

## 2023-2024 Artist in Residence Program Unity Church-Unitarian St. Paul

The Artist in Residence program at Unity Church-Unitarian (aka Unity) seeks to cultivate generative relationships between the church and creatives across diverse art forms, to undertake a period of focused work with artists over a period of years that amplifies the congregation's vision of becoming a multicultural, antiracist Beloved Community. Through the exchange between the artist(s) and church community, presenting and sharing both the creative work and process, the program seeks to activate our imagination, foster relationships among and beyond our church walls, inspire spiritual and emotional growth, and open the church community to larger dimensions in the work of making cultural change.

### 2023-2024 Program Specifics

During the 2023-2024 church year, Unity's Artist in Residence program is seeking **one musician or one musical group**. This artist or group will perform in worship services on select Sundays, and may also collaborate with Unity's choral program, religious education program, or other community programming.

### ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, and may not be enrolled in a full time degree program. Applicants must be residents of the Twin Cities 7 - County Metro Area.

**Applicants may be at any stage in their career, but must be able to demonstrate achievement in their artistic field and have a history of public presentation or community contribution in music.** If applying as a group, all members must be individually eligible.

### THE WORK

The selected artist or group will receive \$3,000 to create, prepare, and perform music for services and/or other church programs between January 1-May 30, 2024. These funds should cover the artist(s) payment, payment for any collaborators or guest artists, access to any sheet music, rights to perform certain pieces, or payment to composers, and any necessary equipment or instruments that the artist or group does not already possess. Please note that if a group is selected, payment for each group member must come out of this \$3,000 budget.

Applicants will be asked to propose a series of musical performances and activities that express Unity's values of "wonder, open-hearted engagement, and courageous action," that align with Unity's ends\*, and that create meaningful connections between community members within and outside the walls of the church. Please visit the Unity Church-Unitarian [website](#) to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, who we are, our mission, values, and current programs. *Proposed projects may find alignment with existing programs and enhance or add dimension to an area of*

*interest at the church. It is up to the applicant to describe how their work may fit with the church's programs and/or interests.*

The selected artist or group will develop their planned musical performances in conversation with Unity Church ministers, Director of Music Ministry, and Worship Associates as part of the worship planning process, and will collaborate on creating worship services that are cohesive and aligned with each month's theme. The music will be one element—along with text, prayer, personal reflections, and sermons—of a larger service.

## Unity Church-Unitarian St. Paul

**Who we are:** Unity Church-Unitarian is an intergenerational congregation of about 1100 adults and 450 children located in the Summit Hill neighborhood of Saint Paul, Minnesota. We strive for a deeply meaningful, transforming liberal religious experience, finding hope, beauty, and inspiration in our worship.

**Mission:** Unity Church-Unitarian fosters transformation through a free and inclusive religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service, and joy.

**Values:** Unity Church-Unitarian honors the ambiguity and uncertainty in the search for greater truth, meaning, and equity. In all we do, we strive to embody: wonder, open-hearted engagement, and courageous action.

The Artist in Residence program at Unity invites Twin Cities artists across disciplines (media arts, dance, music, literature, theater, performance, visual arts, or other) to apply for a 4 to 6 month residency in which the artist will create new artistic work and engage the church community with meaningful arts experiences to culminate in a public presentation of new work. Unity will provide compensation and support of up to \$7,000 for project research, development, community engagement programming, and the public presentation.

\* Unity uses Ends Statements to guide our purpose and inform our lives as a community. 2018-2023 Ends Statements are as follows:

Working within ourselves, among our church community, and beyond in the larger world, we the people of Unity Church-Unitarian:

- Create a multicultural spiritual home built on authentic relationships.
- Ground ourselves in personal practice and communal worship that grows our capacity for wonder and spiritual deepening.
- Articulate our Unitarian Universalist faith identity, teach it to our children, share it with others, and live it courageously in the world.

- Know each other in all our fullness and create an ever-widening circle of belonging for all people.
- Generously give and openly receive compassionate care in times of joy, sorrow, and transition.
- Discover and pursue our individual and collective work to advance justice, wholeness, and equity for people, our Earth, and all life on it.
- Create brave space for racial healing and dismantling dominant culture.
- Sustain and steward the church and our larger Unitarian Universalist movement for the future.

## **DEADLINE:**

Applications are due by Friday, November 17, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. CST

## **HOW TO APPLY:**

Applicants will submit the Application Form, Work Samples, Work Sample Information Sheet, Artist Statement, Project Proposal (750 words), and Project Budget (income & expenses) via email to the Artist in Residence Team at Unity ([artistinresidence@unityunitarian.org](mailto:artistinresidence@unityunitarian.org)). See below for further details.

## **WORK SAMPLES:**

**Please submit THREE audio or video samples of no more than 6 minutes each. These samples should be musical, and should feature you/your group performing. The music may be written by you, or by someone else. Each audio or video file should contain one musical piece or excerpt of a piece. Please do not edit multiple short excerpts into one video. Samples may be taken from a performance, rehearsal, audition, or any other type of recording.**

**Video:** Submit as link to YouTube or Vimeo, or send directly as MP4 or MOV file.

**Audio:** Submit as link to YouTube, Vimeo, Spotify, or SoundCloud, or send directly as MP3 or WAV file.

Please include a Work Sample Information Sheet, which provides details about your samples (title, date, location, and if applicable materials/instruments used, composer credit, and collaborating artists). This may be submitted as a Word document or PDF.

## **SELECTION PROCESS:**

**Applications will be reviewed by the Artist in Residence Team, who will select an undetermined number of applications to move forward for interviews (in-person or online.)**

**One artist or group will be chosen out of this process. The Residency may begin as early as January 1, 2023.**

## **APPLICATION**

### **APPLICATION FORM**

Artist Name/Group Name:

If applying as a group, please list the names of each group member:

If applying as a group, please name one member as a main point of contact for this application:

Main email address:

Main phone number:

Main mailing address:

Pronouns (optional):

*Note: this helps the Artist in Residence Team accurately and respectfully discuss you and your work*

What is/are your musical discipline(s), instrument(s), genre(s), etc? Please introduce your work as best you can in a short list, or in 3 sentences or fewer. (NOTE: You will have more space to talk about your work in detail in the proposal and artist statement:

Are you eligible to apply for the Unity Church-Unitarian Artist in Residence Program?:

*Note: Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, and may not be enrolled in a full time degree program. Applicants must be residents of the Twin Cities Seven-County Metro Area. All members of a group must be individually eligible.*

Yes, I am eligible to apply

No, I am not eligible to apply

How did you hear about the Unity Church-Unitarian Artist in Residence Program?:

## ATTACHMENTS

- **ARTIST STATEMENT (Word doc or PDF)**

Please include an artist statement of no more than 750 words that provides information about you and your work as an artist. What inspires the work that you create, who do you create work for, what is your artistic mission?

- **PROJECT PROPOSAL (Word doc or PDF)**

Please include a project proposal of no more than 750 words that explains the musical work that you would create and perform at Unity Church. This proposal may include specific musical works you would like to perform, specific collaborations with Unity musicians/singers or outside artists, and/or content and ideas that you hope to convey through your musical offerings. Please explain how the project connects to Unity's existing programs, values, ends, or other activities.

- **PROJECT BUDGET (Word doc, PDF, or Excel Sheet)**

Please include a one-page project budget that details all anticipated expenses of the project. **Be sure to include your own payment as the artist or group in residence.** Funds are available up to \$3,000, including artist compensation, materials, off-site rehearsal space rentals, collaborators, travel, expenses, technology needs, etc. If your project expenses are over \$3,000, please include details of any outside income.

- **WORK SAMPLE INFORMATION SHEET (Word doc or PDF)**

Please include a Work Sample Information Sheet, which provides details about your samples (title, date, location, and if applicable materials/instruments used, composer credit, and collaborating artists). This may be submitted as a Word document or PDF.

- **WORK SAMPLE**

**Please submit THREE audio or video samples of no more than 6 minutes each. These samples should be musical, and should feature you/your group performing. The music may be written by you, or by someone else. Each audio or video file should contain one musical piece or excerpt of a piece. Please do not edit multiple short excerpts into one video. Samples may be taken from a performance, rehearsal, audition, or any other type of recording.**

**Video:** Submit as link to YouTube or Vimeo, or send directly as MP4 or MOV file.

**Audio:** Submit as link to YouTube, Vimeo, Spotify, or SoundCloud, or send directly as MP3 or WAV file.

Please submit all required materials to the Artist in Residence team at [artistinresidence@unityunitarian.org](mailto:artistinresidence@unityunitarian.org) by Friday, November 17, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. CST.

Decisions will be made by the Artist in Residence team, and all applicants will receive a response by December 31, 2023.

Thank you so much for your interest in this program, and we look forward to your application!