



West Philadelphia Artist Residency

Request for Qualifications

Deadline: 5 p.m., Monday, February 19, 2018

Please email ntx4017@gmail.com with any questions or comments.

No phone calls, please.

About Neighborhood Time Exchange

The *Neighborhood Time Exchange: West Philadelphia Artist Residency* (Time Exchange) is seeking one artist for two residencies that will take place March – August, and July – December 2018.

Time Exchange invites artists to engage their personal, autonomous artistic practice within the space of a studio, while also providing a platform for contributing to projects that directly and positively impact the surrounding community. In exchange for free studio space, a monthly stipend, and basic tools and supplies, artists will provide skill and time-based resources for the surrounding communities, working on civic projects suggested by residents and community based organizations. Artists will also take part in open houses, exhibitions, and similar events that will create connections with the community.

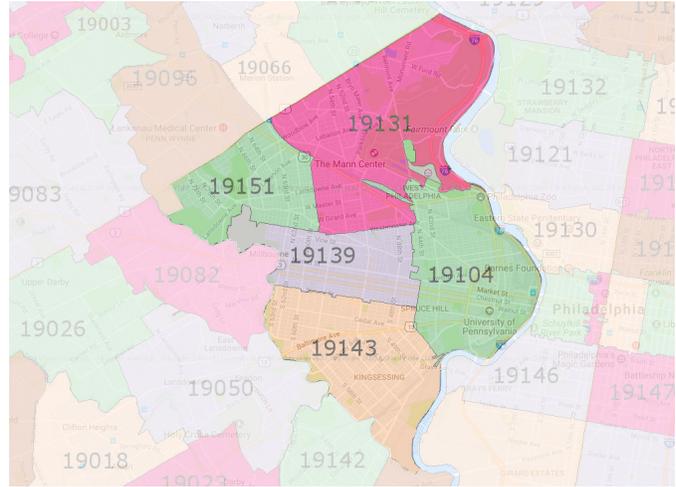
Time Exchange offers an opportunity to explore the ways in which forms of value and exchange are identified and distributed, and the boundaries between public and private might be blurred. It creates a framework through which the often-invisible resources of a neighborhood (the people, the history, and the experience of everyday life) can be understood as foundational and inseparable components for revitalizing a neighborhood. By providing clear intersections and negotiations of time between community residents and visiting artists, Time Exchange aims to cultivate a new dynamic role for creativity and reciprocity in the revitalization of a neighborhood.

Time Exchange is operated in collaboration by the People’s Emergency Center and Mural Arts Philadelphia, and was conceived by the founders of Broken City Lab.

Residency Eligibility

The Time Exchange residency is open to West Philadelphia artists who currently reside in zip codes 19104, 19139, 19131, 19143 or 19151.

Any artist, established or emerging, working in any medium is encouraged to apply. Couples, collaboratives, and collectives may apply, but please note that we cannot offer additional budgetary resources to individual members. Artists do not need to have experience in mural-making or social practice, nor a history of practice involving socially engaged art, to be considered. Both established and emerging artists are encouraged to apply. Artists must be citizens of the U.S. or have U.S. work authorization.



The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. on Monday, February 19.

Residency Awards & Terms

- Access to free studio space at 4017 Lancaster Avenue (size and space to be determined in conversation with existing tenants, Public Workshop/Tiny WPA)
- \$2500 stipend per month for a 5-month residency.
- Committed funding for ongoing programming, and community art projects which will be allocated on a project-by-project basis.
- Introduction to PEC partners and community members throughout West Philadelphia.
- One artist will be selected for each residency period in 2018 (two artists total):
 - Residency 1: March – July 2018
 - Residency 2: August – December 2018
- Housing is NOT provided as part of this residency
- Artists must provide their own tools

Storefront Studio

Time Exchange will offer each artist-in-residence 24-hour access to a shared storefront at 4017 Lancaster Avenue. The first floor studio space has hardwood floors, movable walls, is ADA accessible, and features a front wall of windows that faces Lancaster Avenue. Artists will be offered the following amenities as part of their residency:

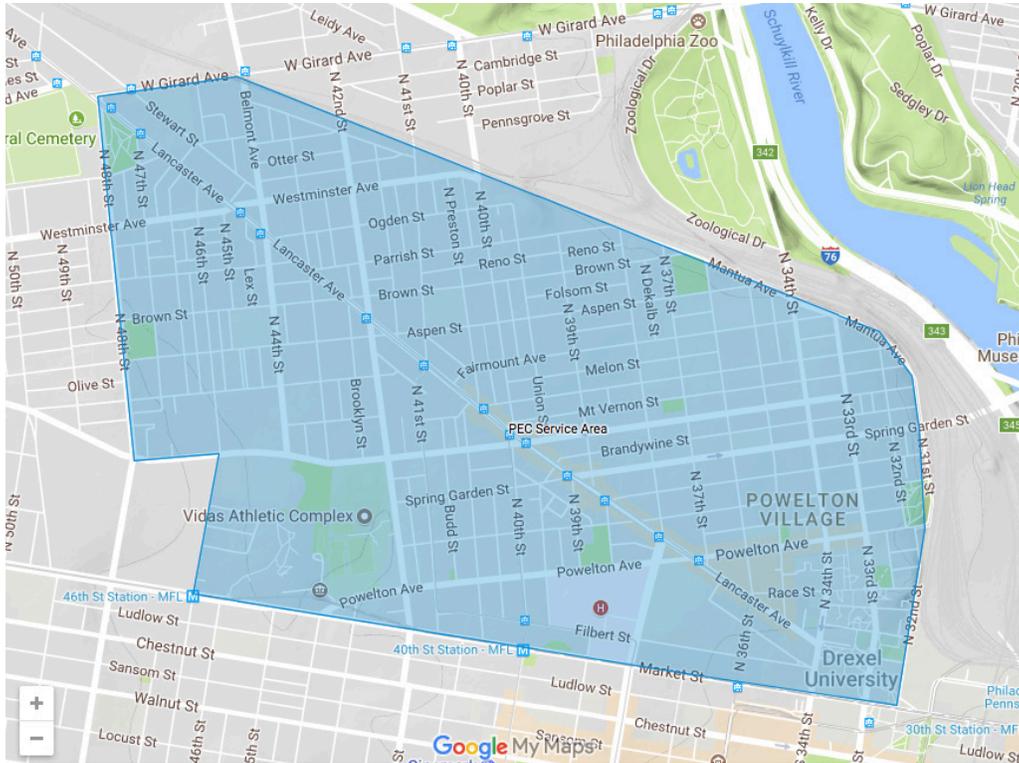
- Electricity & Wi-Fi
- Heating & Air-Conditioning
- PEC event support
- Shared studio space (size and space to be determined in conversation with existing tenants)

Public Workshop and Tiny WPA have an established presence in the space and interested applicants should have an understanding of their work. Every Wednesday from 4-7pm, Public Workshops hosts a “Stop By and Build” program, and every month the space hosts a “Second Friday” event. The studio is a semi-public space and artists should be prepared to share their personal practice with interested community members.

Selection Timeline & Process

- Monday, February 19, 5 p.m.: Applications due
- Late February – Artist Interviews, Notifications sent
- Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:
 - The artist's experience and skill in the creation of unique works of public art
 - The artist's ability to engage community members in a reciprocal creative process
 - The artist's grasp of the goals of civic improvement

Community Background



Located in West Philadelphia, PEC's service area encompasses the Saunders Park, West Powelton, Belmont, Mantua, and Mill Creek neighborhoods. It is bounded by 48th Street to the west, Market Street to the south, 37th Street to the east, and Girard Avenue (west of 44th) and Mantua Avenue (east of 44th) to the north (see map above). In January 2014, on the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty speech, the Obama administration designated these neighborhoods as one of five national "Promise Zones", placing it at the top of the list for coordinated government assistance.

Similar to other urban commercial districts, Lancaster Avenue has undergone serious decline over the past half century, suffering from the typical effects of long-term disinvestment in urban areas. However, Lancaster Avenue and the neighborhoods adjoining it have begun to revitalize as neighbors have come together to address the area's most pressing problems and build upon its many assets and strengths. Neighborhoods surrounding Lancaster Avenue have a large and diverse community of artists that live and work in the area. These artists have been attracted by affordable housing, a wide array of active arts groups, and close proximity to large institutions like Drexel University and the University of Pennsylvania. Time Exchange seeks to involve these artists, putting them at the core of larger community revitalization efforts.

As these communities continue to attract new residents and private investment, PEC seeks to utilize creative interventions to promote these neighborhoods while maintaining affordability for existing residents who may potentially experience the negative effects of gentrification. PEC understands Time Exchange as an organizing tool to engage long-established residents and businesses with recent transplants and an ever-growing student population. The project will provide an inclusive civic engagement process that encourages all residents to contribute and allows communities to forge strong relationships, build consensus, and develop a unique identity.

Make Your Mark!

Time Exchange is informed by PEC's [Make Your Mark! Lower Lancaster Revitalization Plan](#). The product of extensive engagement with community residents, local businesses and institutions, and city agencies, *Make Your Mark!* provides a comprehensive framework for housing, economic development, and quality of life initiatives for PEC's service area in West Philadelphia. Strategies such as eliminating vacant properties, providing opportunities to build financial and technological skills, job training and job creation, and enhancing the local commercial corridor were identified by the community as important components for successful community development, all of which would be tied together through the strengthening of our unique neighborhood identity. The plan itself, finalized in June 2012 and released to the public shortly thereafter, represents countless hours of work volunteered by dedicated residents and stakeholders wishing to make these West Philadelphia communities better places to live, learn, play, and do business.

What makes this particular plan exemplary is the extensive community engagement mechanisms undertaken in its making, resulting in more than 1,000 residents engaged throughout planning process. Over the course of 10 months, *Make Your Mark!* brought together residents, community groups, local institutions, non-profits, City representatives, and local businesses to discuss how they envision their community improving over the next decade, and how they can work to achieve that vision together. The process included a number of popular outreach tools, including a series of public meetings, steering committee meetings, confidential interviews, focus groups, and door-to-door surveying. Added to the mix however was an additional component of creative placemaking, which included the utilization of a vacant commercial space on Lancaster Avenue. Time Exchange seeks to continue the momentum that was built through this process, by once again utilizing a commercial storefront for the purpose of civic engagement and community building.

Download the Make Your Mark! Lower Lancaster Revitalization Plan

https://www.pec-cares.org/uploads/2/9/3/9/29391481/make_your_mark_full_plan.pdf

Application Questions

1) Application Narrative (maximum 500 words)

- Please provide an artist's statement that details your experience with and approach to community-engaged art.
- Describe a regular art program you may offer for the community during your residency.
- Please provide a bullet-point list of skills (artistic and otherwise) that you possess, detailed with the capacity and expertise you have in each skill. Please include how long you have had each skill and if you have any formal training associated with it.
- Please indicate your availability or preference for either residency period.

2) Work Samples

- You may submit a minimum of 6 and maximum of 10 images.
- Images must be:
 - Formatted as .jpgs
 - Less than 2MB each in size
 - No more than 2000 pixels on any side
 - A maximum of 300 dpi and a minimum of 72 dpi
 - Titled with your last name, your first name, "worksample," and a number indicating the viewing order. Use "0" in front of single digit numbers. For example:
LastnameFirstnameWorksample01.jpg
- Please provide a description list that includes title, date, medium, size, location and a brief description (maximum 100 words).
- *If you would like to submit video or audio files as work samples, please contact Project Manager Dave Kyu at ntx4017@gmail.com with your request.*

3) Resume

- Maximum of 3 pages, including education, exhibition or project history, and any other relevant professional artistic experience.

Submit your application by 5 p.m. on Monday, February 19.

Please email ntx4017@gmail.com with any additional questions. No phone calls please.

Submission Details

Applications must include the following items to be considered:

1. Cover sheet listing:
 - a. Name
 - b. Email address
 - c. Telephone number
 - d. Mailing address
 - e. Website may be submitted as supplemental material
(though we cannot guarantee that it will be reviewed by the selection committee)
2. Application Narrative
3. Work Samples
4. Work Samples Description List
5. Resume

- All application materials - except for work samples - must be submitted as PDFs.
- Please submit all materials via Dropbox. Upload the folder to your Dropbox account and then “share” the folder with ntx4017@gmail.com.
 - For help with sharing files on Dropbox, visit: www.dropbox.com/en/help/19.)
- Please note: This program will accept paper submissions via mail for local artists. If you plan to submit a paper application, please email ntx4017@gmail.com for details.

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About the Partners

MURAL ARTS PHILADELPHIA

Mural Arts Philadelphia is the nation's largest public art program, dedicated to the belief that art ignites change. For over 30 years, Mural Arts has united artists and communities through a collaborative and equitable process, creating nearly 4,000 artworks that have transformed public spaces and individual lives. Mural Arts aims to empower people, stimulate dialogue, and build bridges to understanding with projects that attract artists from Philadelphia and around the world, and with programs that focus on youth education, restorative justice, mental health and wellness, and public art and its preservation. Popular mural tours offer a firsthand glimpse into the inspiring stories behind Mural Arts' iconic and unparalleled collection, which has earned Philadelphia worldwide recognition as the "City of Murals." For more information, call [215-685-0750](tel:215-685-0750) or visit muralarts.org.

PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY CENTER

The [People's Emergency Center's](#) mission is to nurture families, strengthen neighborhoods and drive change in West Philadelphia. Founded in 1972, PEC began by providing emergency housing for mothers in West Philadelphia. In 1992 the PEC founded a Community Development Corporation whose goals are to strengthen West Philadelphia communities through projects that expand housing opportunities, stimulate economic growth, create wealth and improve the quality of life for all residents. A powerful catalyst for change, PECCDC builds on neighborhood assets and responds directly to the needs of the community to transform West Philadelphia into a Community of Choice—one where people choose to live and work.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA OFFICE OF ARTS, CULTURE, AND THE CREATIVE ECONOMY

Time Exchange is also supported by the [Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy](#). The mission of the Office is to support and promote arts, culture and the creative industries; and to develop partnerships and coordinate efforts that weave arts, culture and creativity into the economic and social fabric of the City. The Office manages and oversees City arts programs, provides policy advice to the Mayor and other Administration officials and serves as the primary point of municipal contact for local organizations, businesses, artists and creative entrepreneurs.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

A cheerleader of possibility, Public Workshop creates uniquely engaging opportunities for youth and their communities to shape the design of their schools, neighborhoods and cities. Working with clients and community partners across the United States, we develop inspiring curricula, multigenerational design-build community projects, transformative youth design leadership programs, innovative participatory community design tools, engaging events and placemaking initiatives, as well as makerspaces for people of all ages.

Past projects include creating citizen science programs in Chicago and New York for measuring the impact of green infrastructure and green affordable housing; leading the designing and building of a makerspace in Chester that is dedicated to empowering citizens to 'rebuild their main street'; developing play and building-based STEM curriculum while leading design-building an outdoor classroom for a school in Arizona; and transforming vacant lots into playgrounds and exercise courses in Philadelphia, Flint, Cleveland, and Camden.

TINY WPA

Tiny WPA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to growing and empowering an army of talented community-design leaders—Building Heroes—that will make Philadelphia the national model for how to engage people of all ages in the design of their cities and help lay the foundation of an incomparable future for community-generated civic innovation.

Named after FDR’s Works Progress Administration, Tiny WPA was conceived in 2012 as a program of Public Workshop with a focus on youth-led community design improvement projects. Past projects included design-building a community message board with People’s Emergency Center (PEC) in West Philadelphia, transforming a vacant lot into a pop-up skate park in Camden, and creating a tree-inspired shade canopy for a farmer’s market in North Philadelphia, among others. Due to growing interest in these small creative interventions as well as the need to connect, grow and support a movement of community design leaders, Tiny WPA expanded and evolved into a nonprofit in 2015. With formation of this new entity, The Building Hero Project, which also was conceived in 2012 and piloted by Public Workshop, was folded into Tiny WPA and is now one of its core programmatic activities. The Building Hero Project provides youth and adults from diverse social and economic backgrounds with innovative year-round training in design, collaboration, leadership, fabrication, and entrepreneurship. In addition to The Building Hero Project, Tiny WPA’s other activities include creative placemaking and neighborhood revitalization efforts in and around West Philadelphia.

Funding for Time Exchange has been generously provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Surdna Foundation.