

about works:

Works/San José is your alternative community art and performance center—a non-profit creative laboratory dedicated to providing an environment where artists, audience, and ideas interact to expand the scope of cultural and artistic experience and challenge the boundaries of contemporary art. Founded in 1977 by local artists, Works “success is in the process” philosophy and unique range of opportunities allow artists, curators, and the community to take creative risks. The exhibition programs at Works are unique professional development opportunities in which artists and curators are mentored by Works volunteers through the production of their exhibitions. The intellectual statement of an exhibition is solely the work of the artist or curator; and in this way, Works can present diverse viewpoints, opinions, and creative statements while showcasing emerging, innovative, and experimental visual, performance, new media, installation, and interdisciplinary art.

Works thrives on community involvement and has an outreach program that favors exhibitions that cross boundaries to facilitate dialogues between diverse populations. Works provides programs for artists at every level of career development, including monthly workshops and lectures, a monthly artist critique group, and free art experiences for young people and their families.

Works/San José has functioned primarily as a volunteer organization for 30 years. Volunteers and members have maintained Works operational and programming capacity, allowing the organization to stay responsive to the needs of its membership and the community. Works is operated by a working Board of Directors, an Advisory Board, volunteers, and part-time staff.

Works/San Jose is member supported and is funded in part by the City of San José, Community Foundation Silicon Valley, and Arts Council Silicon Valley in partnership with the County of Santa Clara, the California Arts Council, and Adobe Systems, Inc.

mission statement

Works/San José believes that thriving communities support artistic experimentation. Therefore, Works serves as the South Bay community’s creative laboratory where people can experiment, exhibit, and engage with art and with each other. Works achieves this mission by providing an accessible, supportive, and welcoming art center.

exhibition programs

guest curator (main gallery)

This program is responsible for Works’ major exhibitions, and allows Works to present broad and diverse viewpoints and expressions. Applications to this program must have a minimum of three exhibiting artists, and participants are required to provide an outreach activity relating to their exhibitions.

paulette peterson installation space

This space is dedicated to the presentation of installations and site-specific work, and exhibitions run concurrently with exhibitions in the main gallery.

community sites

A new pilot program launching late Summer 2007 in collaboration with the City of San José’s Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, the Gardner Community Center, and the Office of Cultural Affairs, to showcase the work of professional and vocational artists in San José.

other programs and opportunities

performance art and music events

Since its inception, Works has been the South bay’s premier performance art venue, presenting an eclectic array of artists. Music events range from more traditional bands to experimental sound performances and environments.

artist in residence

A jury-selected artist has use of a non-live-in studio space for three months and receives a modest stipend. This program serves local emerging and under-represented artists who have demonstrated a commitment to their work and are at a critical juncture in their development, which would be furthered by the use of workspace and an open studio exhibition opportunity.

community hall gallery

This is a new program launching in July 2007, which will showcase the artwork of participants in community arts education programs conducted by a wide range of organizations and institutions, expanding the awareness of art at all levels of our community.

artist development

Professional development and educational opportunities, include workshops on curating exhibitions, writing artist’s statements, art and business practices, as well as lectures by artists, arts administrators, public art coordinators and others. Works also hosts a supportive monthly artists’ critique group.

youth and family art connection—yfac

YFAC offers children ages 7 to 14 and their families a “no mistakes” art workshop environment that supports creative problem solving and risk taking in the visual arts and beyond, fostering an appreciation for and understanding of art. These creative opportunities are provided free at Works on the second Saturday of each month.

student transition opportunities

Works has a long-standing connection with San José State University’s School of Art and Design, and has provided the venue for Industrial Design and Graphic Design reviews and exhibitions. On the statewide level, Works biannually awards a graduate student the New Emerging Curator Award, the winner of which is mentored through the production of the New California Masters exhibition, a biannual showcase of Masters of Fine Arts students from across the state of California.

works/san José

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