



Special Service Area #33
Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce
1414 North Ashland Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60622
(773) 384-2672

SEEKING HOST PROPERTIES AND STOREFRONTS: WINDOW WORKS

Wicker Park Bucktown Special Service Area #33 has initiated the *Window Works* program as a vacant storefront activation initiative. The aim of the project is to utilize compelling contemporary art and installations to temporarily transform vacant storefronts. This activation will make the pedestrian experience of Wicker Park and Bucktown more engaging and enjoyable while showcasing and supporting area artists. *Window Works* also aims to attract interest in prime commercial spaces by fostering visual intrigue, generating foot traffic, and highlighting the potential of a storefront space and its impact on the community.



Project Description

WPB SSA #33 will be pairing selected artists and proposals with participating vacant or underutilized storefronts volunteered by property owners/managers within the neighborhoods. Participating artists are required to live and practice within the Chicago area. Curators and non-profit [501c(3)] galleries may also participate if their proposals meet all necessary requirements. Selected activations will be accompanied by SSA #33 branded signage listing property information along with artist contact information and title(s) of the artwork. Storefront activations will be highly visible throughout some of the busiest parts of the neighborhood.

Selected activations will be on display for three to six months. Should an activated space be leased and occupied before the end of the project, a new storefront will be sought to host the work for the remainder of the three to six month period.

Artist Responsibilities

Artists will be responsible for completing and installing their work within the allotted timeframe and providing support materials. All work must be capable of temporary installation and cannot require any structural alterations or cause lasting damage to the property or windows. It is requested that no work require large sums of electricity that may prove a burden to participating properties. As storefronts are vacant, artists must be willing to sign a form upon acceptance that waives responsibility on part of the SSA and partnered property for any theft or damage that may occur.

Host Property Benefits

The hosting properties that volunteer storefronts receive an array of benefits at virtually no cost:

- Visibility provided by increased foot traffic and attention
- Promotional media for the program highlighting individual locations
- Branded on-site signage (which can also include leasing contact information)
- A listing on the WPB Arts and SSA 33 website and interactive map featuring participating locations (which can also include leasing contact information)
- Means for engaging with, supporting, and investing in local artists and the Wicker Park Bucktown community without worrying about costs normally associated with cultivating similar art projects via your own means

Host Property Responsibilities

Host properties will be required to grant the artist access to the storefront on agreed upon dates for installation and tear down. Storefronts are also asked to provide lighting for the work and potentially grant limited, minor access to electricity for certain installations. If the space is leased and will become occupied before the duration of the installation, the host must notify the SSA staff with plenty of advance notice so a new host can be found in a timely manner. Hosts are not to manipulate or alter completed artworks in any way without consulting the artist and contacting SSA staff. Host properties are not required to provide additional security or to insure the artwork and must agree to hold neither artists nor SSA accountable for damages that occur during the duration of the program. Likewise, the host will not be held accountable for damages to the artwork done by a third party. While host properties and their real estate agents may use images of the installed artwork, all rights to the work and these images are retained by the artist and, as such, may never be for sale or used for direct profit.

To learn more visit wickerparkbucktown.com/windowworks

To volunteer your storefront and become a host property email info@wickerparkbucktown.com