

exhibition criteria

revised February, 2020

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 time and effort 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 concepts and intellectual content of an exhibition are expected to come from the guest curator(s) and artists.

Guest Curator Program

Works seeks proposals for group exhibitions of 3 or more artists that have a clear and strong conceptual foundation that would engage the community. Preference is given to proposals involving new current work from 3 or more artists, and that include emerging artists and/or curators with a range of backgrounds and connections to our communities. We do not, however, exclude any possibilities. Curators may also be artists in their exhibitions.

Concepts can be community based, involve global to personal issues, or even concepts within art making. We tend to favor issue-oriented exhibitions over art technique, but we encourage all to talk with us about concepts prior to making a submission. 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 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 average about \$5000 for a one-month exhibition—a 3 week show plus install and deinstall. While this is a relatively low operations cost compared to other organizations, 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 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. A major part of Works' funding is from the donations of individuals in our community, and Works is also funded, in part, by Cultural Affairs grants from the City of San José, Silicon Valley Creates, California Arts Council, and other grant opportunities that become available. 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, is not a focal point with the work. Member artists receive 90% of sales and non-members receive 75%. Art sold must remain for the duration of an exhibit.

Previous individual guest curators are ineligible to apply for two (2) years, and one (1) year for individual 'co-curators.' Artists may participate in an 'open call' exhibition, 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, but may respond to open calls. Proposals must include the artist selection method and criteria, including any restrictions or proposed fees.

Approved exhibition proposals are chosen by the Board of Directors of Works. Applicants are encouraged to communicate with a Board member prior to presenting a proposal to identify any potential problem, such as a recent similar concept being shown or being outside Works' mission or physical capability.

Applications may be submitted at any time.