

Call to Artists who work with Light

Deadline: October 3, 2006

About the Call

As part of its ArtsUnion initiative, the Somerville Arts Council seeks two site-specific outdoor lighting displays to be exhibited during the winter months of early 2007 in Union Square, Somerville. As ArtsUnion programming winds down in mid October, we anticipate a few vibrant, visual spectacles of light will keep the square animated during the cold, dark winter months.

We are very open to ideas for light installations and are particularly interested in work that is innovative and bold—art that will draw the attention of people passing through Union Square. Artists/designers may choose to work alone or collaboratively. We imagine that interdisciplinary artists may be especially appropriate for this project. Some artists may propose to work with renewable energy L.E.D. lights or video projections. Lighting designers may propose to paint a Union Square monument with color and light. We are looking for new work, or existing work that is adjusted so it specifically relates to Union Square in a meaningful way. Applicants are strongly encouraged to do a site visit before applying. Union Square includes the plaza area, Bow Street, Somerville Avenue, Washington Street and the Prospect Hill Tower; we hope to have installations in locales that are highly visible.

It is our intention to select two proposals, and our budget for each light display is \$6,250. If your proposal is selected, this amount of money will have to cover your time designing and installing the work, as well as cover the costs of electricity the piece will require. We anticipate turning on light displays from approximately dusk until midnight. Light installations will up for a month or maybe longer, depending on cost. Selected applicants will need to work closely with the Somerville Arts Council and Department of Public works, installing and maintaining installations.

About ArtsUnion

Now in its second year ArtsUnion is a project initiative designed to boost the cultural economic development of Union Square, Somerville. The Somerville Arts Council and the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development created ArtsUnion, in partnership with ArtSomerville, Brickbottom Artists Association, Washington Street Art Center, the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission, the Somerville Chamber of Commerce, Somerville Open Studios and Union Square Main Streets. Through funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council's John and Abigail Adams Program and the City of Somerville, ArtsUnion cultivates and promotes the square's diverse artist and business community. During 2006 ArtsUnion will: present a series of cultural events/performances; conduct 12 craft markets; continue with cultural tours; commission local artisans to design streetscape furniture and lightscape projects; and begin to implement the work surrounding a zoning/regulation review to further support the arts and distinct character of the square.



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How to Apply:

Provide the following information:

- Contact info: name, e-mail and home address, phone, Website (if applicable)
- Detailed written description of your proposed project, including specific information about where you'd like to install the piece in Union Square. Explain how piece relates to Union Square's geography and/or contemporary culture or history. Discuss aspect of time as it relates to your proposal: Will display be constant or will it be looped, and if so, how long will loop be?
- Visual description of your proposed piece; this might include sketches and/or a digital rendering of the work.
- Your proposals must address the following issues:
 - weather: Will your installation be able to withstand the winter elements?
 - maintenance: How will you maintain your installation?
 - vandalism: Will your installation be safe? What steps will you take to safeguard the piece?
 - power: Ideally, where and how will you derive power? Do you anticipate using a city or business power supply? How much amperage will your display require? Will you need weatherproof circuits?
- C.V. or resume
- Support material including slides, photos, image files, CD, DVDs, cued VHS videotape or five pages of additional text. If applicable please include a list with corresponding title, medium, and date. Do not submit more than 10 slides, photos or image files, or 5 minutes of video.

*include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you'd like your support materials returned

Mail proposals:

Somerville Arts Council/ArtsUnion Lighting Call
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Somerville, MA 02145

Questions:

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