



CALL TO ARTISTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS



PUBLIC ART: PUBLIC ACTION SOCIAL PRACTICE TRAINING COHORT AND TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART PROJECT Tacoma Mall Neighborhood, Tacoma

Optional Informational Workshop: April 11, 2018, 6-7:30pm, Marlene's Market, 2951 S. 38th Street, Tacoma

Deadline to Apply: April 23, 2018, 11:59pm

Budget: \$500 participation-based stipend, \$1,000 to implement a temporary socially-engaged project in the Tacoma Mall neighborhood

Artistic Disciplines: This opportunity is open to artists working in or across any artistic discipline

Summary:

Public Art: Public Action is a context-based training program for artists to learn and implement socially-engaged strategies and artworks responsive to community needs within the Tacoma Mall area. Building on the input and findings in the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan, this program will train artists to address civic and social concerns in our community and develop meaningful temporary art projects that engage the community, illuminate the issues, and respond to identified needs. A cohort of artists will be selected from Tacoma representing a variety of disciplines to collectively address the Tacoma Mall neighborhood.

A cohort of up to twelve creative practitioners will be selected to participate in a free social practice training program and create a series of socially-engaged temporary projects. Through classroom sessions with experts and a hands-on project series, the cohort will learn about social practice, network with community organizations and stakeholders, receive artist mentoring, write their own project proposal, create and install a socially-engaged temporary public artwork, and participate in a public presentation of the project series.

Each participant will receive a \$500 attendance-based stipend upon completion of the training program, with an additional \$1,000 budget for the implementation of a temporary project. Artists selected to participate in the cohort must obtain a City of Tacoma business license.

The cohort will be selected to reflect the diversity of the Tacoma Mall neighborhood, which could include different art forms, ethnicities, cultural experiences, ages, backgrounds, abilities, etc. Participants will be selected to complement each other and create a diverse working group. The selection panel will reserve the right to not fill all 12 cohort openings and/or re-open the opportunity to create a more diverse and/or complementary working group. People who are members of historically disenfranchised racial, ethnic, cultural, and other identity groups are encouraged to apply.

Support for this training program and projects come from an Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Socially Engaged Project Series: As part of the training program, participants will create a temporary public artwork, event, installation or other socially-engaged project to take place in the Tacoma Mall neighborhood between July-September, 2018.

Training Program: Selected artists will be expected to actively participate in the training program, which includes:

- **Training Sessions** – 2 full days of presentations and learning sessions with experts, master artists, and public art administrators designed to give artists an overview of what social practice is and how creative practitioners engage with communities to create projects that address social issues.
- **Project Series** – 1 half day of proposals, plus additional work outside of class (including concept development, relationship building, installation, and de-installation of a temporary public art project in the Tacoma Mall neighborhood.)
- **Public Presentation** – a presentation and celebration of the projects completed as a part of this training program (date to be set after project schedule is determined.)

Timeline – all dates subject to change

April 11, 2018, 6-7:30pm	Optional informational workshop
April 23, 2018, 11:59pm	Applications due
Week of May 7, 2018	Selection of cohort
June 2 & 3, 2018 8:30am-5:00pm*	Training Sessions 1 & 2
June (TBD), 2018, 6-8:30pm	Optional evening training session, open to the public
June 30, 2018, 8:30am-12:30pm*	Project Series - Presentation of Project Proposals
July-September 2018	Project Series - Installation of Socially Engaged Projects
October (TBD), 2018, 6-8:30pm*	Project Series - Public Presentation of Projects

*attendance at these sessions is mandatory for participants

Artist Eligibility:

- Applicants must live within the official boundaries of the City of Tacoma
- Applicants must be 18 years or older
- Applicants must apply as individuals
- Applicants must engage in an active, generative creative practice, in any discipline or medium
- Applicants must be able to participate in mandatory training sessions on June 2nd, 3rd, and 30th, if selected
- Applicants must have, or being willing to acquire a Tacoma Business License, if selected
- Applicants cannot be a member of the Tacoma Arts Commission or an employee of the City of Tacoma

Selection Criteria:

- Artistic quality as exhibited in past work
- Interest in creating socially-engaged public artworks
- Commitment to furthering a creative practice
- Ability to contribute to the diversity of the cohort

About the Tacoma Mall Neighborhood:

The City of Tacoma and the Puget Sound Regional Council have designated the Tacoma Mall neighborhood a Regional Growth Center (RGC). The Tacoma Mall neighborhood is located approximately 2.5 miles southwest of downtown Tacoma. Already an important employment and population center, the neighborhood is expected to receive a significant portion of the City's future housing and employment growth. As such, the City of Tacoma worked with community partners and the public to develop the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan, which outlines a vision, goals and strategies to guide growth and development of the area. The vision of the plan is for a compact, pedestrian-friendly, urban mixed-use neighborhood with a high quality of life, which includes access to healthy lifestyle choices, services and efficient multimodal transportation options. In addition to accommodating growth, the proposals include actions to address long-standing neighborhood issues. The Plan also sets priorities for the environment through innovative green infrastructure approaches and actions to improve water quality and flow control on a watershed basis while protecting and recharging the South Tacoma Aquifer. The RGC designation makes the neighborhood a top investment priority for the City and region and is a primary reason for developing this Plan. Downtown Tacoma is also a designated RGC. Tacoma's two RGCs are the major centers for future growth in the City, with Downtown planned for the greatest growth. The two RGCs are parts of the City's network of 16

mixed-use centers, including smaller Crossroads Centers and neighborhood centers. Learn more and view the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan at: <http://www.tacomamallneighborhood.com/>

Submission Process: Submit the following items via Submittable at <https://tacomaarts.submittable.com/submit>

1. **Basic Information:** Series of yes/no questions that will help us determine eligibility and fit for the cohort
2. **Narrative Questions:**

- Describe yourself and your creative practice. (300 words or less)
- Why are you interested in this training program, and how will it benefit your work? (300 words or less)
- Anything else you want to tell us? (optional, 300 words or less)

3. **Work Samples with Descriptions:** Submit 6 samples of past work with short descriptions. Samples can be submitted across formats (audio, images, video, and/or text). Multiple file formats are allowed; only one is required.

If submitting multiple formats: 1 work sample = 1 image = 1 minute of audio/video, = 1 page of text. (Example: 3 images, 2 minutes of video, and 1 page of text = 6 work samples) Formats accepted: .gif, .jpeg, .tiff, .mp3, .wav, .avi, .m4v, .mov, mpg, .wmv, .doc, .docx, and .pdf. Artists may provide audio/video links in lieu of uploading a file. Show us your strongest work in any medium, and include at least 1 recent project (created within the last year). If you have created work in the public realm (publicly, privately, or self-funded), please include it.

Questions? Contact Asia Tail, 253-591-5206, atail@cityoftacoma.org