

Request for Qualifications (RFQ): Interactive Art Zine

Introduction

Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning, and award-winning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy live entertainment and performances, world-class visual art exhibitions, outstanding arts education classes, and compelling events and festivals. Mesa Arts Center's vision is an arts ignited and inspired community, our mission is to create meaningful arts experiences in Mesa for everyone.

MABEL, a program of Mesa Arts Center, is an adaptable, 12-foot modular trailer that takes community engagement on the road as a flexible creative space and pop-up arts center. Free and accessible hands-on artistic experiences with MABEL are meant to create connections on the spot, prompt discussion, catalyze change and spark creativity. MABEL provides free, accessible programming by request to existing events ie community events, parks, schools, farmer's markets and more, with a developing focus on under-served neighborhoods, meeting residents where they are. This work is fundamental to our larger mission.

RFQ: Art/Design Services

Mesa Arts Center's Mobile Art-Based Engagement Lab, MABEL, seeks an artist or artist team with a strong commitment to community and print-based media. We invite qualified artists to submit qualifications for work related to the creation of an Interactive Art Zine to be used as part of MABEL's free programming in 2025-2026 as supplies last.

Scope of Work

The selected artist will develop an 12-16 page engaging zine, formatted at 5.5" x 8" (A4 size pages folded and stapled). The page count must be divisible by 4 to accommodate printing front and back on a two-page layout. The zine may be an existing work (to be agreed upon by both the artist and the Arts Center) or a developed zine. Files must be submitted linked and packaged with cut and bleed lines.

The scope of work includes the following:

- The zine should align with MABEL's core pillars to Create Connections, Spark Creativity, Catalyze Change, and Prompt Discussion.
- The zine should be engaging and interactive, encouraging participation from a diverse community.
- The final version will be printed in-house by Mesa Arts Center at no cost to the artist.
- A total of 550 copies will be printed, with 50 copies allocated to the artist for personal use, sale, or distribution.

Compensation

- Total compensation: Starting at \$1,000 per completed 12 page zine.
- The stipend covers concept development, content creation, and final artwork delivery.
- Artists will retain ownership of their work and may distribute or sell their personal copies.

Qualifications

The ideal artist or artist team should possess the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated experience in creating zines, print media, or interactive design.
- A diverse portfolio showcasing work that resonates with a variety of communities.
- Knowledge of community engagement through art and storytelling.
- Strong communication skills and ability to collaborate effectively with our team.
- Commitment to managing deadlines and delivering high-quality print-ready work.

Proposal Submission

Interested artists should submit the following:

1. **A cover letter** expressing interest in working with Mesa Arts Center's Mobile Art-Based Engagement Lab and serving the communities who attend MABEL events.
2. **A selected portfolio** showcasing relevant zine projects, print media, and interactive storytelling.
3. **A brief project proposal** (can reference an existing zine or proposed zine) outlining the theme, interactive elements, and engagement strategies.
4. **Artist Resume/CV** including relevant experience and past projects.

Submission Deadline

11:59pm June 1, 2025

Selection Process

Our organization will review all submissions and select the most qualified candidates based on experience, portfolio quality, and alignment with our mission and values.

How to Apply

Send all required materials in a **single PDF file** to mabel@mesaartscenter.com with the subject line: "MABEL Zine RFQ Submission – [Your Name]" by 11:59pm June 1, 2025.

Questions?

Contact our MABEL team at:

mabel@mesaartscenter.com

We look forward to receiving your qualifications and partnering with a talented artist who shares the City of Mesa and Mesa Arts Center's commitment to providing compelling and engaging arts experiences.