Great Rivers Biennial 2019 Application Workshop

CAM
CONTEMPORARY ARTMUSEUM STLOUIS

m.a.p.s
MIDWEST ARTIST PROJECT SERVICES
Midwest Artist Project Services
Co-Founders: Brigid Flynn & Liz Deichmann

Providing artist consultations, professional development education, and fiscal sponsorship for artist projects since 2012.

One-on-one consultations on project organization and management, marketing, fundraising, evaluation…and application reviews!

Schedule your consultation by visiting midwestarts.org
Fiscal Sponsorship Program:
Allows individual artist projects to receive grants and tax-deductible donations, and provides bookkeeping and project management assistance.

Applications Open Now; Deadline: May 28
Apply online at midwestarts.org

Upcoming Fiscal Sponsorship Workshops:

Saturday, March 30
12:00-1:00 pm
Urb Arts (2600 N 14th St)

Wednesday, April 10
6:00-7:00 pm
Intersect Arts Center
(3636 Texas Avenue)
What We’ll Cover Today:

• Purpose of Program

• Applicant Qualifications

• Review Process: What happens after you hit “Send”

• Selection Criteria: What are panelists looking for?

• Application Components & Work Samples
Purpose of GRB Exhibition & Award

• Great Rivers Biennial is a collaborative exhibition program presented by CAM and Gateway Foundation.

• This initiative identifies talented emerging and mid-career artists working in the greater St. Louis metro area, provides them with financial assistance, and elevates their profile across the Midwest and national arts communities.

• Winners will receive a grant of $20,000 and will be featured in the Great Rivers Biennial 2020 exhibition at CAM
• This initiative identifies talented emerging and mid-career artists working in the greater St. Louis metro area, provides them with financial assistance, and elevates their profile across the Midwest and national arts communities.

What do you mean by “emerging”? Anyone can apply!

• Emerging ≠ “young”;

• “mid-career” means a wide range
**Why should you apply?**

- Because you take your art career seriously...and so do we.
- Opportunities (and deadlines) can be prompts to realize ideas
- One of the very best opportunities available for St. Louis artists
- Get your work in front of national curators – even if you aren’t selected
- Application materials can be recycled!

*callforentry.org, submittable.com, etc.*
The Contemporary Art Museum of St. Louis brings in outside curators to select just three emerging or mid-career resident artists who have sent in applications and images of their work, and those who are picked each are permitted to fill one-third of the museum with their work. Each artist also receives an award of $20,000, supplied by the locally-based Gateway Foundation. The aim of this exhibition series is to celebrate and commemorate artists in St. Louis....Not long after Juan William Chavez was included in the 2008 CAM biennial, he was selected to be part of an international group exhibition at the Van Abbemuseum in the Netherlands, and in 2012 he was a recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship. ‘The CAM biennial has had a huge impact on my career and life,’ Chavez, who continues to live in St. Louis, said.”
Application Timeline

Application deadline
April 26, 2019, midnight

Ten semi-finalists chosen
June 2019

Studio visits
June 2019

Winners announced
July 2019

Exhibition on view
May 8–August 16, 2020
Eligibility

Artists working in: Drawing, film and video, installation, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture.

Residency:

April 2018

Applicant must currently reside in the metro area, including St. Louis City and the counties of St. Louis, Jefferson, and St. Charles in Missouri or St. Clair and Madison in Illinois.

Artist must have lived in the St. Louis area for at least one year prior to the application deadline.

August 2020

Artist must continue to reside in the St. Louis metro area during the designated planning, production, and exhibition period (March 2019–August 2020).
Eligibility

Past Awardees: Artist may not have previously received a Great Rivers Biennial award.

Students: Artist may be a degree-seeking graduate student. All other students are ineligible.

Studio Visit: Artist must be available for studio visits with the jurors June 20–21, 2019, 9:00 am–7:00 pm.

The jurors will choose ten semi-finalists who will receive these visits. Visits must be in-person, not by phone or video.

Alternative spaces may be arranged if artist does not have a studio.
Review Process

- After the April 28 deadline has passed, applications are reviewed for eligibility and completeness. Incomplete applications will not be judged.

- Between 150-200 applications anticipated.

- Jurors will review work samples and exhibition proposals. CAM staff is NOT a part of this process.

- Work samples and application materials are reviewed and rated electronically.

- Jurors will select ten semi-finalists for studio visits.

- Jurors convene again following studio visits to select winners. CAM staff works closely with artists to develop exhibition plans.
Jurors

José Carlos Diaz is the Chief Curator at The Andy Warhol Museum and was a 2018 fellow at the Center for Curatorial Leadership (CCL).

Christopher Y. Lew is the Nancy and Fred Poses Curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Lew oversees the emerging artist program at the Museum and was co-curator of the 2017 Whitney Biennial.

Amanda Ross-Ho has exhibited widely in museums and galleries worldwide. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Henry Art Gallery, Seattle; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and Orange County Museum of Art.
What are the GRB Jurors looking for?
2018 Great Rivers Biennial Winners

Addoley Dzegede
2018 Great Rivers Biennial Winners

Jacob Stanley
2018 Great Rivers Biennial Winners

Sarah Paulsen
Selection Criteria: What Are They Looking For?

• Clear sense of vision; an artistic “signature”

• Work that is contributing to contemporary art; engaged in a larger art world conversation; shows an awareness of what is happening in contemporary art on a global scale

• Work that shows an intellectual approach; that is thoughtful; work that has a conceptual root; that has a contextual meaning

• Overall Professionalism of Application
  • High quality, thoughtfully curated work samples
  • Clear, concise, and intentional writing in artist statement and exhibition proposal

• Exhibition proposal that is specific to CAM and the GRB
What’s Happening in Contemporary Art?

• Local: CAMSTL, Flood Plain, Monaco, Luminary, SLAM Currents, etc., etc....

• National: Whitney Biennial, Prospect New Orleans

• Global: Venice Biennale, Documenta

• Print & Online: Artforum, Art in America, Hyperallergic, Colossal, literally thousands more...
Application Components

**Artist Statement**
Describe your artistic practice in 500 words. Please pay careful attention to materials, methodology, and intent.

**Proposal**
Submit an exhibition proposal that outlines what you intend to create and exhibit in the 2020 Great Rivers Biennial exhibition. 500 words max.

**Work Samples**
Upload 5 images and/or video/sound files. *Composite images will not be reviewed.*

**Image Credits or Short Descriptions**
If applicable, write a brief credit line or short description for each image, video, or sound file uploaded.

**Artist CV/Resume**
Application Requirement #1:

• Artist Statement
What is an Artist Statement?

• Your artist statement is a brief description of your work that provides the reader with information about your sources, ideas, process, and inspiration.

• 2-3 paragraphs (500 words max)

• Informs the viewer about the work, but doesn’t need to explain the work.
  • Use “artspeak” sparingly

• Supports the work, but doesn’t need to replicate the work

• Consider updating your artist statement every time you complete a new, singular body of work
Questions to start the writing process:

• What might viewers want to know about your work that they can’t get just from looking?

• Where does your inspiration come from? A particular part of your background, identity, or biography? Something historical, or from pop cultural? Or from nature?

• What about your process, either creative or constructive, might your viewer find interesting?

• What might be meaningful about the materials that you work with?

• Where does this current body of work fit in with your overall development as an artist?
More Artist Statement Tips

• An effective statement reaches out and welcomes people to your art, no matter how little or how much they know about art to begin with; it never excludes.

• Make "I" statements rather than "you" statements. Talk about what your art does for you, not what it's supposed to do to the viewers.

• Use active words: explore, analyze, question, test, search, subvert, challenge, devise, discover, balance, connect, experiment, juxtapose, or construct.

• Still need help getting started/getting out of your head? Schedule a studio visit!

• Give too little, not too much.
Sample Artist Statement: SWOON

I am a classically trained visual artist and printmaker, and for the last 13 years I have been exploring the relationship between people and their built environment. My first interventions in the urban landscape took the form of wheat-pasting portraits to the walls of cities around the world. More recently, I have been working collaboratively through my non-profit organization, the Heliotrope Foundation. Focusing on community revitalization in Braddock, Pennsylvania, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Haiti, these projects support artists’ place-based interventions that explore how creativity can positively impact communities in times of crisis and change.
Application Requirement #2:

• Submit an *exhibition proposal* that outlines what you intend to create and exhibit in the Great Rivers Biennial exhibition. 500 words max.
Exhibition Proposal: Concept

“Make the work that you would be making in 10 years”
Exhibition Proposal: Concept

Your exhibition proposal is EXTREMELY important. Consider including:

• Basic description of the project (“elevator speech”)

• What will the viewer experience be like?

• How is the project specific to CAM/Great Rivers Biennial?

• How does it contribute to the global contemporary art conversation?

• Describe how the project would spur the creation of new work; take your work to the next level?

• **Focus more on selling your vision than on a detailed explanation**
Exhibition Proposal: Concept

If space allows...

• What would the project timeline be?

• Project Budget (very basic, but reflective of award amount)
Exhibition Proposal: Writing Prompts

• “If included in the 2020 Great Rivers Biennial, I will....”

• What are you interested in as an artist? What are you excited about pursuing?

• Where does this project fit within the context of your career?

• How does your work or this project relate to the contemporary art world, other artists, your background/interests/environment, etc?

• Does your project fit the ambition indicated by the $20,000 award? (Not over, not drastically under?) Does your project fit the CAM gallery space?

• You may include a rendering of your proposed project as part of your work samples
Exhibition Proposal: Logistics

- Selected artists will be responsible for all production (supplies, materials, framing, work, shipping, getting work to museum, etc., etc.).

- CAM installation crew (registrar, art handlers, etc.) will work closely with them to install in space.

- Walls will already be constructed and ready for install.
Uploads:

- Artist CV or Resume
- 5 Work Sample Images
Your Artist Resume/CV/Bio:

• Does not have to be long!

• Is not the basis of your getting this, or any other award.

• Should provide context for “where you are” in your art career.

• Should not be too long (no more than three pages) and should include art-career or other relevant info only
Your Artist Resume/CV/Bio:

• Name/Contact Info
• Education (completed degrees or programs)
• Exhibitions
  • Title of Show, Venue, City, State (Dates?)
  • Solo Exhibitions, followed by Group
• Awards/Grants/Residencies
• Bibliography
• Collections
• Public Commissions, Festivals, Screenings, Performances
• Other Professional Activities (freelance, teaching, curating, writing, etc.)

• [http://www.collegeart.org/guidelines/resume](http://www.collegeart.org/guidelines/resume)
Uploading Work Samples:

• Upload 5 images (jpg) or video/sound files (mp3, mp4, wav, mov, mpg).

• Images should be **300 dpi** and 5 inches wide.

• Label each image with a number and your last and first name. Example: "1_SMITH_JOHN"
Curating Your Work Samples:

• Select works that are no more than five years old, if possible.

• “Depth over Breadth”: select works that show your best talents in one area (medium, field, subject)

• “Clarity of Vision”: curate your work samples to create a cohesive identity for yourself as an artist to the panelists.
Basic Work Sample Tips:

• **QUALITY** of work samples is of the utmost importance!

• High-resolution image is essential. Borrow a camera or find a photographer if necessary.

• Place the artwork on a neutral background (white, black, or grey) with even lighting—no glares or dark spots

• Take several images to capture the correct color intensity and black/white contract

• Fill the frame as completely as possible without cropping edges

• Remove distracting elements from the frame, unless they are a part of an installation
Basic Work Sample Tips:

For installations, performances, or interactive works:

• Make sure your work sample image captures the depth of field needed to understand the work;

• You may need to use more than one work sample image to show different angles, or a detail image.

• If the work is interactive, include an image of viewer participation.

• For performances, you may wish to include a brief description of the performance, and contextualize the moment we are seeing.
After the Announcement is Made

• If you receive an award:

  • Artists will enter into a professional contract with CAM

  • Artists will be assigned to a gallery (A, B, or C) by organizing curator based on their proposal and other projects in the exhibition.

  • Artists **must make themselves available** for follow-up studio visits with curator, PR, marketing, interviews, images, and related details.

  • Artists might be asked to engage in public programming, education workshops, tours, private events, panel discussions, artist talks, etc.

  • **$20,000 award is taxable income! Work with a professional regarding itemizing expenses.**
GOOD LUCK!