

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.

Guest Curator Program

Works seeks proposals for the main exhibit space 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 \$1500 for a one month exhibition—a 3 week show plus time to install and deinstall. This is a very low facilities cost compared to other organizations, and Works does what it can to fundraise for exhibitions, but needs some support from exhibiting groups. Works does not expect exhibiting groups to find full funding for the facility, but asks for a plan from exhibitors as to what portion of this cost they can support. This support can come from a variety of means, from grants and contributions from supporters or sponsoring organizations, foundations, or individuals, to entry fees from artists in concepts with open calls. Proposals for events within an exhibition that might raise funds will also be considered so long as they would not compete with Works' Benefit Auction or other fundraising events. The majority of Works' funding is from the donations of individuals in our community, and Works receives some support from the City of San José. Presently, Works is completely volunteer-run with no employees, so seeks volunteers for the setup and gallery sitting for each exhibition.

There is no entry fee to propose an exhibition, but there is an acceptance fee of \$100 to insure that the most basic costs of preparing the space for an exhibition are contributed to.

Work in exhibitions may be available for sale at the digression of the artists. All exhibits are presented as in a museum or reputable gallery where pricing is only on a sheet or binder at the entry table. A 30% commission is requested of each sale in, or resulting from, an exhibition at Works. Art sold must remain for the duration of the exhibit.

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

Previous exhibitors are ineligible to apply 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 being part of an application. Artists will not be considered ineligible due to participation in the Members Show 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