



## **Mary B. Regan Community Artist Residency**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is a community artist residency?**

A community artist residency places an artist in a specific community where he or she works directly with members of the community over an extended period of time to create a project that develops from their interaction.

#### **What are some examples?**

Choreographers working with community members to create a dance work commemorating a local event; writers collaborating with immigrants to tell the stories of their journeys; public artists designing solutions to environmental issues in partnership with local water and public works departments. And so forth.

#### **Does the Arts Council have a specific definition of community?**

No. Community can refer to a particular locale or region, or suggest a less geographically defined connection, such as an affiliation with a group (e.g. veterans, 20-somethings, factory workers, birders, etc.). However, to be successful, the applicant must demonstrate how the project will effectively engage and impact this community, which may require some geographic focus.

#### **Does the project have to result in a lasting, tangible outcome, such as a permanent piece of public art, or can it take some other form?**

Projects can culminate in a variety of ways. While all projects should have some documentable, artistically expressive public outcome, there is no predetermined form or template. Generally speaking, they should be consonant with the temper and spirit of the project as a whole and be designed to underscore the project's impact and intent for the audience and participants.

#### **Can the residency involve pre-K - 12 or university audiences/participants?**

Yes. However, while these audiences can be a part of a target group (e.g. families), they can't be the primary participants. The community artist residency should engage adult audiences as the main participants.

#### **How important are matching funds to a successful application?**

It depends. On the one hand, raising additional cash or in-kind contributions can show an ability to enlist support for your project in the community and,

very likely, a more realistic recognition of the true costs of the project. On the other, some projects are much more labor-intensive than others, costing less in materials and other out-of-pocket expenses. Artists who claim matching or in-kind income must be able to persuade the panel that they can deliver on this additional support. Since budgets are not required with the initial application, you do not have to provide supporting details for income and expenses until the finalist round.

**Can my time be a part of the budget?**

Yes. The artist's time can be applied either (or both) to grant fund expenditures or to matching funds. How you value your time is your choice, but you should understand that it is subject to scrutiny, just as is any other expense. Again, formal budgets are not requested with the first round of applications.

**I typically create a budget as I develop a project. May I submit this for consideration as part of my initial application?**

We recommend that budget planning be a part of your process as you develop your project and strong applications will likely be informed by the understanding you gain from that effort. However, we do not encourage applicants to submit formal budgets for the January 15, 2014 deadline.

**I'm comfortable making connections with community audiences directly. Do I need to have partners for this grant?**

If you have worked in a community setting, you probably have formed partnerships with groups or organizations, even if you didn't call them partnerships per se. The process of making connections with target audiences or participants usually involves working through intermediary groups. The range of support you get can vary widely from providing access to more collaborative kinds of engagement, including planning, promotion, and even financial contributions. While there is no one model for community engagement, the ability to leverage local assets to advance your project is a strong recommendation.

**I'm an established artist, but have limited experience with public art or community residencies. Is it worth my time to apply for this grant?**

Experience will be one of the major criteria that the panel considers in making its recommendations, but artistic vision and merit are equally, if not more important. You may have related experience that could make you a compelling candidate, but you will need to make those connections for the panel in your application.

**If I am fortunate enough to be recommended for an artist fellowship and an artist residency this year, how will you decide which award I will receive?**

We won't make that decision; you will.