

Call to Artists who work with LIGHT

Deadline: Oct. 22, 2018



Left to right: Light festival, Tokyo; chicken wire balls covered with lights; an installation by 1024 Architecture, Bordeaux, France. We look forward to your creative ideas for adding light, artistry and ingenuity to Somerville.

About the Call

Spurred on by Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone's call for more art and light in the city, the Somerville Arts Council seeks site-specific outdoor lighting displays to be exhibited during the winter months of late 2018/early 2019 throughout Somerville. This new light project is inspired by the long tradition of Somerville families decorating and illuminating their homes for the holidays. The selected new works will be incorporated into our annual Illuminations Light Festival/Tour and continue to create visual spectacles of light into early 2019.

We are 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 the various squares of the city — or along major roads featured on the Illuminations Tour. (See tour route here: <https://www.somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminationstour>.) Artists/designers may choose to work alone or collaboratively. Some designers may choose to buy commercial lights and install them or augment them in a creative way. Some artists may propose to work with renewable energy L.E.D. lights or video projections. Other lighting designers may propose to paint a monument or building with color and light or string lights over a street to create a tunnel of light. Other artists may choose to illuminate pink flamingos and situate them on top of a building or create an interactive sound-triggered light installation. Applicants may suggest a site, yet we are also interested in works that could be situated in a variety of locations. Depending on scope of work, we will also need to coordinate with the Dept. of Public Works (DPW) to determine if installation is possible.

It is our intention to select two to three proposals, depending on budgets of selected applications. If your proposal is selected, this amount of money will have to cover your time designing and installing the work. 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 DPW, installing and maintaining installations. Power may come from an NSTAR pole, a city or a business source; please state your desired power source.



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How to Apply:

Provide the following information:

1. Contact info: name, e-mail and home address, phone, website (if applicable)
2. Written description of your proposed project, including specific information about possible locations for your piece in Somerville. If there is a cultural component to your work that ties into Somerville's long history of illuminated decorations around the holidays, please discuss. Also 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?
3. Visual description of your proposed piece; this should include sketches and/or a digital rendering (or photos if a previous work). These may be sent in the form of jpegs, links to photos or videos; please include a list with corresponding title, medium, and date. Do not submit more than 10 image files or 5 minutes of video.
4. 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 for a month?
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?
5. C.V. or resume; please highlight previous similar light installation work.
6. Estimated budget with brief description of supply costs and labor. Looking for projects within the scale of \$500 to \$10,000. We anticipate larger scale projects will include commercial lighting products and can be reinstalled for several years to come.

We will choose two-three finalists and then offer stipends for further detailed plans.

Mail proposals:

Somerville Arts Council/Lighting Call
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Somerville, MA 02145

Questions:

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Email proposals:

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