



WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL

Public Art Program

WITH ART & *Youth* WITH ART Program Description

WITH ART is a program that matches professional artists of all disciplines with community groups to create opportunities for collaborative art projects. The program is based on the belief that *with art* communities can explore issues, ideas, and concerns, voice community identity, express historical and cultural spirit, and create dialogue.

Youth WITH ART is modeled after the established WITH ART program. It focuses on projects that engage youth (and their families) in activities that will increase their self-awareness and provide opportunities for personal development and empowerment. For the purpose of this program youth are generally described as those aged 6 - 21.

Central to the WITH ART & *Youth* WITH ART program is the principle that exploration and the process of art-making are of utmost importance. The engagement between community and artist culminates in a work of art and a public event such as an exhibition or performance. WITH ART & *Youth* WITH ART are designed to be flexible and experimental and truly collaborative. Both communities and artists will be asked to approach the process without preconceptions of what the final product will be. Artists and community groups will create a project based on community goals, the artist's working methods and the partnership that subsequently develops.

The type of project that might develop could include:

- Documentary artworks such as books, videos, or exhibitions;
- Performances, plays, concerts, readings, or dances;
- Site-specific artworks, which may include permanent outdoor artworks;
- Ephemeral works in various media.

These are suggestions only, intended to spark possibilities. The goal of the program is that the final project be an expression of the collaboration between artist and community.

To be eligible community groups must be located in Winnipeg. Artists must reside in, or in close proximity to, Winnipeg.

ARTIST PARTICIPATION

Artist refers to a person who is critically recognized as an artist, possesses skill, training and/or experience in his or her artistic discipline; is active in and committed to his or her art practice and has a history of public presentation. Each year a call is issued to Winnipeg artists in all disciplines for expressions of interest to participate in the program. The artists selected are added to a roster from which a match will later be made with a community group. The matched artist will receive funding to carry out the project and will collaborate with the community group on the details of the budget.

WITH ART & *Youth* WITH ART is interested in artists working in all art forms such as:

- public art, film and video, photography, installation, multi-media and other visual art forms;
- performance; music; dance; theatre; audio-based work; or
- literary arts: writing, story-telling, poetry.

Artists' expressions of interest will be reviewed on the basis of:

- Artistic excellence, quality of artwork and professional experience of the artist;
- Evidence of broad thinking, conceptual clarity and problem-solving capabilities;
- Ability and willingness of the artist to work collaboratively with community members on a shared goal;
- Experience with community-based art projects;
- Ability to work well with a wide range of people including community members, City staff, arts professionals, and professionals in other fields;
- An expressed desire to create artwork in a public realm;
- Experience working with youth (for *Youth WITH ART* projects).

Interdisciplinary and team approaches are welcome. **Artists should not apply with a specific project or community partner in mind.**

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community refers to a group of people brought together by any number of forces including geography, tradition, culture, lifestyle, common experience or spirit. Community groups must have a history of working together. Each year a call is issued to community groups wishing to work on a common goal, theme or idea through the art making process. The selected community group will work with the Winnipeg Arts Council to select an artist from the roster whose art practice they feel best suits their interests. When a final match is made, the artist will receive funding for the project but will collaborate with the community group on the budget details.

Community groups' applications will be reviewed on the basis of:

- Expression of a shared goal to explore through art, including but not limited to issues such as identity, social history, cultural expression, or the environment;
- A commitment to working collaboratively with an artist to explore these community issues;
- A willingness to enter the process without a predetermined idea about the outcome;
- The belief that the art-making process is a unique and valid way to express community identity and concerns;
- Community cohesion and evidence of a history of working together as a group;
- A commitment of community time to work on the project;
- A commitment to and history of engaging youth (for *Youth WITH ART* projects).

Community groups must be situated within the City of Winnipeg. Communities may include groups that have a shared heritage, history, mission, identity or interest. Organizations that receive operating funding from the Winnipeg Arts Council or are fully funded agencies of the City of Winnipeg may not apply. Community groups should not apply with a specific project or artist in mind.

COLLABORATION IS KEY

The goal of WITH ART & *Youth WITH ART* is to match community groups with artists to work out a project together in a truly collaborative way. For this reason **community groups are asked to not have a specific project or end-product in mind when applying** but rather an idea of themes or goals they wish to explore. Similarly, **artists should not apply with a specific community partner nor a specific project in mind**. Once an artist and community group are matched, they will develop a budget and implementation plan describing their goals for the project. The selected artist and community group will be required to enter into a Working Agreement, facilitated by WAC, that outlines the roles and responsibilities of all parties as well as rights of use and ownership.

*WITH ART is not a grant program for communities or artists to receive funding for projects already underway.

WORKING AGREEMENT

The selected community group and artist are required to enter into a Working Agreement, facilitated by WAC and endorsed by the City of Winnipeg, that outlines the roles and responsibilities of all parties as well as rights of use and ownership.

FINAL ARTWORK

The final artwork will become the property of the City of Winnipeg but with broad allowances for use by the various parties. Copyright will remain with the artist and/or with both the artist and community group in a shared arrangement.

SELECTION AND MATCHING PROCESS

Artists apply to the program to become part of a roster. Final selections are based on a written proposal and the artist's support materials. Artists are considered on the basis of experience with community collaboration, a dedication to their art form and the ability to commit to the time required to carry out the process. Participation by an artist in a WITH ART or *Youth WITH ART* project will not be guaranteed until a match is made with a community group.

Community groups applying to the program are asked to submit a detailed letter of interest for review by a selection panel composed of people with experience in art and community development. Community groups are selected on the basis of community cohesion, a willingness to work in an open-ended way with an artist without a pre-determined outcome or product, and the commitment of community time to support a collaborative creative process.

Selection of roster artists and participating community groups is made by a panel composed of people with experience in art and community development.

Facilitated by WAC staff, the participating community groups will review the artist roster and select a shortlist of artists whose art practice would be most compatible with their interests and goals. Following an interview process between the community groups and artists, a final match is made.

BUDGET

Artists or artist teams* matched with a community group receive a planning fee of \$3000 in the initial stage of the project. The artist and community group work together during this period to formulate the kind of ideas they wish to explore, as well as develop a budget and implementation plan.

Funding of up to \$14,000 is made available to the artist to carry out the project, based on a payment schedule and approval by WAC of the budget and implementation plan. Community groups will not receive funding but the budget will be developed in collaboration between the artist and community group. The budget must include an artist fee for the implementation stage of the collaboration as well as cover all aspects of the project including but not limited to planning, community consultation, materials, insurance, and any other resources necessary to complete the project.

*Artists working as a team must share the \$3000 planning fee.

PROCESS OVERVIEW

1. Call to artists is issued for expressions of interest.
2. Call to community groups to participate in program is issued.
3. Selection panel recommends artists to form roster.
4. Selection panel chooses community group(s) to participate.
5. Each selected community group, in collaboration with WAC, selects an artist to work with from the roster based on review of materials and interviews.
6. Matched artist enters into a contract with WAC and the City and into a Working Agreement with the Community Group, facilitated by WAC; artist receives first phase of project funding.
7. Artist and community group meet to develop ideas, plan and budget. Planning typically lasts about three months.
8. Budget and plan are approved by WAC and funding is released. Projects typically last about one year.
9. Artist and community work on project with regular reporting process to WAC.
10. Project culminates in a public event.

WITH ART Projects Completed or in Development

We understand and encourage the fact that each community group and each artist will have a unique perspective and no two projects will be the same. However, the following information may be helpful in understanding the intent and results of the program to date. Since WITH ART was initiated in 2006, several thousand people from diverse communities have participated in and been impacted by art projects that explore community identity and issues. Several projects are now completed and others are in development:

COMPLETED:

- *The Craftastics: Agents for Social Change:* Artist Jennie O and the Valley Gardens Middle School Grrlz Club created a deck of trading cards featuring their super hero alter-egos to combat gender discrimination, stereotyping, body-issues, depression, anxiety, gossip, peer pressure and bullying.
- *Picturing a Bright Future: The Eritrean Women's Photography Project:* Artist Sarah Crawley mentored a group of Eritrean women – all recent immigrants to Winnipeg – in the art of photography. The process resulted not only in the creation of beautiful objects, but in a newly discovered empowerment, creativity and confidence for the women, all of whom are rebuilding their lives in Canada.
- *Winnipeg First Nation: Heart of a Home:* Filmmaker Jim Sanders and the Manitoba Urban Native Housing Association created a film that explores Aboriginal housing in Winnipeg.
- *Live/Life from 95:* Filmmakers Ervin Chartrand and Jim Agapito worked with the youth of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba to create a rap song, video and making-of documentary that reflects the immigrant and refugee experience.
- *Elwick Community Centre:* Artist Dimitry Melman-Komar and the Elwick Community produced a vibrant mosaic tile mural for the outdoor walls of a Maples neighborhood community centre.
- *The Birthing Project:* Artist Judy Jennings and the Manitoba Maternity Care Action Network collaborated on a glass installation reflecting images of birth that is now installed in the new Birth Centre.
- *Spence Community Compass:* Artist Leah Decter with the Spence Neighbourhood Association collaborated on a permanent installation at Furby Park, on Furby Street north of Ellice Avenue, that explores notions of home through mosaic, indigenous plantings and text.
- *Empty:* Theatre artist Hope McIntyre worked with participants of a Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank depot at the First Unitarian Universalist Church to create a play about the daily struggle to access food.
- *Queer Perspectives:* Painter Lisa Wood mentored youth from Rainbow Resource Centre's Peer Project for Youth and together they created an exhibition and book that explores forming identity while negotiating, pushing and breaking perceived norms of gender and sexuality.
- *Sombo A Diba:* choreographer Casimiro Nhussi created an original dance piece performed by volunteer dancers from the African Community of Manitoba (ACOMI).
- *The Challenges of Giving Shelter:* Filmmaker Kevin Nikkel worked with the staff of the Winnipeg Humane Society to create a documentary that explores the challenges of providing humane treatment to animals.

IN DEVELOPMENT:

- Trans-media artist Jim Agapito is working with Sunshine House, a volunteer-run drop-in centre that provides harm-reduction services.
- Interdisciplinary artist Karen Cornelius is working with the Manitoba Environmental Youth Network.
- Playwright Hope McIntyre is working with West Broadway Youth Outreach's Girls' World.
- Media artist Heidi Phillips is working with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and youth from Pathways to Education.
- Interdisciplinary artist Leah Decter is working with Peace Alliance Winnipeg.
- Artist Dimitry Melman is working with the WRENCH (Winnipeg Repair Education and Cycling Hub).

For further program information on WITH ART & Youth WITH ART visit www.winnipegarts.ca or e-mail Tricia Wasney, Manager-Public Art at twasney@winnipegarts.ca.

The Winnipeg Arts Council funds, supports and fosters development of the arts on behalf of the people of Winnipeg.