



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Urbana Public Arts Commission

FROM: Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator

DATE: January 7, 2009

SUBJECT: Vacant Spaces for Temporary Art Installations and Performance

Background

On January 5, 2009, the Urbana Public Arts Commission held a special meeting to prioritize a list of potential programs generated by the Commission during its last regular meeting in December, 2008.

During the meeting in January, the Commission members each identified their top three priorities in the following three categories:

1. programs to be implemented in the next six months (January – June 30, 2009)
2. programs to be implemented in the next fiscal year (July 1, 2009 – June, 30, 2010)
3. programs to be considered in the future.

Upon completion of the prioritization exercise, several program concepts could be identified as the top priorities for the remainder of the fiscal year (January – June 30, 2009). One of the priorities, based on the exercise, was the Vacant Spaces for Temporary Art Installations and Performance Concept. The Commission requested that further discussion regarding the Vacant Spaces for Temporary Art Installations and Performance Concept take place during the next Commission meeting.

Discussion

There is great variety within the category of using vacant spaces for temporary art installations and performance. Attached (Exhibit A) is a document provided by Sarah Ross on the Boston Art Windows project, a project of the City of Boston. An additional project provided by Sarah Ross is The Providence Art Windows Project by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. Attached (Exhibit B) is a brief description of the project in 2007.

Further research on existing programs will assist in developing criteria for this program. The following two programs are additional examples. Attached (Exhibit C) is a press release describing “Site”, real estate/artists professionals who coordinate temporary art exhibits for emerging artists in vacant spaces in New York. Attached (Exhibit D) is a description of the Sound Transit STart on

Broadway temporary art project in Seattle, WA.

During Commission discussions, there has been interest in an inventory of vacant space. The Economic Development Division currently maintains an inventory of vacant spaces in Urbana. Access to this database is available through the City website: www.city.urbana.il.us/urbana/community_development/economic_development/. The database is found through the link on the right side bar of this page, called “Available Commercial/Industrial Sites”.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission review the attached examples and prepare to discuss specific details for a Vacant Spaces for Temporary Art Installations and Performance pilot program to be considered for implementation in the remainder of the fiscal year and the upcoming fiscal year.

Attachments: Exhibit A: Boston Art Windows
 Exhibit B: The Providence Art Windows Project
 Exhibit C: “Site” temporary art exhibits
 Exhibit D: Sound Transit STart on Broadway

About

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Boston Art Windows (BAW) is a joint project of Mayor Thomas M. Menino, the City of Boston, the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), local artists, and property and business owners.

This project is an effort to display cutting-edge art installations in the windows of commercial property in downtown Boston, and aims to increase the diversity and vitality of this important part of the city.

Click [here](#) to access the Downtown Crossing Economic Improvement Initiative website.

Special thanks to Cecile Lemley.

Rhode Island State Council on the Arts

« Creative Capital grants: Visual Arts and Film/Video 2007

411 Multimedia & Electronic Music Experiments »

The Providence Art Windows Project is seeking proposals!

Seeking proposals for the Providence Art Windows Project, Providence, RI.

Selected artists will have their work installed in one of ten empty window spaces downtown. Providence is hopping. Work may be pre-existing or site specific, 2D or 3D. Two rounds of installations: 3/7 and 5/7. Deadline for both: postmarked 2/2/7. Selection by jury. Notification sent by 2/14/7.

Send 10 images, (digital encouraged), 2-paragraph proposal, resume, SASE to: Elizabeth Keithline, 205 Kenyon Ave., E. Greenwich, RI, 02818.

No email entries.

For information, email: keithlineri@cox.net, (put 'Windows' in the subject line), or call 401/578-4313.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Site” gets more vacant space donated for emerging artists. Presents “Crashing Chelsea” on Friday, May 30th.

Artists/real estate professionals Caridad Sola and Mary Mihelic have obtained more vacant space in NYC for emerging artist shows. This time in Chelsea at Orley Shabahang, a gallery which has relocated and is in-between tenants.

Ethan Orley explains, “We recently moved our Persian carpet gallery from 23rd street in Chelsea to a new 58th street location on the Upper East Side. It occurred to us that this soon to be filed, empty space provides a great opportunity for young up-and-coming artists. After hearing about the Site show in Soho, we connected with Mary Mihelic and Caridad Sola and are working with them to transform the empty space into a two-day art exhibit. The show will run from May 30th through the 31st and will house roughly 12 artists.”

Mihelic and Sola have been working outside the system and building on the history of alternative space to provide artists with a new venue; one that plays off the art communities sometimes inspirational, sometimes frustrating relationship with real estate. The result is Site, a series of one-night art events throughout Manhattan.

Sola adds, “Since the space is donated, we never know when or where the next one will be. Part of the excitement is waiting for the phone call from a colleague willing to offer us vacant space. (and the phone keeps ringing). It also asks the artists to meet spur-of-the-moment deadlines, which challenges both them and us in a thrilling way.”

Over 500 people attended the first Site show in Soho earlier this month. “People kept talking about how much fun they had. In hindsight, we really wanted to create an art event that brought a sense of fun back to NYC and removed some of the art-world pressure. Maybe it’s the fact that we get the use of this space for free that changes the vibe. Nobody is in it to make money. We try not to take ourselves too seriously. Everyone involved is willing to take risks and put together a great night. It’s contagious,” says Mihelic.

Site: Crashing Chelsea is scheduled for Friday - May 30th from 7 to 11pm, at 520 W 23rd St. Gallery hours will also be held on Saturday May 31st from 12 to 4pm.

List of Artists:

Ethan Orley	Crystal Horton	Jim Plunkett
Staci Offutt	Diary of a Guerrilla Artist	Kate Lucas-Falk
Jessica Stoller	Livio Antonio Guerrero	Michelle Hinebrook
Caridad Sola	Rostislav Roznoshchik	Mary Mihelic

Links:

Site #1 Event Press: <http://ny.therealdeal.com/articles/broker-architect-launch-soho-art-series>

Site #1 Event Photos: <http://picasaweb.google.com/siteartists/SITE1NightArtEvent>

www.orleyshabahang.com
www.caridadsola.com
www.marymihelicartist.com

ABOUT ORLEY & SHABAHANG

Geoffrey Orley and Bahram Shabahang have spent three decades sharing knowledge and passion for Persian carpets that set an unmatched world standard. His new collection of contemporary rugs and carpets is the culmination of a lifetime immersed in the 400-year old family vocation.

Persian carpets have been treasured and valued as woven masterpieces for centuries. They have been handed down from generation to generation, as has the artistry and techniques that make them so special. Now a new gallery at 241 E. 58th Street, Orley & Shabahang is bringing "the best of the best" to New York audiences with amazing antique carpets and entirely original top of the top contemporary carpets of their own design. For thirty years, Geoffrey Orley and Bahram Shabahang have collaborated as partners and friends to share their intense passion for the finest examples of Persian carpet artistry. Their clients include museum curators and collecting connoisseurs from coast to coast, "people who recognize the finest the world has to offer," Orley says. Geoffrey Orley's enthusiasm for Persian carpet masterworks knows no bounds and he tirelessly exhibits at the most prestigious antique shows and art fairs. Now he has brought his dynamism to New York, opening the partners' first gallery here after expanding to Palm Beach from the original Whitefish Bay, WI and Bloomfield Hills, MI galleries seven years ago.


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STart on Broadway

Currently there are no available storefronts for this project.

As a part of Sound Transit's current extension of Link Light Rail service to the University of Washington, an exciting and unusual opportunity exists for temporary art installations to be mounted utilizing a number of storefronts at the location of the future Capitol Hill station. In the spirit of celebrating the dynamic character of the Capitol Hill neighborhood and to mitigate some local construction impact, STart, Sound Transit's Public Art Program, is seeking a variety of visual art proposals for a series of installations.

Background

Sound Transit is extending Link light rail service to Capitol Hill and has purchased the property required to build a station under Broadway, with construction scheduled to begin in the fall of 2008. With eighteen buildings standing vacant from now until this fall, we have a unique opportunity to host a series of storefront installations in the windows (and possibly in-between building spaces) along Broadway between East John Street to the north and about ½ block south of Denny Street to the South (at the edge of the Bonney-Watson parking lot).

The Project

The goal of this project is to activate some of these the vacant spaces and to create an inviting atmosphere for people moving along this stretch of Broadway.

Successful proposals will address the following issues:

- Activate the space and location
- Reflect the dynamic nature of the Capitol Hill neighborhood
- Be engaging to pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic
- Incorporate a sense of change, transition or time passage
- Have presence day and/or night
- Ability to be installed within a short time frame

Artists are invited to submit proposals for approximately two-month long installations. This opportunity is open to emerging and established artists working in a wide range of media; no public art experience is required. This project is especially suited to experimental works, technology-based and/or light installations. A focus on reusing materials is a plus.

Site opportunities vary and every effort will be made to match proposals with suitable spaces, which will be assigned on an ongoing basis. Installations will last approximately two months, with a second cycle of installations planned for mid-summer 2008. There is access to electricity, and all proposals will be reviewed for safety and viability. Due to insurance requirements, we cannot allow people to enter the buildings (beyond initial installation and breakdown), and no fires or water features allowed.

This project is expected to end October 31, 2008.

Budget

Approved projects will receive \$600 inclusive of materials, installation, travel and artist fees.

How to Apply

Artists interested in participating should submit a simple proposal outlining their ideas for possible installation. A one-page letter detailing concept, materials, and any specific resources needed should be submitted along with resume and (optional) CD of up to 10 jpeg images (previous work samples or project-specific sketches as appropriate). Additional materials may be submitted. Materials will NOT be returned unless specifically requested with a SASE is provided. Alternately, emails and web-galleries will be considered in lieu of hard applications.

Mail or email proposals to:

Sound Transit - STart Program
401 S. Jackson St
Seattle, WA 98104
start@soundtransit.org

Questions?

If you have further questions, please contact us:

Barbara Luecke - Program Administrator
barbara.luecke@soundtransit.org
206-398-5059



Jennifer Babuca - Project Coordinator
jennifer.babuca@soundtransit.org
206-398-5120

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