

Welcome to the Art Shanty Projects 2023 Artist Forum!

June 16, 2022 @ 6pm



Erin Lavelle (she/her/hers) - Artistic Director
Emily McGrath (she/her/hers) - Board Member



ARTIST FORUM AGENDA

Art Shanty overview - who we are!

2023 Program Details - dates, location

Open Call - 2023 guidelines, application process

Types of projects

Performances + Art Actions -

spaces available this year, examples

Shanties - examples of pandemic adaptations

Q&A, artist tips, knowledge sharing, etc



MISSION:

Art Shanty Projects intentionally creates an impermanent art village on Minnesota lake ice amid changing climate and environment. With a spirit of embracing challenges through creativity, we support an ecosystem that inspires everyone to create and participate in art, thrive in winter, and build community.



ART SHANTY PROJECTS

Art Shanty Projects History



- Operating since 2004
- Medicine Lake, White Bear Lake, Bde Unma (Lake Harriet)
- Inspired by ice fishing villages; creating temporary community, subverting winter traditions through art. There are few regulations and no building codes on the lake!
- Focus on engagement and interaction, social aspect of the village
- Public art: we attract tens of thousands of visitors - mostly adult humans, some with children, also other animals (dogs, cats, chickens . . .)

Who we are!

We're a small 501c3
nonprofit arts organization
made up of very
enthusiastic, creative,
resourceful people who
make a BIG event happen!



**6 part-time staff members
(2 year-round / 4 seasonal)**



12 working board members *(here are just a few)*



Volunteers during the program



And of course ARTISTS!



Why are we here today?

Write in the chat any of these (or other!) reasons:

- To connect / reconnect
- To learn more about the guidelines
- To talk about what worked in 2022
- To ask and answer questions, lean into collective knowledge



OVERVIEW of the 2023 On-Ice Program



LOCATION: Bde Unma / Lake Harriet in Minneapolis

PROGRAM DATES: January 21 - February 12, 2023

PUBLIC HOURS: 10am - 4pm Saturdays and Sundays

(shanty installation weekend is January 14-15, strike is February 18-19)

LET'S REVIEW KEY GUIDELINES !!!

(please read the FULL guidelines BEFORE SUBMITTING!)

Shanty Artists:

<https://artshantyprojects.org/2023-call-for-shanty-artists/>

Performances + Art Actions:

<https://artshantyprojects.org/2023-call-for-performances-art-actions/>

FAQs:

<https://artshantyprojects.org/2023-faqs-for-applicants/>

TWO TYPES OF PROJECTS / OPEN CALLS

Shanties: physical installations that remain throughout the month and are staffed by artists during all public festival hours



Performances + art actions: projects for shorter durations (an hour, a day, a few days, etc). They may or may not have physical structures.



Continued Pandemic & Climate Change Requirements

Pandemic related:

- Outdoor experience for visitors!
- Artists can design shanties for themselves to be inside
- Not checking vaccine cards for visitors
- We won't require masks outside, TBD for shared back of house spaces

Climate change related:

- Shanties are required to be mobile!
- Be able to adjust with people power!
- We have strict weight limits for shanties!
- Performers should be able to adapt their project on shore if necessary

Also: no shanty 'teams' of one (does not apply to performers)

Why the continued pandemic guidelines?



Main reasons: community input, public health, organizational stability, minimizing risks, maximizing creativity

2022 was wildly successful both artistically and safety-wise. We had no major COVID incidents (while other events and venues closed down during omicron surge)

We surveyed artists, staff, board, visitors; there was overwhelming support of being cautious again and continuing the adapted parameters.

Accessibility



Current festival initiatives:

- ramps to the ice + a fleet of kicksleds to get around
- Daily ASL interpreters, audio describers
- Website has been assessed and re-designed for accessibility, alt text on all images in communications

Artists are expected to incorporate accessibility into their project design:

- Interact at different heights
- Engage multiple senses
- Ramps required if visitors physically interact on raised platforms

WHO can submit an application?



ANYONE that wants to propose new and innovative ways to engage artistically with the public in the social context of a village on a frozen lake.

Music-makers, poets, builders, citizen scientists, dancers, puppeteers, writers, painters, outdoors-people, conversationalists, craftspeople, storytellers, activists, athletes, etc...

Artists can live anywhere, but we do not have additional stipends for travel or lodging.

HOW does the Open Call process work?

Submit an application through a google form (due July 14) !!!

- The Artistic Director assembles and oversees 2 jury panels - one for shanty submissions and one for performances + art actions
- Each jury includes one current ASP board member + one past ASP artist, plus other artists, curators or arts professionals
- The jury panelists independently review + score applications and the they gather to discuss the submissions until they arrive upon a curatorial decision collectively (their rubric is available on the ASP website!)

SEEKING JURORS

If you or someone you know wants to sit on the jury panel, send a nomination to:

program@artshantyprojects.org

Jurors receive a \$100 honorarium for their work.

We especially need past shanty artists + performers! Current-year applicants are not eligible.



What criteria are used for evaluating proposals?

- **Vision:** An exciting idea with adherence to Art Shanty Projects artistic goals and with a sound plan for audience engagement
- **Design and Feasibility:** Clear understanding of design/building requirements and evidence of capacity to successfully build the structure / rehearse the performance, staff the project during public hours, and engage with the community of participants (including artists, visitors, volunteers, staff and board members).

Due to the challenging nature of operating on a frozen lake, design + feasibility carries equal weight to vision!

What are the artistic goals?

1. Projects should contribute to creating a **vibrant village**, with a balance of both **bold and intimate** structures and activities. Shanties should be **visually appealing**, collectively enough to draw participants across the ice from the shore to our village. Performances and art actions should **add to the atmosphere** of the village and encourage people to linger.
2. We are intentionally creating a temporary village and **social community**. Projects should **encourage active co-creation** with a wide array of participants, including other artists, visitors, volunteers, staff, or the occasional non-human animal.
3. Projects should **engage multiple senses** to maximize participation in an effort to creatively remove barriers due to language, mobility, hearing, sight or otherwise.
4. We are operating on Indigenous water and have a responsibility to help protect it. Projects should **respect and engage with the natural environment of the frozen lake** and engage in sustainable practices and choices, whenever possible. We have a 'leave no trace' philosophy, only footsteps should be left behind.
5. The festival aims to engage with a wide array of artistic and cultural perspectives, being mindful of intersections of race, class, gender, age, ability, etc. Artists should not appropriate other cultures in their work, but instead focus on creating projects that **invite exchange with their own personal culture, practices, process, perspective, etc.**

What are the application components?

Contact information - pick one person who will represent your group

Written questions

- Please answer directly and plainly!
- Don't assume jurors know your work (even if it's past Art Shanty work)
- Make a case for your idea! Even if you've presented it before.

Supporting Materials - sketches, renderings, audio samples, videos, photos, etc.

- These should help illustrate or animate your concept for the jury
- You can also include past work samples, if they relate to your proposal and/or demonstrate the kind of work you do and your ability to create this project
- These samples can be work from anyone on your team - please make it clear who the artist or artists are

Compensation

Shanty artist stipend: \$2500 (this is a \$100 increase since 2022)

Performer stipend: up to \$800 depending on duration, frequency, group size, supply needs, and other factors (ask for what you need, detailed by category)

ASP also provides:

- Production support during the process
- Ways to connect with the shanty community
- Resources for free / discounted materials, equipment sharing, makers space access, etc. as much as possible

Some important things to note...

- No electricity on the ice! Generators are not allowed! Think low-tech, high impact - cranks, levers, bicycle-powered contraptions, solar, deep cycle batteries, etc.
- No ice carousels, no swimming holes cut into the ice (for safety reasons)
- Consider the potential for weather changes -- extreme cold, snow, wind, rain, sleet, warming, melting, etc. Make sure your idea works reasonably well in all of these scenarios!
- Prioritize repurposed materials whenever possible! Sustainability and financial reasons. We have resources on where to obtain these.

Types of Projects: PERFORMANCES + ART ACTIONS



Pandemic Consideration: Can you perform this masked and distanced, if necessary?
Can you perform it outdoors in variable weather conditions? (we have no interior performance spaces)

Climate Change Consideration: can you adapt if you end up performing this on shore due to unsafe ice?

Places to Perform (all on a frozen lake! yay!)

- **town square** (open area in a mildly chaotic gathering space)
- **NEW performance stage** (still in development, will include some sort of platform and framing)
- **in between shanties** - plowed pathways & open spaces; projects can be stationary or roving
- **at/near a specific shanty** (dependent on both projects being accepted by the jury)
- **other specific needs?** Let us know! We will try to accommodate them.

Let's look at some examples of these spaces...

Town Square (or, in 2022, Town Triangle)



On a performance 'stage'



We did not have a stage previously - but projects like these would be well supported by one!

In between spaces (stationary or roving)



At a specific shanty



Other specific needs/requests (examples from 2022)



Types of Projects: SHANTIES

Climate Change Requirements!

You need to be able to use people power to adjust your shanty in a pinch!

- melting + refreezing conditions
- emergency evacuation situations

Strict weight limit 1500 lbs (less is better)

You **MUST** have skis built in so you can slide it (likely wooden, 2x6 or 2x10s)

You cannot permanently stake your project into the ice (performers can temporarily stake something for a day)



Pandemic Adaptations continue: no visitors inside enclosed spaces!

IDEAS on how to make PANDEMIC adaptations work for you!

- Aquarium style viewing (artists inside, visitors outside looking in)
- Find ways to exchange from inside the shanty to outside of it through bank teller-style tubes, secret doors, take-out-style windows, intercoms / tin cans, mail slots, etc
- Open it up: turn your shanty inside out, build it without a 4th wall or ceiling, etc.
- Create archways, tunnels, things to go under/over/through/between
- Build a small back of house space for your artist team to warm up in

Let's look at some examples from 2022 projects...

Aquarium Style Viewing (artists inside / audiences outside)



Look inside!



**Not fully enclosed
(no roof, no doors, etc)**



Completely open-air



Windows! Exchange between inside and out



Advice on how to build warmth into your project design:

- ASP will provide two warming spaces for artists: on shore and on the ice
- Incorporate physical activity into your design / plan (for you and the visitors)
- Wear layers / big costumes / elaborate outfits as part of your design
- If you're a shanty artist, build something you can inhabit, incorporate a wind screen / ways to shelter from the wind



GET YOUR APPLICATION IN ON TIME!

<https://artshantyprojects.org/2023-open-calls/>

DEADLINE
July 14, 2022
@ 11:59pm

We can't wait to read your proposals!



FURTHER HELP WITH YOUR APPLICATION

- If you have a question about the guidelines, requirements or application questions, please send an email to program@artshantyprojects.org
- We do not have the capacity to review applications or give individual consultation in advance of the application deadline.
- We recommend reading our FAQs on the website for more in depth information.

THANK YOU for your interest to connect, and understanding of our capacity.

GRATITUDE!



Images used in this presentation are courtesy: Free Truth Media, Max Haynes, and ASP staff members