

## **exhibition criteria**

revised March, 2016

Works/San José is your volunteer-run, non-profit community art and performance center. Founded in 1977, Works encourages artists, curators, and the community to take creative risks by showcasing emerging, innovative, and experimental visual, performance, new media, installation, and interdisciplinary art. Works is a forum where artists and the community can interact to expand the scope of cultural and artistic experience, and challenge the boundaries of contemporary art.

Applicants must be willing to provide the work and resources necessary for a professional quality exhibition, but previous curatorial and exhibit experience is not required. The exhibition program at Works is a unique professional development opportunity in which artists and curators collaborate with Works volunteers through the production of their exhibition. While collaborative and participatory, the intellectual content of an exhibition is solely the work of the curator(s) and artists.

### **Guest Curator Program**

Works seeks proposals for group exhibitions that have a clear and strong conceptual foundation that would engage the community. Preference is given to proposals involving current work from 3 or more artists in this conceptual framework.

Concepts can be community based, involve global to personal issues, or even concepts within art making. Works strives to present a broad variety of viewpoints, diverse opinions, and range of creative statements.

In order to facilitate community engagement, each exhibition is required to host a community outreach event or activity of some kind. Proposals can also include performers or others who are not in the physical art exhibit, but perform during openings, special performance nights, or during regular hours.

Works/San José provides facilities, insurance, promotion, and related operational costs. Works' expenses are currently about \$2500 for a one-month exhibition—a 3 week show plus install and deinstall. This is a very low operations cost compared to other organizations, and Works is constantly seeking funding opportunities. Works does not expect funding from individual artists or curators, but requires support from any group or entity wishing to 'co-present' an exhibit or program with Works. Works often provides funds for pre-approved installation materials, but cannot provide funding for the production of the art itself. Exhibitors seeking outside grants and other funding are encouraged to include a facilities budget in grant requests and collaborate with Works on any exhibition grant proposals. The majority of Works' funding is from the donations of individuals in our community, and Works receives a portion of its funding from the City of San José, Silicon Valley Creates, and corporate matching funds. Presently, Works is completely volunteer-run with no employees, so seeks volunteers for the setup and gallery sitting for each exhibition.

There are no entry or acceptance fees for exhibitions or performances.

Work in exhibitions may be available for sale at the discretion of the artists. All exhibits are presented as in a museum or reputable gallery where pricing, resumes, other promotions, or contact information, is only on a sheet or binder at the entry table. With the exception of the Benefit Auction, pricing is not to appear on the walls. A 25% commission is requested of each sale in, or resulting from, an exhibition at Works. Art sold must remain for the duration of the exhibit. If sales are handled between an artist or other group and buyer, all sales tax and other obligations are the responsibility of that seller.

Applications must have a minimum of two (2) artists—with strong preference given to groups of 3 or more. Applying curators may also be artists in their exhibitions. Selection is by committee.

Previous individual guest curators are ineligible to apply for two (2) years, and one (1) year for individual 'co-curators.' Artists may participate in the Members Show or Benefit Auction without affecting eligibility. Board members of Works/San José may not apply or be proposed as primary exhibiting artists. Exceptions might be made for exhibitions with open calls on a case-by-case basis. Proposals must include the artist selection method and criteria, including any restrictions or proposed fees.

**Applications may be submitted at any time.**