arts curation. Residency recipient will determine a curatorial theme, select artists, and produce a performing arts festival at SOMArts scheduled for May 4–6th.

SOMArts will provide:

- A \$2000 project grant and artist fees budget
- Production space in SOMArts' Bay Gallery, with opportunities to stage site-specific performances throughout SOMArts' post-industrial space;
- Technical and event production support;
- Community engagement and public relations support and mentorship;
- Mentorship with one other performing arts curator
- Networking opportunities with other leaders in the Bay Area performing arts landscape

HOW TO APPLY

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

Deadline: November 21, 2017, 5pm.

Apply Here: <https://goo.gl/TTzP7h>

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 to RSVP.

Applicants will be notified of the results of the preliminary review by **December 6, 2017** and selected applicants will be invited for an in-person interview in mid December/early January.

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 an in-person interview. LOI's will be evaluated by SOMArts staff and long time performance curator, Kolmel Love, based on alignment with SOMArts' mission and feasibility of the proposed project. In-person interviews will be with a panel of performance 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 festival's theme
- Capacity of the curator or team to carry out the proposed exhibition;
- 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 participation and/or education.

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