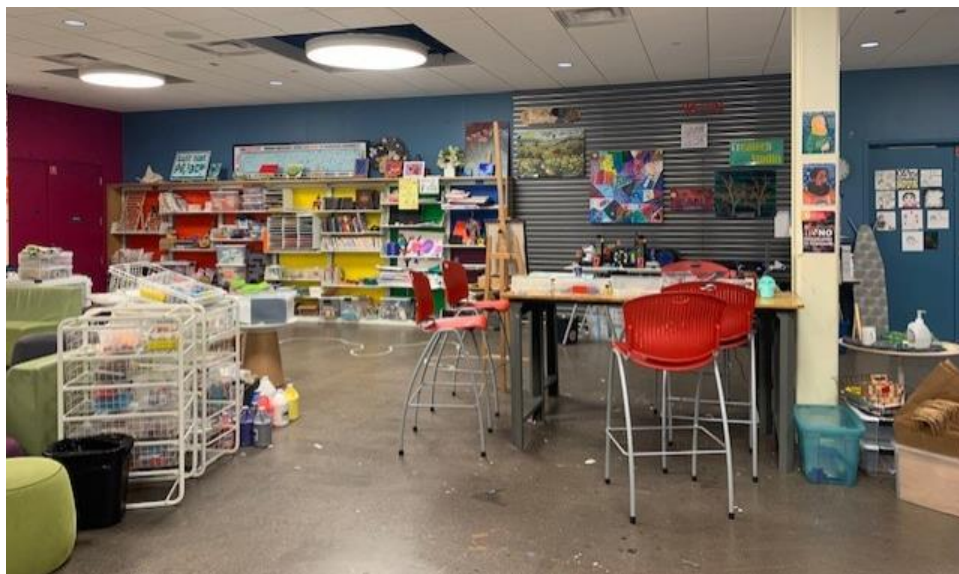




SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Arlington Hills Library Createch Studio Artist in Residence





ABOUT THE PROJECT

Saint Paul Public Library's Arlington Hills branch hosts a large Createch Studio space for teens (ages 12-18). Createch is founded on the HOMAGO philosophy (Hang Out, Mess Around, Geek Out) and is created by teens for teens to explore creative talents, pursue their interests, and spark new passions.

Createch seeks an artist in residence for an 8 month term to create relationships with teen while acting as an art mentor, helping them learn new artistic skills, build artistic confidence, and engage in the arts. This artist will spend 8 hours per week in the Arlington Hills Createch space, engaging teens in art projects and building relationships. The culmination of this residency will feature a public showcase of art created by teens and artist during the course of the residency.

PROJECT GOALS

- Convey the mission of Saint Paul Public Library, which is to "Welcome all people to connect, learn, participate, and grow."
- Increase sense of belonging and community that teens feel in the library and Createch Studio.
- Teens learn new artistic skills and have increased confidence in their ability to create art.
- Build positive mentor/mentee relationships, using art as a vehicle for connection and community-building.

- Celebrate and embrace the diversity of teens in Createch – from age to race to gender identity and more – using this diversity as an asset in artistic creation.
- Empower teens to recognize themselves as artists and continue creating art that is meaningful to them.

ABOUT SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY AND CREATECH STUDIO

The Saint Paul Public Library (SPPL) is a department of the City of Saint Paul with 13 branch locations throughout the city and a Bookmobile that makes 4-6 stops daily in neighborhoods city-wide. We imagine a city where all people feel seen, safe and welcome; where libraries bring people together to experience hope, joy and creativity through learning.

A highly diverse population, wide range of services, and dedicated staff ensure Createch is a welcoming, inclusive place for teens. Activities include playing video games with friends, printing items on the 3D printer, designing on the laser engraver, painting, drawing, and sewing, piloting a drone, or recording in the recording studio.

One of Createch's most important assets is its focus on relationships. In Createch, teens are welcomed by themselves, explore their interests, and develop positive relationships with peers and mentors. Since the pandemic, Createch staff are focused on welcoming teens back into the space (including those who have aged into teenhood in the last few years), spreading the word about Createch, and encouraging teens to create community with one another.

PROJECT BUDGET

\$12,000

This budget includes the artist stipend. Additional funding for supplies and materials, promotion, and culmination showcase will be provided by the library.

ARTIST/DESIGNER TEAM QUALIFICATIONS

- Artists may apply as individuals or teams
- Selection committee members and their families are not eligible
- City of Saint Paul staff are not eligible

SELECTION PROCESS

Phase One: A committee of staff and teens will review all initial submissions to ensure eligible applications meet basic qualifications and select two finalists. Finalists will be based on the following criteria:

- Quality of letter of interest
- Quality of work samples
- Experience working with teens and/or youth
- Experience with artistic residencies
- Ability to agree to terms and conditions of a City of Saint Paul contract and submit a complete W-9

Phase Two: Finalists will each receive a stipend of \$300 to develop an initial concept to be presented to the selection committee.

TIMELINE

January 2: RFQ posted

January 31: RFQ submissions due

February 1: Selection committee meets and selects two finalists

February 7: Final two artists notified

February 28: Submission deadline for final two artists

Week of March 1: Selection committee meets and identifies finalist

Week of March 7: Final artist notified

March 15 – April 1: Artist meets with staff for onboarding, project planning

April 1 – December 31: Artist in Residency term

HOW AND WHAT TO SUBMIT

Please provide the following in a single PDF document (work sample images can be sent as separate files)

- Name and contact information for lead artist
- One-page letter describing interest in project, approach to a residency-style project, and experience working with teens/youth. Please include a statement addressing the eligibility criteria.

- Work samples: up to 5 digital images of your recent projects, saved in a .jpeg, .png, or .pdf format.
- Short description of the artistic process used in work samples.

Submit all RFQ materials via email to AJ.Ragland@ci.stpaul.mn.us. All materials must be received by Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 11:59 pm.