

Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery

# Call for Curatorial Proposals

## 2024 Exhibition Slate

Submission Deadline: Friday, March 11, 2022, 11:59 p.m. (ET)

*\* indicates additional information available in [FAQ document](#)*

### INTRODUCTION

As part of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC), the OAC Riffe Gallery exists to extend the mission and vision of the agency through offering quality arts experiences that celebrate the extraordinary and vast talents of Ohio's professional artists.

### OVERVIEW

This Call for Curatorial Proposals—the first of its kind for the OAC Riffe Gallery—seeks to create a model that can expand the opportunities, impact, equity, and reach of Ohio's curatorial voices.

Proposals will be evaluated on 1) strength of concept and uniqueness, 2) alignment to the goal of highlighting and celebrating the vast talents of Ohio's professional artists, 3) adherence to the guidelines, and 4) the curator's comparable experience.

Proposals should highlight the immense talent of Ohio's professional artists through a conceptually strong perspective, focusing on an intersectional group of artists who are geographically diverse within Ohio. As you write your proposal, consider organizing your ideas by focusing on a particular media, topic, concept, theme, practice, or shared experience. Twenty percent of the final selection of exhibiting artists must be [OAC Individual Excellence Award recipients](#).

Selected curators will work with the OAC Riffe Gallery director to execute a 10-week exhibition in the OAC Riffe Gallery during the 2024 calendar year. Selected curators will be supported with regular check-ins for deliverables; guidance on final selections; and discourse regarding layout, programming, etc. In addition, the selected curator or curatorial team will be awarded a \$3,500 honorarium.

### LOCATION

The OAC Riffe Gallery is a 4,000-sq.-ft. exhibition space located on the first floor of the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts in downtown Columbus—directly across from the Statehouse. The OAC Riffe Gallery hosts four exhibitions per calendar year. All exhibitions are free and open to the public, welcoming visitors ranging from the youngest to the eldest among us.

## GUIDELINES

- The curator and all proposed artists must live in Ohio.
- Curators must not include their own work in the exhibition.
- An original concept or theme for the exhibition must be proposed.

### Parameters for exhibiting artists:

Ten to 16 artists must be represented in the exhibition.

#### Individual artists:

- must be considered a professional artist\*
- may not be students attending high school or students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees at the time of exhibition
- must be at least 18 years of age

#### When considered overall, the group of exhibiting artists must:

- reflect Ohio's geographic diversity\*
- represent an intersectional group\*

#### Individual Excellence Award recipients:

- twenty percent of the artists in the exhibition must be current or former OAC Individual Excellence Award recipients\*

### Parameters for artworks:

- All artworks must have been created in the last five (5) years.
- Be mindful of subject matter: As a free, family-friendly, public space run by a state agency, artwork that is overly graphic, political, or lewd will not be considered.
- Artwork must be display ready and/or equipped with appropriate hardware for installation.
- Artists leveraging technology must provide all audiovisual equipment and installation.
  - Such artists must also be available if technology fails.

### Artwork must not:

- incorporate living items (e.g., plants, animals, insects, potentially harmful materials, or objects).
- require overly complicated upkeep.
- include overly loud sound elements, works, or effects.
- require amendments to the gallery's existing architecture or require drilling or nailing into the floor or adherence to windows.

The OAC Riffe Gallery recognizes that much of the curatorial role will be fulfilled within the curatorial timeline once submissions are selected. As such, your proposal is understood to be a working plan. We realize some things may change within the course of exhibition preparation to further meet guidelines and/or support the concepts and core tenets of the exhibition.

# SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS AND MATERIALS

Please provide the following through this link:

[https://form.jotform.com/OAC\\_RiffeGallery/call-for-curatorial-proposals](https://form.jotform.com/OAC_RiffeGallery/call-for-curatorial-proposals)

1. **A CV or resume**, inclusive of (but not limited to):
  - contact information (i.e., name, phone number, mailing address, email, website)
  - previous relevant curatorial experiences and education, as appropriate
  - links to examples of previous exhibitions (e.g., images, writing, media coverage)
2. **A working title** for the exhibition
3. **A 300-500-word letter of intent** describing your:
  - proposed exhibition, demonstrating strength and uniqueness of concept
  - interest in this project and alignment to the goal of highlighting Ohio artists
  - curatorial perspective and reasoning behind why your proposal is a good choice for the OAC Riffe Gallery
4. **A tentative list of 10 artists** in your exhibition that represents the best and most realistic artists under consideration, inclusive of (but not limited to):
  - all proposed artists' names, websites, and cities of residence
  - at least one artwork image for each of the proposed artists, and links to works by the artists, representative of what you are looking to include, with a maximum of 20 images total
5. **References**, inclusive of three (3) professional references who have detailed knowledge of your curatorial ethos and working methods. For each reference, please include their respective name, organization, address, telephone number, and email address, as well as a brief statement (one or two sentences) on how you know them.

## HELPFUL LINKS

- [Gallery layout](#)
- [Submission checklist](#)
- [Individual Excellence Awardees](#)
- [OAC Riffe Gallery ped and tech inventory](#)
- [OAC Riffe Gallery exhibition archive](#)
- [FAQs](#)

## CONTACT

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[riffegallery.org](http://riffegallery.org)

