



**ART SHANTY PROJECTS**

## **2025 Open Call for Performances and Art Actions GUIDELINES + APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

**Deadline for proposals: Thursday, July 11, 2024 @11:59pm CST**

For more information on the organization visit <https://artshantyprojects.org/about-us/>

For FULL INFORMATION on our 2025 program, including a detailed timeline, please review the open call page on our website: <https://artshantyprojects.org/2025-call-for-performances-art-actions/>

\*This call is for PERFORMANCES + ART ACTIONS only. The call for shanty artists is available [HERE](#).

### **PERFORMANCE SPACES AVAILABLE:**

1. **The town square/triangle** - this is a large open space in the middle of the village. It is surrounded by shanties and is a hub of activity. It's ideal for performances that draw larger crowds and can handle a bit of mild chaos (examples of projects that did well here [a participatory flash mob](#), [a game of trash-ket ball](#)).
2. **At our performance stage!** This [open-air platform](#) provides a landing spot for more presentational performances. If you need a grounding space or backdrop for your performance, it's a good option for you. (examples of past projects that have done well here: [Taiko drumming](#), [theatrical shows](#))
3. **Pathways and in-between spaces** - performing anywhere in and around plowed paths and areas between shanties in the village. Roving projects are ideal for these spaces. (examples of past projects that have done well here: [Winter Plein Air Painters](#), [Lady Bear](#))
4. **At a specific shanty** (note: this needs to be coordinated with the shanty, and depends on acceptance of both projects!)
5. **In another open space, tbd** (there are always some projects that have specific needs, which we will do our best to accommodate! Examples include an [Ice skating](#) performance and [Native lacrosse](#))

*Depending on weather conditions projects may be required to perform on shore if the ice conditions are not safe.*

### **2025 PERFORMANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

Artists should take the following guidelines into consideration when designing or developing an idea to submit a successful proposal. All selected artists will receive consultation and resources for best practices from staff and past shanty artists to ensure a successful project.

### **1. Environment**

- The design of the project should take the environment and variable winter weather conditions into consideration, including wind, snow, extreme cold, rain, warming temperatures, etc. in relation to their project structures/elements/activities and their own bodies.
- Generators are not allowed at any time. We recommend using the principle of “low tech, high impact” to creatively make your project ‘work’, which may involve employing people power (think: bike-generated contraptions, manual levers or cranks, etc.). If the project requires other types of power, options include solar power, deep cycle batteries, and renewable methods for charging. Note that these options may not work perfectly in extremely cold weather conditions.
- Prioritize, whenever possible, using repurposed materials. Also consider the future life of your materials (can they be repurposed / recycled / composted?)
- We welcome projects that include sound elements, and will work to place chosen projects in appropriate places, but ask that artists respect neighboring projects.

### **2. Set-up - for projects that contain physical elements only (may not apply to all projects)**

- Elaborate set-up is not recommended. Design pre-assembly into planning as much as possible. It’s not a simple task to assemble things on a windy, cold, frozen lake while wearing mittens! If you have lots of materials to use, plan on making them easily transportable via sled.
- The lake sees intense winds which places incredible strain and wear on structures (and costumes!). Design your project elements to minimize the chance of materials falling off, blowing away, and being scattered as litter and/or frozen into the ice.
- We can provide a few sandbags for artists to weigh projects down if needed, but sandbags should NOT be considered a solution to stability or structural integrity
- The project should be designed to be physically accessible to people interacting at different heights (adults, children, people in wheelchairs, etc), which may include designing interactive elements at various levels, having a ramp incorporated into your structure, etc. We will review specific requirements with selected artists.

### **3. Safety**

- There are certain things that are not allowed for safety reasons, including: ice carousels, holes cut into the ice for swimming, etc. If you are unsure about your proposed activity, please contact us with questions before submitting it.
- Temporary daytime use of tents or fabric shelters is allowed, as long as structures are secured by drilling stakes into the ice or otherwise.

### **4. Logistics**

- To ensure the successful scheduling and placement of your project amid a vibrant festival, we will need to understand your site parameters, project duration, and the number of times you plan to enact it. We’d like a general idea of these in your proposal, but this can develop and be refined after acceptance.

#### 4. Community

- Our festival is open to all ages and abilities. Elements should be appealing to and appropriate for adults, some of whom might be looking after children. Your project should engage people in direct, participatory ways.
- All artists, staff, board members and volunteers will sign a community agreement, which is intended to support an inclusive space. It includes a commitment to respecting pronouns, using gender neutral language with strangers, getting consent to take photos, holding ourselves accountable to one another when we cause or witness harm, etc.

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be juried by a panel led by the Artistic Director which consists of an Art Shanty Projects board member representative, local artists, curators, and past participants using the following criteria:

- **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 requirements and evidence of capacity to successfully: prepare the project (through rehearsal, building/making of elements, etc), activate the project during public hours, operate in variable winter weather conditions, and engage with the community of participants (including artists, visitors, volunteers, staff and board members).

#### Tips for a Strong Proposal

- Jurors read a lot of proposals. Help them out by answering each question directly and plainly.
- Do not assume jury members know you or are familiar with your work. Make sure if you reference past projects (even if they're Art Shanty projects), you include them in your work samples.
- If you're proposing a remount of a past project, do not assume that just because you have done your project before, it will get chosen again. Make a strong case for it! Make sure it adapts to the current guidelines! Include documentation of it! Jurors may not have experienced it.
- Include supporting materials (renderings, relevant video or audio samples or past work) to further illustrate your proposal to the jurors, and give them an understanding of your aesthetic, vision, and ability to carry out your proposed project.
- Share a draft of your written proposal with someone else to read. Ask them to verbally describe your project back to you. This might help identify what is clear, and what needs more definition.

#### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

##### Part I: Basic Information

*Proposed project name (short answer)*

*Brief project concept (short answer, 1-2 sentence synopsis)*

*Primary Contact Name (short answer)*

Primary Contact Pronouns **(select all that apply)**

Primary Contact Cell Phone **(short answer)**

Primary Contact Email **(short answer)**

Who else is on your team? **(short answer, list individual or group names)**

Where in the village would you ideally enact your project? **Select all that apply:**

We will take this into consideration as we curate the festival as a whole, making sure to balance the areas activated. We cannot guarantee you'll get your first choice.

- In the Town Square/Triangle
- At the Performance Stage (best suited for larger / louder / bolder projects)
- In pathways / in-between spaces (roving or situated there)
- I have plans to be partnered with a specific shanty, assuming they are selected (please list details below)
- I'm interested in being partnered with a shanty, and am open to some matchmaking magic!
- I have other needs (which I will describe below)
- I'm flexible / open to direction on this

If you selected 'partnered with a specific shanty', which one do you have in mind? Have you coordinated with them yet? Reminder: this opportunity is pending approval of both projects by the juries. **(short answer, 1-2 sentences)**

If you selected "I have other needs", please describe what kind of space would suit you best. **(short answer, 1-2 sentences)**

In your ideal world, how many times would you do your activity? **(dropdown, 1-8 times)**

If it's more than once, do you want to do it **(select all that apply):**

- all on the same day
- over multiple days
- I'm flexible

What is the length of each engagement (ex. 2 hours, 4 hours, all day/6 hours) **(short answer)**

Do you have any other notes on the frequency, duration or timing of your project? Please note that staff curates the performance schedule considering the needs and requests of ALL groups - and we cannot guarantee specific dates or times but we will take them into consideration and work with all accepted artists to create a schedule that works for everyone! **(short answer)**

## **Part II: Artistic Goals**

Tell us all about the project you would like to create!

#### 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.

*Tell us about your project! What will your performance or art action entail? How does it contribute to creating the atmosphere of a social village? **(limit 1000 characters)***

*Describe how your project contributes to the interactive social community of the village. What is your experience with or interest in engaging with the public? How will you facilitate co-creation through this project? What will a visitor to the project do, experience, or learn? **(limit 1000 characters)***

*How will your project engage many ways of experiencing the world? (visual, sound, touch, smell, etc). What elements of your project will be especially engaging for people of various ages, who speak different languages, and/or have limited mobility, hearing, or sight? **(limit 800 characters)***

*Describe how your project relates to, interacts with, and/or respects the frozen lake and being outside in winter. This might be in relation to thematic content, connection to place or context, sustainable material choices, etc. Why do you want to do THIS project HERE in this context? **(limit 600 characters)***

*What personal cultures, practices, movements or perspectives is your project rooted in? (Examples: street art; DIY makers; Afrofuturism; eco-feminism; team sports; flow arts; puppetry; citizen science; etc). What excites you about sharing this with other people who may or may not be familiar with this? **(limit 600 characters)***

#### **Part III: Feasibility**

Address your ability to rehearse and complete the performance, and to enact it in our unique context.

*What skills do you and your collaborators have (or are eager to learn) that will contribute to the team's ability to rehearse and perform your project? This could relate to generating conceptual ideas, planning and rehearsing activities, enthusiasm for engaging with strangers, etc. **(Limit 1000 characters)***

*What are your production and/or technical needs? Please share how you plan to make your project happen, given the guidelines, challenges and opportunities of our location / context. NOTE: we do not have power, and generators are not allowed. See website for more details on how artists have powered their projects in the past. **(limit 800 characters)***

*With the potential of thousands of visitors per day, how will the interactive aspect of your project accommodate the potential flow of traffic and handle potential crowds? **(limit 600 characters)***

*Can your project happen on land in the event that the ice is unsafe? What adjustments would need to be made in this scenario to make it work (if any)? **(limit 600 characters)***

*What is still unresolved for you at this time? What resources do you have in place to resolve those things? What help or expertise do you need? **(Limit 800 characters)***

## **Budget**

Please think about what it might take to create your project and list potential costs per category. It's OK if the budget breakdown changes later, this is just an estimate so jurors can help assess whether your plan is reasonable. If you are accepted, you do not need to report actual costs post-program.

Consider in-kind goods or services when making your budget (i.e. what are you getting for free?!). We recommend reserving a small portion of your money for 'contingency' (i.e. unexpected expenses that may come up). Your total budget should not exceed \$900, the maximum amount Art Shanty Projects is offering, unless you have funding from another source (and in that case, please list it). It's OK to list "\$0" if you don't plan to spend money in any particular category.

We understand each project has unique needs. Please consider the following guidelines as you make your budget:

- \$900 - an activity that lasts an entire day, two half days, or once every weekend. Larger groups or more ambitious projects production-wise
- \$450 - an activity that lasts a half day, or for two shorter periods over two days
- \$225 - activities that are short, only happen only once; smaller groups or solo activities; low-tech/low-production projects

*List the expense for each of the following categories: **(short answer):***

- Materials (costumes, props, etc)
- Equipment (anything you need to rent or purchase)
- Transportation (rental trucks, gas, etc)
- Stipends (for artists or collaborators)
- Space Rental (if you are renting rehearsal or studio space)

- Other (please define)
- Contingency (money held for unexpected expenses)

How much are you requesting, in total, for this activity? (**short answer**)

If your budget totals more than \$900, please list where you intend to get the additional funds for your project, and whether those sources are confirmed or pending. (**short answer**)

### **Supporting Materials**

Give us an enhanced idea of your plans! Include anything that will help the jury understand your concept, performance activities, audience engagement plan, etc. REMINDER: Jurors may not be familiar with your work, so this section is very important.

Suggested materials include:

- visual renderings or photos of your proposed activities / project elements (costumes, physical elements, etc)
- past work samples that demonstrate your ability to make this project or that are related to this proposal (video clips, audio clips, photos)
- reference materials that you're drawing inspiration from
- Documentation of a past iteration of this project, if it's a remount or you've done it before somewhere else

Submit up to five samples -- photos, illustrations, short videos that document or explain your project, audio, etc.

Please keep images under 2MB and audio/video clips 45 seconds or less.

List title, date, medium and description for each sample provided.

### **APPLY TODAY!**

***THANK YOU for taking the time to dream up your proposal! We look forward to reading your ideas towards making a vibrant shanty village. You can expect to hear back from us in August.***

In the meantime **SAVE THESE DATES** in the event your project is selected:

- *September 10, 2024 (DATE CHANGE): all artist meeting 6-8pm IN PERSON (location TBD in S Mpls) - at least one member of your group is required to attend, more are welcome!*
- *January 7, 2025: all-artist check-in meeting, 6-8pm IN PERSON (location TBD in S Mpls) - at least one member of your group is required to attend, more are welcome!*
- *January 18 - February 9, 2025: Program Dates, Saturdays and Sundays, 10am-4pm*