

Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery

# Call for Curatorial Proposals

## Frequently Asked Questions

### When will the selected exhibition be on view?

- Each exhibition is 10 weeks long, scheduled in 2024, with one also in 2025.
- There are four exhibitions in each calendar year.
- Exhibition timelines will be offered based on panel ranking.

### What do you mean by professional artist?

The OAC considers artists to be professional when they devote a major portion of their time to creating, practicing, performing, or teaching any of the arts. Additionally, individuals cannot be currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program for art. If you have questions about the eligibility of a specific artist, please contact Cat Sheridan at [cat.sheridan@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:cat.sheridan@oac.ohio.gov).

### What do you mean by geographic diversity?

Ohio is filled with a variety of communities that span the state. Be sure that your artist selection is reflective of talent beyond the state's three major cities (Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus).

### What do you mean by intersectional group of artists?

Regarding the diversity of the artists you propose, please consider the many intersections of diversity: age, ethnicity, gender, orientation, identity, ability, and so on.

### What is an Individual Excellent Award (IEA) recipient, and why must they comprise 20 percent of exhibiting artists?

Individual Excellence Awards are peer recognition of creative artists for the exceptional merit of a

body of their work that advances or exemplifies the discipline and the larger artistic community. These awards support artists' growth and development and recognize their work in Ohio and beyond. Each award is \$5,000 and curators for the OAC Riffe Gallery select at least 20 percent of their exhibiting artists from the list of awardees.

### What do you mean by a tentative list of artists?

We expect that you will submit the best, most realistic proposal, and understand that shifts may occur between acceptance of a proposal and execution of an exhibition that may include differing and updated artists for inclusion.

### What do you mean by the curator's comparable experience?

This is in reference to the curator's exhibition experiences, including administrative, organizational, collaborative, and of course any previous curatorial work. Including this information as part of your CV or resume will help clarify experience that may benefit the proposal.

### Can I submit a proposal as a collaboration or curatorial team?

Yes. The application should be completed under one name. In the body of the proposal, please state the nature of the collaboration and include CVs for all collaborators (all CVs must be uploaded as one document).

### I'm an artist. Can I still apply?

Yes. Artists are eligible to apply but may not include their own work in the exhibition.

### Can I submit applications for multiple curatorial projects?

Yes. While we recommend you submit one proposal, you may submit up to two differing proposals. You may not submit the same proposal twice.

### Can I propose the inclusion of an artwork that has not yet been completed?

Yes. If you are proposing new work, please include samples of past or completed work that provides context for the artist's proposed work. If applicable, include renderings, plans, or concept sketches of the proposed work.

### How should I format images for upload?

Naming convention is artist's last name, underscore, then title of the work:

*Lastname\_TitleofArtWork.jpeg*

- formatted to: 300 DPI
- max size: 2,000 KB
- file types: pdf, jpg, jpeg, png

If additional context is helpful in supporting your proposal, the notes portion of the online form is a great space to share details on the work you are proposing (materials, size, etc.)

### Do the artists/work I propose need to be committed when I submit the application, and/or participate in the final exhibition?

We encourage curators to submit their best and most realistic list of artists for the exhibition. We understand and expect that the plan for the show will evolve over the course of a year, and that the list of artists may shift.

### Do the images of artwork I submit need to be committed to exhibit?

As such, your uploaded images are understood to be placeholders and representative of the work by the artist that you would like to include. If it is a work committed to exhibit, that is also okay, but not expected.

### What makes a good exhibition proposal?

The proposal should be taken as a well-rounded starting point for panelists to gain an understanding of the scale, scope, and concepts of your proposed exhibition. We expect that the exhibition proposal is likely to have a small measure of change as you develop an approach through dialogue with the director of the OAC's Riffe Gallery. The strongest proposals are those that are flexible and have room for growth—as such, an exhibition that has been shown elsewhere will not be considered as strong an exhibition as one that originates with the curator for this call.

### Are there any limitations on what can be presented in the gallery?

As referenced in the prospectus:

- The curator and all proposed artists must live in Ohio.
- 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 framed 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.

### **Will the entire gallery be available as part of the exhibition?**

Yes. This includes the main gallery and flex space.

- The OAC Riffe Gallery is a 4,000-sq.-ft. space, offering 325 running ft. with 12-ft. wall height.

### **Can I see photos or video of the gallery?**

You can view a blank [360-degree virtual tour](#) of the gallery space online here, as well as a variety of 360-degree virtual exhibitions, and videos through our exhibition archive, [here](#). You may also schedule a time to visit the gallery if in-person viewing is desired.

### **How high is the gallery ceiling?**

The ceiling in all main gallery spaces is 12 ft. and is a slatted linear wood grille. As such, this ceiling system is unable to support significant weight. There is a track lighting system at this 12-ft. height as well.

### **Can I hang work from the ceiling?**

Suspension of items from the ceiling is subject to approval from staff. If items are light enough, attachment with monofilament to the crossbeams above the wood grille is permissible. Attaching or suspending items from the lighting grid is prohibited. The gallery has a variety of ladders and one rolling scaffold. It is the artist's responsibility to organize and supply additional scaffolding if needed.

### **Can I submit my application by mail or email?**

No. Applications will only be reviewed if they have been submitted through the online system.

### **I made a mistake with my proposal, but I already submitted it. Can I edit the proposal?**

Please be prepared to complete your submission in one sitting. Leverage the checklist in the curatorial call to help you gather all necessary materials.

If you have submitted prior to the deadline and realize you've made a mistake, please reply to the email receipt confirming your submission. We will do our best to accommodate you.

Once the deadline has passed, all applications are considered final.