

Call for Artists
Park East Artist-In-Residence: Phase I
***NEW Submission Deadline:**
August 13, 2018 - 12:00am

ORGANIZATION SUMMARY - ARTS NOW

ArtsNow strengthens Summit County by advancing its arts & culture assets and building connections between arts & culture and the broader community. ArtsNow:

- Provides residents of Summit County access to real-time information about the diverse arts & culture offerings available in Summit County at SummitLive365.com.
- Aggregates and analyzes data about arts & culture to drive sector improvement.
- Advocates for arts & culture across the public, private and nonprofit sectors.
- Convenes and connects artists to strengthen the sector's impact and relevance.
- Builds and strengthens funding for arts & culture.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Art and nature are for everyone. ArtsNow seeks to leverage the arts to awaken a sense of community possibilities in Park East and energize neighbors toward creating resolutions for common problems, either as individuals or as a collective.

Through an artist-in-residence format, this project in Park East seeks to support and engage residents by informing and empowering local artists to create engaging, authentic, creative work in and with the neighborhood.

PROJECT SCOPE

What are we changing?

The project will center around transforming the tennis courts through engagement with Park East neighbors and residents to a year-round space. The RFP will be designed to accomplish this goal, while also challenging the artists to design a project process.

This work will be broken into two phases:

Phase One

Artist will respond to the question: *How would you engage the Park East community in conversations and activities that would lead to neighborhood driven creative activation of the tennis court area in all seasons?*

This work will build trust, expand relationships, and explore needs and opportunities the neighbors would like to address. This work should compliment and respect previous work established by Akron Civic Commons (ACC) and their current Artist-In-Residence and culminate with some ideas that will frame the RFP for Phase Two.

This work will begin in September 2018 and conclude by March 1, 2019.

Phase Two

A second RFP will be released to continue community engagement and explore some of the already identified concepts for a more permanent transformation of the tennis courts. The culmination of this phase will result in a collaboratively designed transformation with Park East neighbors of the tennis court area.

This work will extend from February 2019 through July of 2019.

PARK EAST COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The neighborhood sits along the canal and the Ohio and Erie Canal and the Towpath runs through the center between Downtown Akron and Summit Lake. Residents include long-time homeowners and renters in partially and fully-subsidized units. The estimated population of Park East is 1476 – 72% Black/African American, 20% White, 8% Other. 44% Male, 56% Female. 66% of the population is at or below poverty with a median household income of \$10,380. 39% of the population is in the labor force, 61% is not. 62% of the population is non-family households living alone.



RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Any artist, established or emerging, working in any medium is encouraged to apply. Individuals, couples, or collaboratives may apply, but please note that we cannot offer additional budgetary resources to individual members. Artists do not need to have experience in mural making or social practice, nor a history of practice involving socially engaged art, to be considered. Part of the process will be working with experts in the field to ensure authentic community engagement. Preference will be given to artists living in Summit County, Ohio.

TERMS OF RESIDENCY

Artist(s) will receive:

- \$14,000
- Professional development opportunities through Mural Arts Philadelphia and ArtsNow
- Background and support from Akron Civic Commons and the ACC Artist-in-Residence who will also be active in the Park East neighborhood and with whom collaboration and communication is key
- Support from a Project Manager who will assist in ensuring deadlines and objectives are met
- Travel coverage to and from Philadelphia for an October 5th and 6th symposium with Mural Arts Philadelphia
- Up to \$5,500 for program/project supplies to be leveraged in collaboration with MAP, PM, and ArtsNow

Artist Expectations:

The artist(s) will be expected to commit fully in spirit and practice to the intent and framework of the residency. There is no guarantee that this process will not involve challenges, conflicts, or failures and it is the responsibility of the artist to work in good faith with all parties to attempt to fulfill the commitments to the community and partners in Park East. It is expected the artist will work in a way that is respectful to partners and the community as a whole.

The artist will need to spend the amount of time necessary to build the relationships and authentically complete the scope of work.

SELECTION PROCESS

A jury of community members, partner organizations, and artists will make-up the selection committee. Submissions will be received August 13, 2018 by midnight and decisions will be made by late-August. (Note: The selection committee may choose to require final interviews.)

APPLICATION

The completed application must be received by midnight on **August 13, 2018** in order to be considered. The completed application should be submitted to ArtsNow at Nicole@ArtsNow.org. The completed application must include:

Cover Letter

1. Name(s)
2. Email Address
3. Mailing Address
4. Telephone Number
5. Website (If applicable)

Application Narrative

The narrative cannot be longer than 500 words and must include an artist statement which details your experience, if any, with community-based art. Your narrative should also address the question, "What excites you most about this opportunity?"

Work Samples

You may submit a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 images, video, or audio files. Images must be formatted as JPEGs and less than 1MB each in size.

All files should be titled with lastname, firstname, worksample, and a number indicating the viewing order.

Work Sample Description List

Maximum of two pages including education, exhibition or project history, and any other relevant professional artist experience.

CV/Resume

Maximum of three pages including education, exhibition or project history, and any other relevant artistic experience.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 2018

13

Submission Deadline (Midnight)

Week of 20th

Artists Notified

September/October 2018 – February 2019

Phase I

October 5-6

MAP Symposium in Philadelphia

PARTNERS

In addition to ArtsNow, partners include:

Akron Civic Commons (<http://civiccommons.us/akron>)

Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition (<http://www.ohioeriecanal.org>)

Park East Steering Committee

Mural Arts Philadelphia (<https://www.muralarts.org>)

AKRON CIVIC COMMONS: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

"Akron is Reimagining the Civic Commons because we need to develop and activate equitable and accessible outstanding civic spaces for all residents and visitors."

–Dan Rice, President and CEO, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

A great civic asset has the ability to make visitors feel welcome, connect neighbors, and allow people to take responsibility for and own our public spaces. Akron Reimagining the Civic Commons is a national initiative focused on the idea that a connected set of civic assets - a civic commons - can generate more equitably shared prosperity across cities and neighborhoods.

One of five cities selected for a \$5 million grant, Akron is currently on a three-year journey to apply this theory to public spaces along the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail. The Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition along with a growing team of partners are working in downtown Akron, Park East, and Summit Lake to reinvigorate public space through civic engagement.

ARTSNOW: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

HISTORY

In late 2012, the GAR Foundation and the Knight Foundation set out to understand the strengths, challenges, relevance, and opportunities for Summit County's arts sector. Together they designed a research process, the Summit County Arts and Culture Initiative, that would arrive at this understanding by looking at multiple perspectives—not just that of arts organizations. This initiative marked the first time this type of work was done for or with the arts sector in the greater Akron area. A diverse, multi-sector, 19-member steering committee oversaw the research phase of the work. The final report told us:

- o Summit County has many great assets upon which to build, but many assets are in jeopardy, with waning relevance to audiences and eroding financial stability;
- o The business sector values a vibrant arts and culture scene as a key tool for talent attraction and retention, and yet businesses feel disconnected from the arts;
- o Consumers have to work too hard to find arts and culture offerings;
- o Many consumers want different kinds of arts experiences that are more relevant to their lives; and,
- o There is no “glue” holding the arts together as a high-functioning sector.

Armed with this rich information, we embarked upon the engagement phase, which kicked off in January 2014. During this process over 250 people from all walks of life attended working group meetings and dug into the work of shoring up greater Akron's arts and culture sector. As the work progressed, it became evident a new organization was needed to meet the needs of Summit County and to fill a noticeable gap in the sector. In July of 2015, ArtsNow was created as the means of addressing these findings and serving as the conduit to ensure the arts and culture sector is fully leveraged in findings solutions to community needs and moving us forward as a region.

VISION

ArtsNow envisions a Summit County where our arts & culture assets are fully leveraged to support and strengthen the region's economic and social vibrancy. The public's demand for and participation in arts & culture is high, and artists and arts organizations deliver diverse, innovative and accessible offerings that make Summit County a highly creative community that is extremely attractive to artists, businesses and residents. Because of the sector's strength, Summit County's arts & culture enjoys strong and growing support from the public and private sectors.

MISSION

ArtsNow strengthens Summit County by advancing its arts & culture assets and building connections between arts & culture and the broad community. ArtsNow:

- o provides residents of Summit County access to information about the diverse arts & culture offerings available in Summit County.
- o aggregates and analyzes data about arts & culture to drive sector improvement.
- o advocates for arts & culture across the public, private and nonprofit sectors.
- o convenes and connects makers and presenters to strengthen the sector's impact and relevance.
- o builds and strengthens funding for arts & culture.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- o We embrace a broad, inclusive definition of arts & culture.
- o We greatly value the distinct role of makers and presenters of arts & culture, and see our role as connecting them with each other and with the community.
- o We view cooperation and collaboration as core to our success; we work as both a solo performer and as part of an ensemble to best address challenges and opportunities.
- o We serve all communities in the County by working throughout Summit County and in the urban core.
- o We accomplish our work by building and nurturing connections at the highest levels of influence in the community.
- o We employ the most effective methods and technology to collect and communicate information on behalf of arts & culture.

We approach fundraising and revenue generation with the explicit goal of increasing the size of the pie for all makers and presenters in Summit County.

OHIO AND ERIE CANALWAY COALITION: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

Established in 1989, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition (OECC) is a private, non-profit organization working to develop the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail and National Heritage Area in Summit, Stark and Tuscarawas Counties. The OECC provides educational programs, events, and publications about the Canalway, while developing strong working relationships with partners to preserve and interpret the natural, historical and recreational resources throughout the area.

The Ohio & Erie Canal opened up the Ohio frontier for settlement and provided settlers with a reliable form of transportation to ship products. This unique waterway is being rediscovered as communities seek to celebrate their heritage while stimulating community & economic development. Today, there is renewed interest in the preservation, development, and interpretation of the Ohio & Erie Canal's resources.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition shall stimulate public interest and support for the protection, preservation, development and enhancement of the historical, natural and recreational resources along the route of the Ohio & Erie Canal.

The OECC shall encourage local, regional and nationwide recognition of the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area:

Coordinating and representing the interests of the citizens, corporate community and government agencies in Summit, Stark and Tuscarawas counties.

Working toward establishing a continuous physical link along or near the planned Canalway.

Encouraging and assisting the development of compatible economic ventures throughout the Ohio & Erie Canalway.

Developing strong working relationships with partners to preserve and interpret the natural, recreational and historic resources throughout the Canalway.

Incorporating the needs of the local community into the Canalway plan through meetings with government and business leaders to enhance the quality of life along the Canalway.

Promoting and developing educational programs which interpret the natural, historical and recreational resources along the Canalway.

OUR ACTIVITIES

As a non-profit, we work with community, government and corporate business leaders in Cuyahoga, Summit, Stark and Tuscarawas counties to develop economic opportunities throughout the National Heritage Area. We have created collaborative relationships with elected officials, community leaders, park districts, local businesses, and volunteers. We work closely with these partners to develop trail plans, encourage community engagement, and maintain the Towpath Trail.



In an effort to truly activate the Ohio & Erie Canalway, the OECC also hosts many educational programs including the Cargill Bluegill Fishing Derby, Canoe Adventure, Tour Du Towpath, the Goodyear Towpath Trek, Canal Clean Ups, and Healthy Steps. These events are designed to educate children and adults on the historical, recreational and educational resources along the Ohio & Erie Canalway, while often supporting the work that still needs to be done.