



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

COMMUNITY-CENTERED ARTS PROGRAMMING

WATERVILLE, MAINE





OVERVIEW

Waterville Creates invites proposals from individuals, groups, and/or organizations for community-centered arts programming to be held at the Paul J. Schupf Art Center in Downtown Waterville between June 1, 2023 and May 30, 2024. Proposals may be submitted by individual artists, artist collaboratives, and/or arts organizations. This call is open to local, regional, and national applicants; however, priority will be given to Maine-based artists. The deadline for submission is April 14, 2023.

With this call, we are seeking proposals for diverse and dynamic programs that will invite people of all ages and backgrounds into the Paul J. Schupf Art Center by providing accessible, meaningful, and joyful arts experiences while also responding to issues and themes that are relevant and important to our community.

BACKGROUND

On December 17, 2022, after years of planning, the Paul J. Schupf Art Center opened to the public in the heart of Downtown Waterville. Home to Waterville Creates and its three programming divisions, the Maine Film Center, Waterville Opera House, and Ticonic Gallery + Studios, as well as the Colby College Museum of Art's Joan Dignam Schmaltz Gallery, this new art center now serves as a welcoming and vibrant home for creativity and community.

In the summer of 2022, in partnership with the Colby College Museum of Art and its Lunder Institute for American Art, Waterville Creates engaged social practice artists Elizabeth Jabar and Colleen Kinsella, founders of the Future Mothers artist collective, to design and facilitate free experiences to explore a series of questions, including: What does it mean to be part of a community? How can we forge meaningful connections with each other and the place we call home? The process culminated in a beautiful, inaugural exhibition at Ticonic Gallery + Studios' new gallery in the Paul J. Schupf Art Center that showcased the individual and collective stories gathered over the course of the project and provided a glimpse of the community's shared hopes, dreams, and ideas for Waterville. The project also identified several common themes that Waterville Creates and its partners seek to explore through community-centered arts programming.

THEMES

The themes that arose from the Common Threads project range from shared concern about societal issues to interest in learning more about our community and its roots to a general desire for inclusive arts experiences. The top themes identified include:

- Care + compassion
- Sharing + celebrating previously untold stories
- The environment + climate change
- Celebrating our relationship to the land: farming, rural spaces, local ecosystems
- Honoring our Indigenous communities by celebrating Indigenous makers, scholars, voices, and cultural traditions
- Acknowledging and addressing economic disparity
- Equity, access + representation: Whose stories get told? Who gets a voice in shaping our community?
- The importance of intergenerational experiences



PROGRAMMING FORMAT

Proposals may include programming in a variety of media and formats, including film screenings + discussions, visual arts workshops, music, dance, and theatre performances, art installations, outdoor film projection, discussion groups, lectures, and more. Eligible programs include one-time events, performances, or presentations as well as ongoing programming series. Proposals must respond to one or more of the themes outlined above and include a clear explanation of how the community will be invited to participate in and even contribute to the proposed programming.

We also welcome programming that supports and/or responds to existing arts events and programs, such as First Fridays, the Colby College Museum of Art’s Community Day, the Maine International Film Festival, and Waterville Opera House productions.

PROGRAMMING LOCATION(S):

All proposed programs must be held in part at the Paul J. Schupf Art Center and/or the Waterville Opera House (accessed via sky bridge through the Paul J. Schupf Art Center). Other locations in downtown Waterville, including Castonguay Square, may be utilized provided that the program directly connects to and invites the public to visit the Paul J. Schupf Art Center. The following spaces will be available for approved programs with timing dependent on existing programming:

FIRST FLOOR SPACES

TICONIC GALLERY

616 sf

JOAN DIGNAM SCHMALTZ GALLERY

500 sf

TICONIC CLASSROOM

480 sf

Intimate classroom space, seated capacity: 15

THE HUB

2400 sf

Open lobby with windows facing Castonguay Square, café tables and chairs available

Please note that gallery exhibitions are fully booked through 2024, so these spaces are not available for exhibitions but could accommodate discussion groups, small gatherings, artist talks, etc.

SECOND FLOOR SPACES

MAINE FILM CENTER THEATERS

3 screening rooms (21, 43, 111 seats); digital and 35mm projection capabilities available

STUDIO 1902

1000 sf

Flexible space with sprung floor, projection, and audio system available, seated capacity: 50

WATERVILLE OPERA HOUSE

800-seat historic theater with full stage, orchestra pit, projection and audio system available

Waterville Creates staff will be available to assist successful applicants in securing necessary permissions to use the spaces outlined above as well as public property, such as Castonguay Square.



PROGRAMMING DATES

All proposed programming must take place between June 1, 2023 and May 30, 2024.

FUNDING

Stipends will range from a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$10,000 per approved project.

REVIEW CRITERIA & PROCESS

Proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee comprising staff from Waterville Creates and the Colby College Museum of Art. Proposals will be scored based on:

- Responsiveness to one or more of the themes identified
- Plan for community engagement
- Overall quality of the proposal, including clarity of the description of programming to be offered
- Project feasibility within provided budget, timeline, and spaces
- Artistic excellence

Waterville Creates will reach out to applicants on or before May 1 with funding decisions. Staff will work with successful applicants to schedule, place, and/or refine programming as needed to ensure successful implementation.

TIMELINE

February 17, 2023	Call for Proposals opens
April 14, 2023	Proposals are due
May 1, 2023	Committee finalizes selections
May 12, 2023	Artist/organization contracts finalized
June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024	Program implementation period

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested applicants should provide the following:

Letter of interest. No longer than 2 pages, including the following:

- Identification of lead applicant and any partners to be involved;
- Brief summary of proposed programming, including timing and desired location or location requirements (art-making space for 25 people, lecture space for 50 people, etc.);
- Explanation of how you are responding to one or more of the identified themes;
- Explanation of how the community will be invited to engage in the proposed programming;
- Your experience (and/or your partners' experience) in providing similar programming, if applicable.

Proposed budget. Please provide a budget for the proposed project and clearly state the amount of your request. The minimum request is \$500, and the maximum is \$10,000.

Current resume of any proposed artist(s), if applicable.

Support Materials (optional). Digital images (high res jpgs preferred), videos (not to exceed 3 minutes), website links that will help to illustrate your proposal. Please submit no more than 5 total files. Each image and video should be considered one file.



SUBMISSIONS

All materials must be submitted electronically
by 5pm on April 14, 2023.

[**CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT**](#)

QUESTIONS?

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[**EMAIL MARIE**](#)