



## **Proposals Invited for Interactive Work and/or Hands-on Art Engagements**

**Selections to be showcased at spark! Mesa's Festival of Creativity, Mesa, AZ**  
**Saturday, March 17, 2018: Noon – 11 p.m.**  
**Sunday, March 18, 2018: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: December 15, 2017 @ 5:00PM MST**

spark! Mesa's Festival of Creativity seeks proposals from artists practicing in a variety of disciplines, to facilitate existing or new works/or hands-on engagements that are unique, creative and highly engaging for the 2018 festival being held on Saturday, March 17, noon-10 p.m. and Sunday, March 18, 2018, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Mesa Arts Center. **The theme of the 2018 event will be "Art in Motion."**

Mesa Arts Center is the largest multidisciplinary arts center in the Southwest U.S. and features four magnificent buildings on a seven-acre campus. Saturday evening will feature spark! After Dark activities from 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. Held during spring break and in the heart of Cactus League Spring Training month, spark! is an immersive festival environment featuring participatory activities, music, original performances, art and more. Work that is likely to be competitive will be interactive, participatory or kinetic, generating a sense of wonder or excitement through its unique use of materials, exploration of ideas, or combination of disciplines and/or experiences. Works must be visually attractive during day time and evening hours.

Proposals may be submitted for installations/hands on arts engagements that will be able to be experienced in an outdoor setting, either on hard surface or grass. The proposed work must be available for public interaction throughout, or at repeated intervals, during the two days of the festival. Proposed work must be designed to be experienced in both daytime and night time environments. The artist, facilitators(s) or knowledgeable representatives must be on-site throughout the festival to set up/maintain pieces or participatory workshops, to present interactives, or to lead interaction with multi-media work. Artist is also responsible for removal of all materials at the close of the festival.

Applicants are encouraged to think outside the box, exploring site-specific art installations that create exciting environments or use shadow, light or color to change the way the Mesa Arts Center campus is experienced. Proposals for installations can include temporarily affixing materials to the architecture at Mesa Arts Center, as long as they are not heavy objects creating safety hazards. Proposals can include community art projects that involve participation by festival visitors, including an on-site community build, or projects that ask visitors to contribute pieces of art, writing or ideas to realize a shared vision or capture community input. If a hands-on portion is involved with artist's proposal, artist is expected to provide the staff assistance needed to facilitate the proposed activity during the festival hours.



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### Proposal Requirements:

**Narrative (maximum of three pages):** Proposals must describe in detail the work /engagement being proposed for the festival. The work can be existing or new work. If existing work, then photos, videos and/or written descriptions and reviews are requested. If the work is new and does not yet exist, it must be described in detail, and any segments /diagrams/drawings that are available should be provided, making the application much more competitive. In addition, the goals of the work, and an explanation of how it will actively engage and captivate the imaginations of audiences, must be included.

**Presentation/Exhibition Requirements (maximum of two pages):** Identify the specific environment needed to present the work. Provide the size of the space needed, any particular type of ground plane required for installation or engagement, if a pedestal, table, riser or stage is required and the size(s), how any physical components will be secured or anchored, electricity or other infrastructure needs, and weather considerations (if objects, components, sets or performers need to have a protective covering such as a tent or canopy). Also indicate if dressing rooms are required (indoor dressing rooms are extremely limited due to events in the theaters, but an outdoor dressing tent/props storage area might be able to be provided). Please specify the number of performances or amount/type of patron engagement provided each day of the two-day festival (length of each service and total number of services per day). All projects are to be self-contained; ***Mesa Arts Center will not provide any design, equipment or technical support beyond creating access to venue, and limited use of available equipment or personnel for assistance with load-in or load-out.*** NOTE: IF additional technical support is required, it must be described in this section.

**Biographies of Key Artistic Personnel Involved:** Include a biography for each key artist in the project (maximum one page each).

**References** for Principal Artist(s): Please provide a minimum of two references for prior exhibited, presented or performed work by the principal artist(s) proposing the work. References must be professional or educational contacts that have personal experience of the quality of the work of these artists.

**Supplementary Materials:** ***A total of two additional pages*** may be provided for illustrative purposes or to expand on information about the artist's/ensemble's work, including but not limited to reviews, articles, photos or illustrations. ***A short (maximum five-minute) video*** may also be provided and/or links to web sites or other online resources. ***Photos, illustrations or sketches*** are highly recommended, where possible, to help the selection panel better understand the work being planned/proposed.



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**Contact Information** for Artist or Artist Representative must be provided: include phone, email, website (if applicable), mailing address, and location of business/residence (if a P.O. Box is provided as the mailing address).

**Budget:** A complete expense budget must be provided that includes the fee for presentation and transportation of the work, to include all costs for materials, production items, and artists required for the presentation. If hotel, transportation or per diem are requested within the fee, please state that clearly and indicate the amount of the fee that is being used for those items. If the fee requested from MAC will not cover all expenses, please indicate other sources of income that will be used to realize the project.

**Total Project Fees:** Proposed total fees for a project should not exceed \$15,000, however, there is a limited budget for works solicited through this RFP, so proposals for projects of \$5,000 or less will have the best chance of being selected. Project proposals larger than \$5,000 should be extraordinary, large-scale, participatory and able to engage large numbers of festival patrons.

**Submission:** Send proposals to: Shawn Lawson at [shawn.lawson@mesaartscenter.com](mailto:shawn.lawson@mesaartscenter.com) or Mesa Arts Center, One East Main Street, P.O. Box 1466, Mesa AZ 85211-1466. Submissions must be received by 5 p.m. M.S.T. on December 15, 2017. All applicants will be notified of the selection panel's decisions by Jan 12, 2018.

**Questions?** Contact: Shawn Lawson at [shawn.lawson@mesaartscenter.com](mailto:shawn.lawson@mesaartscenter.com) or 480-644-6627.