



2025 Open Call for Shanty Artists 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-shanty-artists/>

BUILDING ON WHAT WE LEARNED THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

We required all shanties in 2022 and 2023 to present an exterior-only experience for visitors due to the ongoing pandemic to prevent sharing air. Artists expanded the notion of what a shanty project can be, adapting to this new design challenge with ingenuity and flair! Through this we learned that exterior experiences were supportive of accessibility goals, reduced lines for participants, and created an even more vibrant social village from every angle.

In 2024 we invited artists to build upon what we learned, and invited classic shanties again - welcoming visitors inside structures - with a new requirement of having a meaningful complementary exterior experience. This will continue in 2025.

TYPES OF SHANTIES WELCOME IN 2025

We seek to have a relatively even balance of 'classic' & 'open' shanties based on visitor feedback.

Classic shanties:

- Artists can welcome visitors inside, yay!
- Artists are required to also activate the exterior in a meaningful way related to their shanty concept, theme or activities. This requirement supports our accessibility plan, reduces waiting in lines, and creates a vibrant village at every turn.

Open Shanties:

- Wanna keep it super outdoorsy? No problem! Artists can design shanties for an exterior experience for visitors
- In this scenario, artists can be outside OR inside
- Artists can build in a warming space for themselves if they like

2025 SHANTY DESIGN GUIDELINES, CONSIDERATIONS, REQUIREMENTS

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. We don't want you to learn the hard way as others before you did!

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 (which are more sustainable, and also less expensive). Also consider the future life of your materials (can they be repurposed again or recycled?). What is the afterlife of your shanty?
- Consider the environmental impact of any heating sources you choose to use. For (artist-only) interior spaces we highly recommend passive solar (like a greenhouse!) as a no-fuel option. For both outdoors and indoors, physical activity is also a great option! Interior propane heaters that are UL or CE rated (“Little Buddy” or similar) are allowed, as are interior wood-burning stoves. If you have an interior heating source, you must regularly clear snow off your roof. When snow melts in one place and drips it bores holes into the ice that become a safety hazard for you and for visitors. Due to logistics and air quality concerns, outdoor public-facing fire pits may not be allowed. We will assess on a case-by-case basis in winter - do not propose projects that depend on this.
- 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. Structure

- Elaborate set-up is not recommended. Design pre-assembly into planning as much as possible. Examples: some shanties are designed to be built and moved intact on a trailer; others are built as panels with pre-drilled holes for bolts. It's not a simple task to assemble things on a windy, cold, frozen lake while wearing mittens!
- The lake sees intense winds which places incredible strain and wear on structures. Big flat standalone walls/structures turn into sails. Design your project 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 for structural integrity
- The project should be designed to be physically accessible to people interacting at different heights (adults, children, people riding kicksleds, etc). If there is an elevated platform for participants, you will be required to have a ramp and/or supportive railing. We will review more specific requirements with selected artists.

3. Safety

- The Minnesota DNR requires two things of shanty artists: an Ice Shelter License (FKA Dark House Permit), and reflective material must be placed on all sides of the shanty for nighttime safety (when the village is not active). This can be silver paint or tape, reflectors, or other highly shiny objects. You can work it into your project aesthetics/design! There are nominal costs associated with these items (see budget section below).
- There are certain things that are not allowed for safety reasons, including: ice carousels, holes cut into the ice for swimming, tents or fabric shelters that need to be staked into the ice and/or that can easily catch wind and blow away, etc. If you are unsure about your proposed activity, please contact us with questions before submitting it.

4. Movability

REQUIREMENTS IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE: We challenge our community to make shanties easier to move as we face the increasing risk of melting ice due to climate change!

While ASP will provide a skidloader during installation and deinstallation weekends to move shanties across the ice, please propose a structure that can be adjusted quickly in melting and refreezing conditions and that can be moved easily on and off the ice (300' or more, and up a boat ramp), intact, at short notice, should the ice become unsafe. If we install a Plan Beach situation, the skidloader will NOT be available to move things across the park. **When assessing movability, consider these requirements:**

- Incorporating two long wooden skis / runners into the design (usually made of 2x6 or 2x10 lumber)
- The ability to be quickly moved by people power, at short notice, in unsafe conditions (i.e. just the people in your own team)
- Weight - nothing more than 1500 lbs, less is probably better. For reference, the average car weighs 4000 lbs, a grand piano weighs 1000 lbs, a snowmobile weighs 500 lbs. If selected we will provide a materials weight calculator to help you plan
- Size/shape - nothing too unwieldy, such as shanties with a large structural footprint (20' x 20') or sprawling footprint or structures that are extremely tall throughout

5. 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 them in direct, participatory ways.
- Collaboration is key! When building, installing, and de-installing, there are many physical and logistical challenges that are much easier when working with others. We recommend teams of 4 or more. We do not accept proposals from 'teams' of 1. This is especially important in COVID times (having extra people to step in if someone gets sick is critical!)
- 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 design/building requirements and evidence of capacity to successfully build the structure, 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 shanty name (**short answer**)*

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

*What type of shanty are you proposing? (**select one**)*

'Classic' shanties have an enclosed interior experience that welcomes visitors inside.

'Open' shanties do NOT have an enclosed space shared with visitors (see more details on our website for definitions)

CLASSIC (with a complementary exterior experience, as required)

OPEN (visitors cannot come inside and share space)

Will this be a NEW shanty or the remounting of a PAST shanty? **(select one)**

NOTE: this season there is a difference in stipends awarded to new shanties (\$2500) and the remounting of past projects (\$2000). This helps us maintain a full program while emerging from the financial shortfall of 2024 due to warm weather causing our program to end early. If you have questions on this, please refer to our website which gives full details on the reasoning behind this.

*It's new! We've never done this project before
We're excited to bring back a shanty we've done before!*

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)**

Part II: Artistic Goals

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

REMINDER: ALL shanties must have an exterior experience, even if you are designing a 'classic' shanty that also has an interior experience!

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.

Describe what your shanty looks like! Include things like size, shape, colors, textures, materials, other attractive features, etc. NOTE: your attachments should also include a rendering of this. (limit 1000 characters)

Describe how your project contributes to the social community of the village. What interaction or activities will take place? What will a visitor to the shanty do, experience, or learn? If you are proposing a CLASSIC shanty, make sure to articulate both the interior and exterior experience. What is your interest in engaging with the public? (limit 1000 characters)

How will your project engage many ways of experiencing the world, beyond 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, 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; cycling; 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 build your shanty and your capacity to staff the project.

What skills do the members of your group have (or are eager to learn) that will contribute to the team's ability to build and activate your project? This could relate to generating conceptual ideas, designing and/or building activities and structures, enthusiasm for engaging with strangers, etc. Reminder: we do not accept proposals from shanty 'teams' of one. (Limit 1000 characters)

With the potential of thousands of visitors per day, how will the interactive aspect of your shanty accommodate the potential flow of traffic and handle lines and crowds, in an engaging way? (limit 600 characters)

In accordance with our climate change requirements, your project may need to be shifted due to minor melting + refreezing and/or unexpectedly moved to shore due to unsafe ice conditions. Please articulate your plan to address this, and any questions you have about the requirements - we're happy to help accepted artists figure it out! (Remember, requirements include: wooden 'skis,' moving it by people-power at short notice, weight limit of 1500 lbs, ability to do the project on land) (limit 800 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.

NEW shanty projects are given a stipend of \$2500.

RETURNING shanty projects are given a stipend of \$2000.

Artist teams can choose how to spend this money. It's OK if this budget breakdown changes later; this is just an estimate so jurors can help assess whether your plan is reasonable. If you are accepted, you will manage your own budget and 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 add up to the \$2500 stipend for new shanties / \$2000 stipend for returning shanties offered by Art Shanty Projects 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.

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

- Materials (building 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 a space in which to build your project)
- Ice Shelter License (FKA Dark House Permit) - required - currently the DNR lists this at \$15
- Other (please define)
- Contingency (money held for unexpected expenses)

If your budget totals more than \$2500 (new projects) / \$2000 (returning projects), please list where you intend to get the additional funds for your project, and whether those sources are confirmed or pending.

Supporting Materials

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

Suggested materials include:

renderings of your proposed shanty or activities (VERY IMPORTANT)

past work samples that demonstrate your ability to make this project or that are related to this proposal

reference materials that you're drawing inspiration from

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 11-12, 2025: artist installation weekend (you will be assigned a time slot)
- January 18 - February 9, 2025: Program Dates, Saturdays and Sundays, 10am-4pm
- February 15-16, 2025: artists strike (you will be assigned a time slot)