

## **Artist in Residence Program at 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 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.

### **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 four to six-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.

### **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.**

Applicants will be asked to communicate a clearly defined set of activities that express Unity's values of "wonder, open-hearted engagement, and courageous action," aligns with Unity's ends\*, and creates 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.***

Successful artist projects will:

- Advance the community's understanding of the role of the cultural-worker/artist in making positive social change
- Embrace a multicultural perspective of our community within and beyond Unity's walls
- Explore the spiritual dimensions of art-making and social change
- Engage community members through workshops, classes, public conversation, and/or other inspiring learning activities
- Produce new work to benefit the artist and community
- Include a public presentation component to take place during the residency

\* 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 February 25, 2022, 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.

### **ABOUT YOUR PROJECT**

A majority if not all Residence activities and events are expected to take place on the grounds or in the building of the church and be accessible to those with disabilities. Currently, there is no “studio space” at the church. It is expected that if the artist requires a studio, the artist will have access to such a space or, if necessary, include the cost of securing a work space in their budget.

Project activities must be flexible. COVID-19 has made us aware that it may not always be feasible to hold in-person activities and events. While we favor in-person activities, the artist must be prepared for shifting times, places, and platforms according to current COVID-19 protocols.

### **WORK SAMPLES**

**You may submit samples in NO MORE THAN TWO of the following formats:**

**Text:** 10 - 15 pages of poetry, prose, screenwriting, or playwriting. This can be a selection of one longer piece, or a collection of shorter work that makes up no more than 15 pages. (Word doc. or PDF files)

**Images:** 10 - 12 images of recent work; include titles, date completed, and materials used. These can be multiple images of the same piece, or 10-12 different pieces. (JPEG/JPG, TIFF, or PDF files)

**Video:** Video samples are required for film, video, and performing artists (theater, dance, spoken word, etc). Submit no more than two selections; each selection should not exceed two minutes. You may include a clip from the proposed work or work-in-progress if available. When possible, please submit continuous production footage. (Submit as link to YouTube or Vimeo, or send directly as MP4 or MOV file)

**Audio:** Audio tracks from recent performances or compositions are required for music performance and composition, voice, spoken word, etc. Submit no more than two

samples; each selection should not exceed two minutes. (Submit as link to YouTube, Vimeo, Spotify, or SoundCloud, or send directly as MP3 or WAV file)

**Social, Community, or Interdisciplinary Practice:** Applicants may choose whichever format above makes the most sense for their practice. If preferred, a link to a website that has been created as the central component for a single artwork may be submitted.

**You may include a video of up to two minutes of community interaction such as teaching as one of your work samples.**

Please include a Work Sample Information Sheet, which provides details about your samples (title, date, location, and if applicable materials used and collaborating artists). This may be submitted as a Word document or PDF. (This information sheet does not count as one of your Work Samples)

**Please do not submit your website unless it has been conceived as part or all of a single artwork (see above). Only your written materials and the work samples you include will be considered.**

#### **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, depending on the COVID situation.)

One applicant will be chosen out of this process. The Residency may begin as early as April 1, 2022.

## Unity Church-Unitarian Artist in Residence APPLICATION FORM

Name:

Email address:

Phone number:

Mailing address:

Pronouns (optional):

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

What is/are your artistic discipline(s)?

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.*

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 artistic project you would create as an Artist in Residence. Include details of the content, form, and timeline of the project as well as details about how you plan to engage the Unity community. 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 in residence.** Funds are available up to \$7,000, including artist compensation, materials, off-site space rentals, collaborators, travel, expenses, technology needs, etc. If your project expenses are over \$7,000, 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 used and collaborating artists). This may be submitted as a Word document or PDF. (This information sheet does not count as one of your Work Samples)
- **Work Sample**

**You may submit samples in NO MORE THAN TWO of the following formats:**

**Text:** 10 - 15 pages of poetry, prose, screenwriting, or playwriting. This can be a selection of one longer piece, or a collection of shorter work that makes up no more than 15 pages. (Word doc. or PDF files)

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**Please submit all required materials to the Artist in Residence team at [artistinresidence@unityunitarian.org](mailto:artistinresidence@unityunitarian.org) by February 25, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. CST.**

**Decisions will be made by the Artist in Residence team, and all applicants will receive a response by March 31, 2022.**

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