

Lakeshore Arts: Community Project Space Call for Submissions 2021

Lakeshore Arts is seeking project proposals to activate our Community Project Space in our 2021 programming season.

Deadline to apply: August 17, 2020



LAKESHORE ARTS

About

Lakeshore Arts is a nonprofit community arts organization dedicated to engaging all peoples using multidisciplinary art forms as a way of enriching lives and strengthening Toronto's communities. We believe in fostering collaboration and building inclusive relationships with community partners in order to share resources, support local artists through advocacy and employment, and develop unique and innovative programming.

Lakeshore Arts' Community Project Space (CPS) is a storefront programming and exhibition space, used for regular and occasional programs and events, as well as ongoing site activations. CPS activations often engage with community knowledge and involve collaboration and/or participation as core components of the work. Past CPS activations have focused on community assets, neighbourhood artifacts, housing, the opioid crisis, geopolitical borders and climate change and involved partnerships with community organizations such as Daily Bread Food Bank, LAMP Community Health Centre and Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services.

For the upcoming 2021 programming season, we are looking for projects that incorporate significant participatory elements, can be engaged with actively or passively, are designed to evolve over time through interaction with the community and include free public events that further activate the projects and create opportunities for connection building and knowledge sharing.

We are accepting proposals from applicants that respond broadly to the following thematic prompt:

With varying degrees of influence, systems shape and govern fundamental aspects of our lives: our bodies, relationships, environments, movement, identities, access, resources and opportunities. Yet these systems are often obscure to the public and designed and administered inequitably. As a global pandemic and anti-racism protests bring focus to the inequality of the systems we interact with, we are presented with an opportunity to observe and scrutinize these systems as well as imagine alternatives. With this opening in mind, we are inviting applicants to develop a project that examines the form, purpose and consequences of human systems including political, economic, justice, information, education, transportation, and health (plus any others) and considers some of the following questions:

- + How are systems expressed?
- + How do we experience systems and how do our experiences of these systems differ depending on our social location?
- + How has a system succeeded or failed at its expressed or tacit objectives?

- + How are systems made opaque and for what reasons?
- + How do existing systems harm or help, exploit or nurture us and how does this differ depending on our social location?
- + How are systems influenced by their environments and environments influenced by systems?
- + How do human made and biological systems interact with and influence each other?
- + What alternative systems can we imagine?

Acknowledging this subject is expansive and complex, we aim to present projects that are thought provoking while remaining accessible and engaging for community members of different ages, abilities and experiences and offer layered points of entry that can accommodate those differences.

Updated project timeline: Selected projects are planned to run for 2-3 months each from early spring 2021 to December 2021.

The Site

Lakeshore Arts' Community Project Space is located on the north side of Lake Shore Blvd West in the Mimico area. There are two steps up without a handrail to the main entrance and two steps down without a handrail to the back door. There is one gender neutral washroom located on the basement level at the bottom of a staircase with 10 steps with a handrail.

The Community Project Space is equipped with a track lighting system with 36 Philips Hue bulbs that can be adjusted to 16 million colours and shades of white, with adjustable brightness. There are 4 cement walls totalling approximately 58 feet, one small 4 foot drywall and one 19 foot brick wall. All walls are equipped with a track hanging system and the cement walls can also support screws, nails, paint or vinyl application. All walls except for the brick wall can be painted on directly. Community Project Space floors are hardwood and allow for vinyl application.

The street facing window is 7' wide and 8' tall and features LSA branded text. Artists are welcome to propose activations to the window that do not interfere with existing vinyl.

CPS is not exclusively an exhibition space/gallery. It is a shared community space and hosts regular and occasional programs and events unrelated to ongoing site activations. As such, there are limitations to the footprint of installations and those that require extensive floor space may need to be movable to temporarily accommodate other programs.

Eligibility

We welcome proposals from artists, designers and collectives at all stages of their careers, as well as collaborative proposals with creatives and community groups, nonprofit organizations or social service agencies. Applications from members of marginalized groups will be prioritized. Both new and adaptations of previously executed projects will be accepted. If you are an artist and have a group or organization you would like to partner with please mention them in your project description.

Fees

All selected artists will receive an artist fee (estimated \$2000 - \$3000) and material fee, scaled on the scope and duration of the project. If selected artists would like to apply for additional funding for projects, LSA can support the application process.

Proposal Requirements

- + **Project description:** please provide a clear description of your proposed project, including an explanation of the community engagement component and preliminary ideas for related event-based public programming, integrating the conceptual connection to the thematic prompt in your writing. (500 - 700 words).
- + **Artist statement:** please describe the conceptual and material focus of your practice, positioning your proposed project in relation to this framework (200 - 500 words)
- + **CV:** Please attach a pdf copy of your CV outlining your relevant experience, education and exhibition history. Please note no formal training or education is required, relevant experience can be lived or from a different field/discipline if it's related to your project/practice and a limited exhibition history does not restrict you from applying. Alternative presentations of your experience will be accepted.
- + **Technical/facility requirements:** please make note of any technical or facility requirements necessary for the execution of your project (space, set up, lighting, materials, equipment, expertise) (200 words)
- + **Budget:** please provide a brief summary of the anticipated costs of your project (200 words)
- + **Support material:** attach up to 10 jpg images of past projects or visual material to help illustrate your project idea, ordered and labelled with corresponding written descriptions in separate pdf document.

The word counts are suggestions and responses that go under or over will not be disqualified. Please include project description, artist statement, technical requirements and budget together in one pdf document.

Selection Criteria

- + Clear demonstration of participatory elements and meaningful community engagement
- + Connection to the Lakeshore Arts' mandate
- + Relevant experience of applicant(s), including lived and/or experience in a discipline related to your proposal
- + Creativity + innovation
- + Feasibility
- + Connection to theme

How to apply

Please ensure all written components of your proposal are in pdf format and visual support material in jpeg format, no larger than 1 MB. You will be contacted via email to confirm we have received your application. If you require clarification on any of the components of this call or have any accessibility concerns that impact your ability to apply we encourage you to get in touch, all questions are welcomed and we will do our best to support and accommodate applicants through the submission process. Submissions and inquiries can be directed to our Community Project Space Curator Jacqui Arntfield via email at jacqui@lakeshorearts.ca.

We intend to notify applicants about the status of their submission in September.

A Note about Covid-19

While we are hopeful that we will be able to schedule onsite projects and events in 2021, we acknowledge the uncertainty of the moment and the possibility that plans may need to be adapted to ensure the health and wellbeing of our staff, community and the artists and partners we work with. We are committed to working with the selected artists to adapt projects to follow public health guidelines. If it is determined that our Community Project Space should be closed at the time a project is scheduled, we will work with artists to either reschedule and/or create a project that utilizes alternative platforms.