

ARTS MENTORING FELLOWSHIP :: REQUEST FOR PROPSALS



New Urban Arts is a nationally recognized interdisciplinary arts studio for high school students and emerging artists in Providence, Rhode Island. Our mission is to build a vital community that empowers young people to develop a creative practice they can sustain throughout their lives. We provide studio, exhibition space, and mentoring for young artists who explore the visual, performing, and literary arts through yearlong free out-of-school programs. Founded in 1997, we have been named one of fifty premiere arts and youth development programs in the country by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities multiple years. For more information, visit www.newurbanarts.org.

NEW URBAN ARTS

The Arts Mentoring Fellowship program supports two established artists and educators in a yearlong position to:

- Support Artist Mentors who volunteer to mentor high school students in the arts
- Share publicly artwork or ideas about community arts practice
- Be an Active Presence in the New Urban Arts Studio

Fellows enhance New Urban Arts' image in the field of community arts through reflective documentation of our studio learning community. Fellows publicly share knowledge, ideas and artwork about community arts practice and convene public conversations on sustaining lifelong creative practice. During school vacation weeks, Fellows work with youth as week-long artists in residence. Additionally, Fellows support the professional development of Artist Mentors at New Urban Arts through regular inquiry sessions for Mentors to reflect on lessons learned about community-based arts practice for youth. In the tradition of collegiate professors, Fellows attend regular studio hours at least two days each week from 3-7pm when they are available for artist mentors to seek immediate feedback through direct, one-on-one consultation. See Fellow job description for details on roles and responsibilities.

The Arts Mentoring Fellowship Program was initiated in 2007, and has been generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and the Rhode Island Foundation. The fellowship is a yearlong commitment that begins October 1 and ends June 1, with an opportunity for a one-year renewal. The fellowship is approximately 15-20 hours per week commitment, with a flexible schedule including many afternoons and evenings, and a stipend of \$10,000 per year received in bi-weekly payments.

New Urban Arts works with culturally diverse communities and is committed to ensuring that all qualified individuals have equal opportunities in the organization. Woman and minorities are strongly encouraged to submit proposals.

Qualifications

Former artist mentors at New Urban Arts, and artists with experience in similar community based settings, are invited to submit proposals for a year-long fellowship at New Urban Arts. At least two years experience working with the arts in community based organizations with underserved youth is needed. Experience working with diverse groups of individuals and organizing complex projects is required. Must demonstrate significant artistic achievement as evident by professional accomplishment and or education. Excellent interpersonal skills, conceptual thinking ability, flexibility and strong communication skills are

essential. Enthusiasm for reflective inquiry on arts mentoring practice is vital. An ideal candidate will also be effective in building meaningful relationships with emerging artists and high school students. Artists of any media welcome to apply. All applicants must pass a criminal background check.

Application Process

RFP deadline is May 1, 2009. Proposals will be reviewed and finalists will be contacted for in-person or telephone interviews. Final notification to all applicants will be made by July 1 via email. Application narrative must be within 3-5 pages. Please send proposals to: Sarah Meyer, Program Director, New Urban Arts, 743 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903.

In preparing proposal materials, candidates are strongly encouraged to visit New Urban Arts website at www.newurbanarts.org to learn more about the organizational history, mission, and values. We especially recommend reading the most recent program evaluation report and the artist mentor job description to inform your understanding of the organization.

To apply for the Arts Mentoring Fellowship, please provide the following:

- 1) Current Resume or CV including educational and employment history, and contact information;
- 2) Two letters of recommendation from non-family members;
- 3) Portfolio of Work 5 digital images of personal artwork on CD in JPEG or PDF format or 3-5 printed pages of poetry or prose or slideshow of a community arts project or exhibition you coordinated. Links to websites featuring your work are not considered.
- 4) Please Answer the Following (within 3-5 pages)
 1. Why do you want to be a fellow at New Urban Arts? What do you want from the experience? How will the Arts Mentoring Fellowship experience help you to achieve your future goals?
 2. Please describe your experience working with the arts in youth and community development. What questions are you currently asking about the nature of this work?
 3. Describe yourself as an artist. What is your definition of a creative practice? How do you imagine using our studio for your own personal creative practice? What are your equipment, supply and spatial needs? How do you imagine engaging students during a week-long school vacation break as an artist in resident?
 4. Propose a creative documentation project, reflective of New Urban Arts pedagogy and practice that sparks interactive dialogue both within and outside of the New Urban Arts community. (i.e. public workshops, trainings, readings, exhibitions, published resources, storefront installation, etc)
 5. What specific professional and personal skills do you believe you need to further develop in your work as an artist engaged in community and working with youth?