Setting the Stage: How can you create processes to support artists in making their best work?

With Renee Piechocki

*Homecoming: Hill District, 2019*
By Njaimeh Njie
Pittsburgh, PA
Values

Transparent

Follow Through

Artist Focused

Optimistic

Honest

*Congregation*, 2014 by KMA, Pittsburgh, PA
Artist Selection (10 minutes)
Project Team (5 minutes)
Contracts (5 minutes)
Connecting (10 minutes)
Constructive Feedback (5 minutes)

Questions, Discussions, Story Swaps Between
Selection Processes

- Request for Proposals
- Request for Qualifications
- Invitational
- Direct Selection
Artist Opportunity

Languages

Information Session

Posting the Call

Gateway Sculptures, 2017 by James Simon, Tampa, Florida
Selection Committee Members

Arts Professionals: arts administrators, artists, curators and other creative colleagues.

Project Representatives: people connected to the project through funding, function, or use of a site.

Designers: architects, landscape architects, engineers, or other people designing the site.

Community Members: people connected to the project through geography, common interests, or use of a site.
August Wilson Park, Pittsburgh, PA
RFQ for Permanent Artwork

3 Arts Administrators (Curator, Public Art Professionals)
2 Project Representatives (City Site Owner, Organization Commissioning Artwork)
3 Community Members (Neighborhood Residents)
1 Designer (Landscape Architect)
Senior Housing Development, Pittsburgh, PA
Invitational for Permanent Artwork

1 Arts Professional (Curator)
2 Project Representatives (Owner)
3 Community Members (Residents)
1 Designer (Project Architect)
Temporary Public Art and Placemaking Program, Pittsburgh, PA
“Super Panel”, RFQ for Temporary Artwork

2 Artists
1 Arts Administrator
2 Project Representatives (Agencies Commissioning Artwork)
6 Community Organization Representatives (Neighborhood Organizations)
6 Community Members (Residents, Board Members)
Artist Residency, Pittsburgh, PA
RFQ for Creative Project
“Super Panel”

3 Arts Administrators
1 Project Representatives (Key Artist Collaborator)
4 Community Members (Residents Collaborating with Artist)
Interview Purpose: Chemistry and Vision

Is this the right artist for the project?

Will we enjoy working with this artist?

Can this artist make something great for us at this place?

Does this artist care about us / our community / our vision / this site?
Contracts

Professional Artist Contracts
Scope of Work
Fair Payment Schedule
Exit Clauses

Crossed Pinkies, 2015 by Ellen Forney, Seattle, WA
DO CONTRACTS MAKE YOU FEEL...

☐ A. TERRIFIED
☐ B. FRUSTRATED
☐ C. ANGRY
☐ D. HOPELESS
☑ E. ALL OF THE ABOVE!

Surprisingly interesting
A BOOK ABOUT

CONTRACTS

Sarah Conley Odenkirk

for ARTISTS & OTHER CREATURES
Project Team

Sounding board

Community connections

Red tape cutters

Talk honestly about politics, problems, challenges, solutions

Artist Residency Cohort, 2017 Pittsburgh, PA
Connecting with Communities

Arts Excursions Unlimited, 2014 - present
by Edith Abeyta and Greater Hazelwood Community Members
Time
Access
Introductions
Invitations
Resources
Check Ins

Edith Abeyta in the AEU Studio
Constructive Feedback

Far from this setting in which I now find myself, 2017 by Meredith James, Boston, MA
Setting boundaries and expectations

Context matters

Let artists do their jobs

Different settings for different types of feedback

Don’t let it snowball
Affirmation Study, 2018
Emma Pavlik, Cleveland OH