



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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: WINDOW WORKS

Wicker Park Bucktown Special Service Area #33 is seeking qualifications and proposals for our vacant storefront activation initiative *Window Works*. 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. Interested artists should all live and practice within the Chicago area. Curators and non-profit [501c(3)] galleries may also submit but should make sure proposals meet all necessary requirements. Selected activations will be accompanied by SSA #33 branded signage that lists property information as well as the artist's contact information and the title(s) of the artwork. Storefront activations will be highly visible throughout some of the busiest parts of the neighborhood.

Budget

Proposals will be selected for activations lasting three to six months. Artists will receive a stipend of \$1,500 to realize their installation; \$1,000 to begin the project and \$500 after installation is complete.

*Should an activated space be leased and occupied before the end of the project, we will work to find a new storefront to host the work for the remainder of the three to six month period, though no there is no guarantee.

Artist Responsibilities

Artists will be responsible for completing and installing their work within the allotted timeframe. If unavailable for install and tear down, artists must provide their own crews and labor for installation in their absence. All work must be capable of temporary installation and cannot require any structural alterations or changes and cannot cause lasting damage to the property or windows. While all work will be considered, some storefronts may be better suited for certain types of work than others and,

ultimately, some limitations may prevent the feasibility of certain proposals. If submitting wall hanging work, consider alternative methods for display (window mounting, ceiling hangers, easels, etc.) should they be necessary. While electrical access may be available, it is preferred that no work require large sums of electricity that may prove a burden to participating properties. All supporting materials and installation needs must be provided by the artists. Since exact properties are yet to be determined, artists should consider flexibility in scale as part of their proposal. Should the artists want work to be for sale they will be responsible for all transactions which must be completed through their own channels of communication. As storefronts are vacant and unattended, there will be no guarantee of security. 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 during the duration of *Window Works*.

Proposal Details and Requirements

To be considered, artists, curators, or galleries should submit the following:

- Description of the project and how it will serve the goals of *Window Works* (about 250 words)
- Accurate and legible drawings, renderings, or photographs of proposed work
- Approximate size and scale of work/installation with a description of any flexibility in scale
- Three to five examples of previous or similar work
- Artist statement, resume/CV, and bio for participating artists (non-profit galleries should also submit their mission statement)
- Stipend request and estimated budgetary expenditures
- Plan for installation timeline and methods

Completed proposals should be emailed to jordan@wickerparkbucktown.com with the subject line "Window Works Art Proposal" or mailed in sealed envelope to:

Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Window Works Art Proposal
1414 N Ashland Ave
Chicago, IL 60622

Please contact Jordan Miller at jordan@wickerparkbucktown.com or Samantha Choudhury at Samantha@wickerparkbucktown.com with any questions or concerns.