



**MESA  
ARTS  
CENTER**

## Mesa Prototyping Project 2018-19: Dream | Design | Discover Community Residencies - Request for Qualifications

The **Mesa Prototyping Project** seeks to build community relationships by connecting neighbors to each other using arts resources, and by offering creative ways to explore community ideas and goals. The project focuses on a group of neighborhoods surrounding Artspace Lofts that are within walking distance of each other, but isolated by a busy main road and multiple large industrial sites. We seek to expand civic engagement while testing community-informed design solutions to enhance vibrancy in the neighborhoods.

### **Phase I of this project includes:**

- **Artist residencies** at the Mesa Artspace Lofts/Mesa Urban Garden and CARE Partnership, both located South of Broadway near downtown. Artist teams will be made up of 2-4 artists, who will engage residents in art workshops through which participants explore goals for their community. In addition, each artist team will facilitate at least **four** neighborhood walks during which residents will identify areas that need enhancement.
- **A culminating community event** in April 2019 will celebrate the ideas and artwork generated by participants during the residencies.

*This residency is Phase I of a two-phase project. Phase II will involve an RFP process inviting proposals for prototypes that will respond to community needs at 10 of the sites identified in the residency neighborhood walks. For more information on the larger project, please contact Sarah Goedicke at [sarah.goedicke@mesaartscenter.com](mailto:sarah.goedicke@mesaartscenter.com).*

### **Artist Residency Opportunity:**

Two artist teams will be chosen, each partnering with one of two community service organizations near downtown, to engage residents in using art workshops to explore and express their personal, neighborhood and community goals. **Each artist team will be made up of two to four artists**, each preferably working in different artistic disciplines, or at least in different genres/styles. The applicants are asked to identify and propose their team, considering artistic disciplines (visual, performance or literary) that will be effective at engaging the community, helping them explore techniques and self-expression through the art form. **The artists will employ art workshops as a tool for building relationships with and among neighbors.** They will lead group processes through which participants use art to explore their own ideas, needs, hopes and dreams, and feelings about family, neighborhood, and community.

### Artist teams will:

- Explore residents' ideas and aspirations through art-making, in workshops at one of the two community partners - CARE Partnership or Mesa Artspace Lofts/Mesa Urban Garden.
- Facilitate at least **four** neighborhood walks, promoted to area residents, asking participants to identify areas in need of creative interventions to enhance aesthetics, walkability or gathering spaces, or address other needs or opportunities.
- Lead a series of at least **ten** workshops/sessions with residents, guiding participants in using the art-making process and the creation of artwork (visual, literary and/or performance) to explore feelings and ideas about family and belonging, about neighborhood and community.
- Advise on and help implement a culminating one-day event in April 2019, to be held in and near the public spaces of Mesa Artspace Lofts, celebrating and showcasing work made by community participants. Logistics for the event will be managed by the Prototyping Task Force and Mesa Art Center.
- Timeline: Residencies will occur over 5-6 months, with the expectation that November – December 2018 will be for planning/organizing and January – April 2019 will be used for community workshops.

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## **Community Partners**

[Catholic Charities Care Campus \(formerly CARE Partnership\):](#)

466 South Bellview

Mesa, AZ 85204

*Catholic Charities Mission:*

- Helping our community's most vulnerable with solutions that permanently improve lives.

*CARE Partnership:*

- Mobilizes the caring power of community to provide opportunities for all people to achieve their optimum well-being.
- Nurtures self-sufficiency and civic responsibility by encouraging individuals to engage in volunteer activities for the benefit of others, CARE optimizes community resources by bringing diverse people together to work for the common good.
- Through empowerment and value recognition, we believe communities can strengthen and become vibrant.

[Mesa Urban Garden:](#)

212 East 1st Avenue

Mesa, AZ 85201

*Mission:*

- To inspire sustainable urban living through gardening opportunities, education, community involvement and creative cooperation to strengthen families and enhance and beautify our community.

[Mesa Artspace Lofts:](#)

155 South Hibbert

Mesa, AZ, 85210

*Mission:*

- Create, foster, and preserve affordable and sustainable space for artists and arts organizations
  - Artspace
    - Provides spaces where artists can affordably live and work
    - Supports the movement for equitable, artist-led community development
    - Preserves spaces that remain accessible to artists and their families

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**Artist in Residence Application:**

**Qualification Criteria:**

Each application must align with the criteria to be considered for selection. Application narrative **must demonstrate and explain** previous community engagement experiences, **describe** inclusive strategies for collaborating with community organizations and residents in the neighborhood, and **explain** the applicant's interest in working with either Mesa Artspace Lofts/Mesa Urban Garden or CARE partnership.

**Team**

- **Describe** the makeup of the artist team and share each person's skills, experience and qualifications, and why they enhance the team and the residency.
- Identify a team leader (to provide resume or CV)
- Identify team members (to provide bios)

**Experience**

- Demonstrate previous community engagement experience
- Explain philosophy for working with Community

**Interest**

- Explain your interest in working with either Mesa Artspace Lofts/Mesa Urban Garden or CARE partnership (or why you are open to working with either, but why this work interests you)
- Explain what you hope to achieve, personally and professionally, through this work.
- Explain why community collaboration as a means of creative practice interests you.

**Strategies**

- Describe inclusive strategies for collaborating with the selected community partners and residents in their neighborhoods. (These communities are near downtown but have cultural, economic and physical barriers that reinforce isolation and may discourage engagement and participation with downtown and its resources).

**Project Budget**

- Each team will be awarded \$7,500 for their work with one of the Community Partners.
  - To cover all costs, including: all artist's fees, transportation, coordination, and materials. \*
- Provide a thoughtful budget
  - Do you anticipate unusual material or production costs that cannot be accommodated with your budget allocation? \*

\*Additional funds may be allocated for materials if there is a compelling case or extenuating circumstances due to the project and materials being employed. The artist may be asked to help pursue in-kind materials, as appropriate and feasible.

**Submission deadline is November 5, 2018.**

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**Submission Materials**

Please save your application as a single PDF (LastName\_FirstInitial.pdf) in the following order.

- **Cover sheet:** providing Project Lead's name, contact information (1 page)
- **Narrative:** Description of your artwork and inspirations, and suggested processes and experiences you propose bringing to the residency. Include plan for engaging and getting to know the community, your experience facilitating group process, and artistic processes that may be employed as part of the residency. Share why you have selected the members of your artist team, and how you will work collaboratively to achieve the project goals. (3-page maximum)
- **Budget:** Please provide budget considerations you feel the panel should understand in considering your application, including any concerns about the ability to cover materials costs within the budget total. (See Project Budget above).
- **Project Lead Biography** (2-page maximum)
- **Individual Artist Team Member Biographies (1-page maximum)**
- **Examples or samples of previous work:** Provide a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 9 work samples, or links to videos, as applicable, for each member of the artist team, with a one-page list and description of the examples, including names of artworks or projects, dates, location and dimensions.
- **References:** Provide a minimum of two references for people who have experienced your artwork or creative process, collaborated with you, or helped organize presentation of your artwork or your community-based work. Please provide name, how the person knows your work, email address and phone number.

\*Please indicate in biographies if any team members have working knowledge of, or proficiency in, Spanish.

Examples of prior community-based work are preferred, although other work can also be provided (can include images, articles, videos, synopsis of projects). Work samples demonstrating diversity of experience/projects will increase the competitiveness of your application.

Once initial submissions have been reviewed, a select number of applicants will be invited to interview with the community partner organizations before a final decision is made in mid to late November.

**Incomplete submissions will not be accepted.**

Email completed application to [sarah.goedicke@mesaartscenter.com](mailto:sarah.goedicke@mesaartscenter.com) on or before 11:59pm, November 5, 2018.