

## group exhibition criteria

revised June, 2023

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 community can interact to expand the scope of cultural and artistic experience.

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 staff 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 and current work that include emerging artists and/or curators. Works must demonstrate that it hosts artists and curators with a range of backgrounds and connections that reflect the diversity of our city and communities.

Exhibitions run 3 to 6 weeks and cover at least one First Friday art walk event. There is a modest curatorial stipend that may vary with budget. 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 and strong theme-oriented exhibitions over art technique, and 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. Unlike having a consistent approach to exhibitions, we look to host themes that are different from whatever we've recently done or have scheduled.

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 open hours.

Works 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 ask for 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 usually provides 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, and Works is funded, in part, by Cultural Affairs grants from the City of San José, Silicon Valley Creates, California Arts Council, Applied Materials Foundation, and other grant opportunities that become available. Works is 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, or other promotions, are not a focal point. 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. Exhibit time slots are limited and applications are competitive. Applicants are encouraged to communicate with Works prior to presenting a proposal to identify concerns, such as a recent similar concept being scheduled, or a concept being outside Works' mission or physical capability.

**Applications are currently due November 1 and May 1 each year.**