The City of Atlanta - Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) is currently seeking creative and innovative Scholar in Residence for the 2019 ELEVATE Public Art Program. Experienced local Scholars are invited to submit qualifications and budget breakdowns through 11:59pm EST, August 9, 2019.

ABOUT ELEVATE:

Hosted annually by the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs in various locations around Atlanta, ELEVATE is a temporary public art program that seeks to invigorate the Atlanta area through visual art, performances, and cultural events. The focus of ELEVATE is to enhance the city’s cultural offerings by providing free, quality cultural experiences that highlight what makes Atlanta unique and increasing Atlanta's cultural and economic vitality.

Each October, ELEVATE is presented with a specially curated “theme” that emphasizes various artistic elements and features local, national and/or international art and artists strategically presented to capture the interest and imagination of viewers, while providing an entirely new and accessible experience for Atlanta.

Program Overview

The Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs plans to help enliven, accentuate, and improve the built environment in the Pittsburgh community with this year’s ELEVATE programming. Following are the anticipated activities:

- A Reimagining of a local grocery with interior upgrades
- Multiple movie screenings including local short films and a documentary on voter suppression
• A Dance performance followed by a silent disco
• One gallery opening
• Community paint day with a muralist guiding the design

**Project Scope (SACRED STREET)**

This is a photo project that aims to capture what is sacred to the members of the Pittsburgh community. Sacred Street is hiring local photographers to lend their abilities to community leaders who will assist in compiling a photo magazine of Pittsburgh’s sacred spaces. This project amplifies community voices that will tell the story of their neighborhood through the lens of its inhabitants. Viewers will understand what is sacred about the neighborhood through staged photos and archival and interview material gathered by the photographers to accompany the stories.

**Project Scope: (SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE):**

Scholar in Residence will conduct thorough research through both archival findings and primary source interviews with Pittsburgh community members to inform the editorial direction of the Sacred Street publication. Scholars will work alongside photographers, graphic designers, and curatorial team to ensure artistic direction of Sacred Street is historically sound and culturally sensitive to the community it seeks to capture.

**Approach/ Budget**

**Research:** Scholars will use AUC Woodruff library and state archives to gather information on Pittsburgh community history.

**Field Work:** Scholars will be acting as location scouts for photographers by utilizing historical research to find notable community areas and sites that are to be considered “Sacred” to members and legacy of Pittsburgh community. Sites can be houses of notable historical figures, churches, organizing centers, libraries, parks etc. Sites can also be negative space, or spaces which were once central to community life that have not been preserved or replaced altogether (think laundromat where a school once stood.) Scholars will aid photographs in editorial choices to reenact historical community events or engage historical spaces.
➢ **Oral History:** Curatorial team will set up meetings with community experts, leaders, etc. to navigate editorials. Oral histories will be edited, archived, and digitized for ADAMA website.

➢ **Community surveying:** Scholars will engage casually with community members of varying ages to assess general sentiments about community, history, and future development. Scholars may choose to frequent lively community spaces (barbershops, parks, etc) or formally attend community meetings.

➢ **Creative Writing:** Scholars will create short essays, images, etc that will serve as captions to contextualize the editorial images in their historical relevance and community value.

**Budget:**
- $750 Scholar Fee
- $250 Material Costs (note taking materials, gas, printing, book/archive access, etc.)

Total: $1000

**Outcome:** Scholars will act as creative historians in bolstering historical relevance of editorial images and directing the story behind the Sacred Street publication.

**Timeline:**
- **August 12:** begin research
- **August 13-15 TBA:** oral history (curatorial team will provide thoughtful candidates to be interviewed for oral histories)
- **September 9-16:** written text and photography to be submitted for publication. Scholars will work alongside graphic designer to provide introductions, captions, etc. for Sacred Street publication.
- **September 27:** short writings for exhibition labels will be due for printing and commercial installation alongside images and outdoor wheat paste activations
- **October 16:** Sacred Street book release party & community museum interactive. Wednesday 5-6PM
Artist Eligibility

Scholar in residence with the following qualifications are preferred:

- At least 1-3 years of experience in a related field (e.g., art history, research, photography, video, etc.)
- Historian with undergraduate degree or in graduate program
- Experience with oral histories
- Scholarly writing samples
- Ability to synthesize research findings and to uncover and articulate insights that will inform and inspire design. Researchers must be able to lead the team through the analysis and synthesis processes – focusing on the most important insights, linking them together in frameworks or principles for design.
- Ability to work flexibly and efficiently. We are looking for people who can maintain a high degree of rigor throughout, but who also experiment in their approach and methodology.
- Basic visual literacy with a broad understanding of photography as a medium
- Excellent communication skills with the ability to present complex ideas to different audiences.
- Strong research and analytical skills, with the ability to synthesize and interpret large amounts of qualitative and quantitative data.
- Proven ability to manage multiple distinct projects at the same time.
- Positive, collaborative attitude with a passion for creative excellence.
- Experience thriving in a fast-moving, dynamic creative environment.

Scholar Submission

Please submit the following to be considered for the position:

- 1-page personal statement of interest
- CV/ Resume
- 2 scholarly writing samples

Availability from August- October 2019
Deadline: To be considered please apply using the linked google form below: https://forms.gle/2Z3oHukmUx8PpKC3A by August 9th before 11:59pm. PDF packets that do not have all documents mentioned above will be disqualified.

Qualifications will be reviewed by the Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs beginning in August 9th, 2019.

QUESTIONS?
Please email Michael Ewing at elevateatl2019@gmail.com or call us at 346-213-9422

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