

Call for Artists: Spatial Justice, Mississauga

Open to artists across disciplines, with a focus on artists from communities that experience systemic and other marginalization (this includes Black artists, Indigenous artists, artists of colour; immigrant, refugee and non-status artists; youth artists; artists with lived experiences of mental health struggle; artists who have experienced poverty; artists who are survivors; and more).

Deadline for proposals: December 30, 2018 11:59 pm
Email: aradhaverma@gmail.com with the subject line "Spatial Justice 2019"

How do space, place and justice make themselves known or felt, in the suburban landscape?
What kinds of community formations are possible with the backdrop of box stores, condos, green space, waterfront, high-density housing, wide roads, sprawl...?
What do 'we' need to (un)learn about the politics of difference in a place touted for its 'diversity'?

Spatial Justice is an ambitious exhibition and public programming project that addresses complex issues around public space and equitable place-making. The project includes multiple components, and is a project of the City of Mississauga. Independent curator Anu Radha Verma is seeking to connect with artists across disciplines who are interested in the questions above, and the pressing issues of spatial justice as they relate to Mississauga.

Artists are invited to reflect and daydream on the possibilities that their artistic practices could offer to public engagement during the month of April 2019 at multiple sites in Mississauga. Locations could include libraries, parks, Small Arms Inspection Building (SAIB), community centres and any kind of gathering space (please consider accessibility when consider site-specific projects). This public engagement could include:

- A community dialogue where the artist is sharing knowledge or inviting input
- A performance that prompts the public to consider relevant themes
- Short video works that are accessible to a variety of audiences including children
- A walking or rolling 'tour' that highlights lesser-known activism
- Public engagement using a lab or other interactive model
- Social media engagement that is time-bound, and could potentially be document (e.g. Twitter Chat, Instagram takeover)
- Internet-based activation such as a website that invites visitors to interact, take action

To supplement the programming, a booklet will be compiled. If there is a component of your work that can engage the public via writing in advance, this is a possibility.

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Artists will be paid CARFAC fees for their work. Artists' travel costs can be supported. Artists will have access to the independent curator for ongoing support – this exchange (which sometimes includes emotional labour) is acknowledged formally here.

Priorities

Given the focus of the project, and the under-representation of important experiences, there are two broad priorities:

- Artists from communities that experience systemic and other marginalization (as noted above)
- Proposals that include a focus on difficult conversations

Proposal Encouragement

In an attempt to challenge the format of traditional calls for artists, you are invited to submit your ideas and daydreams via email directly to the independent curator.

You do not need to have a complete proposal.

What is helpful to include in your email:

- Your connection to Mississauga
- What kinds of resources you would need to participate in the project
- What kinds of spaces might be of interest (if applicable)
- The medium(s) you are interested in
- What feeling, thought, question you want the audience to have as a result of your work

Formats that are welcomed:

- Mindmap
- Video or audio file
- Traditional text

Timelines

December 30, 2018: Send your ideas

January 3-10 and 18-20, 2019: Conversations via phone or in person to discuss proposals

January 30, 2019: Selected artists meetup in Mississauga

Mid-February 2019: Content confirmed for promotions

April 2019: Artist exhibition, showcase, programming takes places in multiple sites

Curator Bio

Anu Radha Verma (she/her) is a queer, diasporic, sometime-femme, a survivor, and someone with lived experience of mental health struggles. She organizes QTBIPOC sauga, a grassroots gathering for queer and trans BIPOC folks in Peel, works at the Art Gallery of Mississauga, and has a community-based consulting practice. She originated and continues to curate brOWN//out, the south asian community stage at Pride Toronto. Find her words in Any Other Way: How Toronto Got Queer, in the issue of Spacing collaboratively edited with Ethnic Aisle, and on Twitter @aradhaverma