



Proposals Invited for PRESENTATIONS, PERFORMANCES, EXHIBITIONS, AND INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS celebrating the practice of COMMUNITY BASED ARTS

Selections to be shared at COMMUNITY ARTS GATHERING, AJO, AZ MARCH 14-18, 2015

Deadline for Proposals: December 5, 2014 @ 5:00pm MST

Artists of all disciplines are invited to submit proposals for presentations, performances, exhibitions, and interactive workshops which exemplify, explore, and celebrate art for social change; art that engages and transforms community. Selected proposals will be part of the first biennial Community Arts Gathering in Ajo, Arizona March 14-18, 2015.

The Community Arts Gathering is a coming together of artists diverse in culture, discipline, and practice, held at the intersection of three nations – the U.S., the Tohono O’odham Nation, and Mexico. Artists will occupy this unique place in the Sonoran Desert as a framework for a larger national and international dialogue on socially engaged practice and community based arts. This is an opportunity for renewal, connection, sharing, and inspiration between artists working within community. Emerging artists, professionals, and those practicing contemporary as well as traditional arts are invited to submit.

Hosted by the International Sonoran Desert Alliance (ISDA), a tri-national nonprofit organization working to preserve and enrich the environment, culture and economy of the Sonoran Desert. ISDA is committed to fostering communication, understanding and cooperation among the diverse cultures residing in the Sonoran Desert and uses the arts and creative placemaking for this purpose. Facilities include several multi-purpose meeting rooms, a large auditorium with an indoor/outdoor stage, a clay studio and woodworking shop, and many outdoor workspaces, all on the historic Curley School Campus. A block away in the Ajo Plaza is a recreation hall and stage, plus the plaza park and bandstand area.

Components of the Gathering include opportunities for art making, cross discipline collaboration, performances, hands-on workshops and skill shares, case study and best practice presentations, visual artwork exhibition, culinary experiences with regional foods, storytelling, open space technology, site specific installation and field trips. There are also opportunities for distance participation using video conferencing technology.

Disciplines represented will include theater, music, and the visual arts, and special consideration will be given to proposals involving traditional or contemporary folk arts. Specific attention will also be given to the theme of border issues. However the Gathering is not connected to any one particular social issue and instead its themes will be determined by the proposals received.

Successful proposals will demonstrate a particular aspect of the community arts process, whether the work is created in partnership with non-artists in a community or whether it exemplifies socially engaged practice, engaging culture and seeking a relationship with its audience. All work must relate in some way to social change. Submitting artists are encouraged to think creatively about how ISDA's facilities and the event's environment can be used to share work and create new work with a community focus. We also encourage ideas that involve the use of distance technology to share work when an artist / group cannot physically attend the Gathering. The selection committee is also looking for proposals that suggest a 'take away' - something that participants can walk away with and also that the Ajo community as gathering place can receive as a result of this event.

Proposal Requirements: submitted as Microsoft Word (.doc) or Adobe PDF (.pdf) document, using the attached proposal form. The following is a detailed overview of requirements. Please use the attached proposal form to submit responses.

Contact Information - include name of lead artist, phone, email, website (if applicable), and mailing address.

Summary of work (100 words or less) – provide a brief blurb of your project, for use in marketing materials.

Narrative (maximum one page) -

- Identify and describe what method of presentation will be used to share the work and how much time you will need (one paragraph)–
 - creation of new work of art through collaboration
 - performance
 - hands-on workshop / skill share
 - case study / best practice presentation
 - visual artwork for exhibition
 - culinary / regional food share
 - storytelling
 - site specific installation
 - other
- Describe any collaborators and desired audience (one paragraph)
- Include your work's connection to community; explain the social issue your work addresses and social change outcomes - either intended if new work, or evidenced by existing work (one paragraph)
- Describe the specific environment needed to present the work (one paragraph)-
 - Size of space, materials and tools needed (furniture, props, etc)
 - Electricity and infrastructure, specific technical support needed
 - Provide drawings, sketches, layout plans as needed (as an attached Supplemental Material)

Biographies of Key Artistic Personnel (200 words or less each) – include a biography for each key artist in the project. Note that the selection committee will not use biographies as a means for selecting proposals so as not to isolate emerging artists and cultural workers trying out new art ideas. Biographies will instead be used to celebrate and share artist information and stories with our larger Gathering community.

Supplementary Materials (maximum 5) – choose the number and format of materials you would like the selection committee to experience, up to 5 total; label files with number, title, and your name.

- Images of Work, Photos, Sketches - image files must be in jpeg format, no larger than 2048 x 536 pixels at 72dpi.
- Videos, links to website and online resources – video and audio must be no longer than 5 minutes in length and be in the form of a link to a viewable online copy of each work; Youtube, Vimeo, Dropbox, or other similar links.
- Publications, Media, Reviews, Articles

Submission – All written material should be submitted digitally as a Microsoft Word (.doc) or Adobe PDF (.pdf) document. USE THE ATTACHED PROPOSAL FORM. Save the form as “your last name, your first name Gathering Proposal” and submit by email to gathering@isdanet.org. Submit supplementary materials as an attachment to that email. We will acknowledge receipt within two days of submission. If you do not hear from us within two days, please contact us. If online access is not available, contact us to request mail-in submission. Morgana Wallace Cooper at (520) 387-3570, evemorgana@yahoo.com

Costs – all presenting artists will be compensated. Compensation will be determined by the scope of presented work. We will also take into account travel needs and how much support is available from the artist’s organization, if applicable. For this first Gathering our budget is limited. We will help to the extent possible, but also hope that artists will propose to pay whatever they can of their own costs, so that we can help more artists participate. Therefore we encourage proposals that have already identified financial support and those that have not will be subject to the selection committee’s discretion about how to spend our presenter budget. Artists will be notified of the exact compensation being offered when contacted with proposal selections.

Timeline –

- December 5, 2014 @ 5:00pm MST - proposals due
- December 8 through 12, 2014 - Selection Committee convenes to make decisions
- December 15, 2014 – artists contacted about proposal selections
- January 5, 2015 – registration opens
- March 14 - 18, 2015 – Gathering

Questions or to schedule a phone consultation: Contact Morgana Wallace Cooper at evemorgana@yahoo.com or (520) 419-9183.

Gathering Proposal Form

Contact Information

Name of lead Artist:

Phone:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Summary of work (100 words or less)

Provide a brief blurb of your project.

Narrative (4 paragraphs, maximum one page) –

Identify and describe what method of presentation will be used to share the work and how much time you will need (one paragraph)

Describe any collaborators and desired audience (one paragraph)

Describe your work's connection to community; explain the social issue your work addresses and social change outcomes (one paragraph)

Describe the specific environment needed to present the work (one paragraph)

Biographies of Key Artistic Personnel (200 words or less each)

Include a biography for each key artist in the project.

Supplementary Materials

1 Artist Name:

Title:

Year:

Media:

2 Artist Name:

Title:

Year:

Media:

3 Artist Name:

Title:

Year:

Media:

4 Artist Name:

Title:

Year:

Media:

5 Artist Name:

Title:

Year:

Media: