



ARTPRIZE



Curatorial Grant Application

Open Call for Proposals: February 8 – April 1, 2021

ARTPRIZE CURATORIAL GRANTS

ABOUT

ArtPrize welcomes independent curators, collectives, and community organizations to apply for the opportunity to curate a prominent public space in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids for ArtPrize 2021. Through this program, recipients of the ArtPrize Curatorial Grants will create dynamic outdoor exhibitions that creatively explore physical space, engage the community, and offer diverse perspectives.

Applicants for the ArtPrize Curatorial Grants program will submit a proposal for one or more of the available outdoor locations. Curators of selected proposals will receive a stipend for their curatorial work, as well as a budget to be paid directly to the artists of their choice.

ArtPrize Curators will be responsible for selecting artists to exhibit in their space, either by inviting artists to participate and/or by drawing from the 1000+ artists that register through the open call at artprize.org; working directly with the City of Grand Rapids to secure proper permits; and ensuring that their artists install their work successfully for ArtPrize 2021. Please consult the application for further information.



ABOUT ARTPRIZE

ArtPrize® is an open, independently organized international art competition which takes place in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It celebrates artists working in all mediums from anywhere in the world, and is open to any creative with an artwork to enter and a venue willing to host it. For 18 days, art is exhibited throughout the city in public parks and museums, in galleries and vacant storefronts, in bars and on bridges. ArtPrize awards \$450,000+ directly to artists, through grants to support their ambitious work and through prizes which the public and jurors decide through the ArtPrize mobile app. Since its inception in 2009, millions have participated in ArtPrize, displaying their work, opening their spaces to artists and visitors from around the world, and sparking countless conversations about what art is and why it matters.



OVERVIEW

ArtPrize Curators is an open call for any individual or organization interested in curating an ambitious outdoor art exhibition in a prominent downtown location during ArtPrize 2021. The goal of the program is to empower curators to work directly with artists to realize ambitious projects.

ELIGIBILITY / QUALIFICATIONS

This opportunity is open to any independent curator, collective, or community organization that seeks to use the ArtPrize platform to execute an exhibition in an outdoor space during the ArtPrize 2021 event.

ArtPrize is committed to celebrating the diversity of our community through the ArtPrize Curators program and seeks applications from those of diverse or underrepresented backgrounds. Proposals must be conceptually rigorous and focus on artists, projects, and themes that are innovative, challenging, diverse, and engaging.

Curators are encouraged to work with artists utilizing any artistic mediums, but installations must be fabricated from materials appropriate for public display in an unguarded, exterior environment. This includes the ability to withstand environmental factors, and interactions with pedestrians and the general public.

ArtPrize and City of Grand Rapids staff will work closely with the selected curators to navigate the necessary approval processes to ensure a safe exhibition space.



EXPECTATIONS

1. Identify and work directly with artists to execute ambitious projects for ArtPrize 2021.
2. Meet the milestones outlined in the timeline (see below).
3. Work directly with ArtPrize staff and City of Grand Rapids officials to gain approval and necessary permissions for each site and installation. (see guidelines below).
 - a. ArtPrize will facilitate these connections and relationships.
4. Present projects to the City of Grand Rapids Art Advisory Committee on behalf of the artists you are working with and answer any questions/concerns (see timeline below).
 - a. ArtPrize will assist you in the preparation of these materials.
5. Manage your site's artprize.org Venue profile and make sure that your artists are connected to the profile.
6. Attend the ArtPrize informational webinar on April 6, 2021.
7. Provide ArtPrize with a final project budget and payment information for each artist.
8. Work with your artists to finalize installation plans and ensure that artists are meeting City requirements.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants for the ArtPrize Curators program are required to submit the following :

1. Selection of up to three desired locations. [Please reference the Location List document.](#)
2. Brief synopsis of the overall project.
3. Detailed exhibition proposal that outlines both the concept and plan for the exhibition
 - a. Include the artists you are working with, or would like to work with, and how you will ensure that your exhibit represents a diverse experience.
 - i. Although applicants do not have to define all the artists they would like to work with in the initial proposal, please provide examples that will give the review committee an idea of the overall project.
 - b. Address how the work is activating the space.
 - c. Demonstrate conceptual rigor and a focus on artists, projects, and themes that are innovative, challenging, and engaging.
2. Personal Statement
 - a. Provide a brief description of your experience working with similar or relatable projects (or CV/resume if applicable).
 - b. Address why you are interested in this opportunity and what personal perspective you will bring to ArtPrize 2021.
3. Images
 - a. Include any visual aides that will help the selection committee understand your vision - such as examples of desired artists' work or past exhibitions that you have curated.



COMPENSATION

Curators will receive a stipend for their curatorial work between \$1500 - \$3000 depending on the scope of work. Curators will also receive a budget to pay directly to their desired artists between \$1000- \$5000 depending on the location and the scope of the work. Curators will be responsible for determining the amount being paid to each artist, but ArtPrize will be responsible for the payment.

Proposals for the Grand River will be funded up to \$10,000 due to the complexity of the location.

ArtPrize will also provide informational webinars and access to staff to help navigate the processes of registration, budgets, payments, City review, installation plans, and best practices for working with artists.

LOCATIONS

[Please reference the Location Map & Location List document found here.](#)

Curators are welcome to suggest a public location in Grand Rapids that is not on this list and are encouraged to set a meeting with ArtPrize staff to discuss. Please email katie@artprize.org to set up a call.

Curators are welcome to apply for multiple locations.

SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals and application materials will be reviewed by the ArtPrize Arts Advisory Committee and ArtPrize Staff. If questions arise during the process, ArtPrize staff will contact the applicant for clarification or further information.



OVERVIEW OF CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION CRITERIA

As mentioned above, all art that is placed on City owned property will need to be reviewed by city staff and the Grand Rapids Arts Advisory Committee. **ArtPrize staff will help curators navigate the City of Grand Rapids review process. Curators should have these questions in mind when applying for the ArtPrize Curatorial Grant program, but the City of Grand Rapids review will be for selected proposals only.**

All locations are unique and may not have all amenities or be appropriate for all art that is desired to be installed by curators and artists. In general, all public spaces need to be returned to the state they were in before the art was installed. The Grand Rapids Art Advisory Committee and City Staff will consider various criteria including but not limited to:

1. Parks Department
 - a. Availability of space/park
 - b. Water and/or electricity needs
 - c. Is digging required to secure the art? Can underground park utilities be avoided?
 - d. Is lighting needed?
 - e. Is engagement with the Neighborhood (community in general, neighborhood association, community groups), specifically for Parks outside of the downtown needed? Are residents ok with increased traffic/parking in their neighborhood and supportive of the park use for art?
2. Engineering Department
 - a. Safety of art or structure.
 - b. Is there a risk of people climbing art or structure?
 - c. Does the art need to be anchored to the ground or attached to rails or other structure?
 - d. Engineer approved drawings may be required, not at the City's expense, for complicated or large structures
3. Mobile GR
 - a. Art can be installed on low traffic volume streets
 - b. City Policy does not allow writing of any kind in streets.
 - c. Not all sidewalks can be used to display art
 - d. Art shall not resemble a type of traffic sign or control device; conflict with traffic markings; or be directly proximate to, or interfere with, a traffic control device
4. AAC- Appropriateness of art regarding policy
 - a. Is the art an advertisement?
 - b. Is the art obscene?

CITY COMMISSION & ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

1. [Public Art & Memorials](#)
2. [Art Memorials & Related Gifts](#)



ARTPRIZE CURATORIAL 2021 TIMELINE

February 8	Applications open
April 1	Applications close
April 14	Grant recipients notified and sent contract for review. Upon signing the agreement the first payment will be issued.
April 23	ArtPrize Curatorial introduction webinar & contract deadline
April 19	Artist Registration opens
May 3	Connections opens
May 17	City of Grand Rapids Art's Advisory Council meeting #1
June 10	Artist Registration closes - all artists must be registered
June 21	City of Grand Rapids Art's Advisory Council meeting #2
June 23	Connections closes - Artists must be finalized
September TBA	Installation of artwork
September 16	ArtPrize opens
October 3	ArtPrize ends
October TBA	Artwork removed
October TBA	Final curatorial payment

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Send your application materials to katie@artprize.org with the subject line "ArtPrize Curatorial Grants". Any format is welcome.

If you have any particular access needs or need any help applying please contact us at katie@artprize.org or by telephone at 260-402-2485.