

Greater Southwest Develop Corporation's Public Art Project

Overview

In partnership with the Department of Culture and Special Events, Greater Southwest Development Corporation's (GSDC) Artist Response Program is designed to give local artists an opportunity to bring awareness and give voice to the issues their communities face on a day-to-day basis as well as provide a professional development opportunity for our grantees. GSDC is interested in using public art as a tool to catalyze development in racially and economically segregated communities on the southwest side of Chicago. With over 50 years of experience in the world of economic development, GSDC has a keen understanding regarding the design, planning, and implementation of successful community development programs. GSDC believes that public art is crucial when it comes to giving voice, preserving local culture, providing an income stream for local artists, and providing professional development opportunities in underserved communities on the southwest side of Chicago.

Through GSDC's Public Art Project Grant, GSDC will be funding 15 artists from across the Southwest side of Chicago to implement innovative and community-minded works of public art that provokes dialogue, reflection, community ownership, and action.

GSDC Grant Contact Info

Please direct all questions or comments to:

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Eligibility Criteria for Grant Applicants

- All artists who apply must live within GSDC's area of influence on the South and West side of the city (or be affiliated with an organization located in the community their project is based in), which includes but not limited to: Gage Park; Chicago Lawn; West Elsdon, Engelwood, Auburn Gresham, Archer Heights, and West Lawn.
- Artists must submit the following:
 - A portfolio of past work and two references.
 - References can be past employers, community organizations, community stakeholders or government agencies that the artist has a relationship with.
 - Artists will submit a one-page write-up detailing past public art projects that align with the spirit of this grant.

OR

- In lieu of a written summary, applicants may submit a video, totaling no more than 5 minutes, describing their project.
 - Videos do not need to be heavily edited – videos can be filmed with a smartphone.
 - Applicants should film themselves in a quiet place.
- Written summary or video should detail the following:
 - Background info on the applicant and partnering organization (if applicable).
 - A summary on past public art or relevant projects.
 - A description of the applicant's proposed project that should include locations of the proposed project, proof of partnership/approval of project with the landowner/administrator of proposed location and a simple project mockup that best summarizes the proposed project. Note: mockups do not need to be complex and filled with detail. There should be enough detail to help GSDC ascertain the basic concept of the proposed project.
 - Artists should specify what level of funding they are applying for (i.e. \$1000, \$5000, or \$10,000 grants).
 - Applicants can only submit one (1) application.
- Applications can include other artists or third parties under their application.
 - Please include a list of names, phone numbers, the role the third party or partner artist(s) will fill, and links their portfolios and social media pages.
- All written proposals should be no more than one page, single-spaced, and 12-point Times New Roman font.
- If the location or space for the proposed project is on private or public land, the applicant is responsible for obtaining written permission from the landowner and any applicable permits.
 - Proof of permission and permits should be included along with your application.
 - Artists who need help obtaining applicable permits and permission can reach out to GSDC for assistance and additional resources.

Review Criteria

GSDC is interested in funding all mediums of public art. This includes, but is not limited to: paintings, murals, sculpture, streetscapes, art-related events, song, dance, literature, photography, and fashion.

GSDC's rubric will be used to judge and score its applications. The rubric consists of 7 categories (listed below) and each category is scored from 1-5 points. Applications with the highest scores will be invited to interview as semi-finalists with GSDC staff.

Rubric Categories

Category	Description
Culture	Proposals will be judged on their ability to highlight, strengthen and promote the culture of the community the project is being proposed for.
Community Ownership and Activism	Proposals will be judged on their ability to inspire community ownership and activism.
Capturing the Moment	Project should pay homage to the current social and economic events.
Public Safety	Proposals will be judged on their ability to create safe spaces, unite communities, and promote peace amongst community members.
Economic Development	Projects will be judged on their abilities to create a inviting public space, increase the esthetics of a community, and provide the bedrock for economic development
Artist Professionalism	Artists' background, work, and proposal will be judged according to their professionalism and experience in their respective subject matter.
Project Virtue	Projects that show creativity, innovation, challenge common concepts, and do not include offensive or pejorative material, will score high in this category.

Timeline

Event	Date
Application opens	June 16th, 2021
Application closes (no late submissions will be accepted)	August 31 st , 2021
Semi-finalists announced and scheduled for interviews with GSDC	September 30 st , 2021
Finalists announced and funds are dispersed	October 2021
All projects to be implemented and finalized	October 2022

Who Can Apply.

GSDC Invites individual artists and artist groups to apply to this grant. The aim of this grant is to fund private individuals who aim to create works of public art for the communities which they inhabit. Individual artists can apply as a group or list other artists as support and their respective roles in their proposals.

This grant will not be available to the following groups:

- For-profit organizations and corporations
- Non-profit organizations
- City agencies

How to Apply

For those interested in applying, please [click here](#) for the grant application. Please note, under no circumstances will late submissions be accepted. All applications are required to be submitted by **5 PM, August 31st, 2021.**