

exhibition criteria

Works is your volunteer-run, non-profit community art and performance center. Founded in 1977, Works encourages artists, curators, and the community to take creative risks by showcasing emerging, innovative, and experimental visual, performance, new media, installation, and interdisciplinary art. Works is a forum where artists and the community can interact to expand the scope of cultural and artistic experience, and challenge the boundaries of contemporary art.

Applicants must be responsible and willing to provide the work and resources necessary for a professional quality exhibition, but previous curatorial and exhibit experience is not required. The exhibition programs at Works/San José are unique professional development opportunities in which artists and curators collaborate with Works volunteers through the production of their exhibition. While the programs are participatory, the intellectual statement of the exhibition is solely the work of the artist or curator.

Main Gallery – Guest Curator Program

Works seeks proposals for the main gallery that have a clear and strong conceptual foundation that would engage the community, and that involve the work of 3 or more artists in this conceptual framework.

Concepts can be community based, involve global to personal issues, or even concepts within art making. Works strives to present a broad variety of viewpoints, diverse opinions, and range of creative statements.

In order to facilitate community involvement and enrichment, each exhibition is required to host a community outreach activity of some kind. Proposals can also include performers or others who are not in the physical art exhibit, but perform during openings, special performance nights, or during regular hours.

For the funding of exhibitions, it presently costs Works/San José about \$3000 for a one month exhibition—a 3 week show plus time to install and deinstall. This is a very low cost compared to other organizations with physical facilities, and Works does what it can to fundraise for exhibitions, but needs support from exhibiting groups. Works asks for a plan from exhibitors as to what portion of the cost they can support. This support can come from a variety of means, from entry fees for artists in concepts with open calls for artists, to grants and contributions from supporters or sponsoring organizations, foundations, or individuals. Proposals for fundraising events within an exhibition will also be considered so long as they would not compete with Works' Benefit Auction or other fundraising events. Works is completely supported by donations and currently receives no funding from the City of San José or any other governmental organization. Works is completely volunteer-run with no employees, so seeks volunteers for the setup and gallery sitting for each exhibition.

Applications to this program must have a minimum of three (3) exhibiting artists. The applying curator may be one of the artists. Selection is by committee.

Paulette Peterson Installation Space (p²)

This unique space dedicated to the presentation of installation and site-specific work in the Bay Area was created in memory of San José Installation Artist and Works/San José Board Member Paulette Peterson. Exhibitions run concurrently with the main gallery. Proposals must also be conceptual in nature and can be for an individual artist or group. Selection is by committee.

Previous program participants are ineligible to apply to the same program for two (2) years. Board members of Works/San José may not apply or be proposed as an exhibiting artist during their term and must wait six (6) months after their term before submitting an application. Applicant will not be considered ineligible due to participation in the Members Show and/or Benefit Auction. Other exceptions might be made for open community calls on a case-by-case basis. Proposals must include the artist selection method and criteria, including any restrictions or proposed fees.

Please check our website for current application deadlines. www.workssanjose.org