



ARTPRIZE
LABS

The Bureau of Personal Belonging **by Stacey Kirby**

ArtPrize 2016: Juried Grand Prize Winner

The Bureau of Personal Belonging is a series of ongoing performative interactions set within a site-specific installation of vintage offices. Works such as *The Declaration Project*, *VALIDnation* and *I AM* reframe bureaucratic processes through audience engagement. Kirby travels the country setting up similar installations, empowering people to perform alongside her as part of the staff.

Visitors become participants by filling out forms that Kirby creates in response to national conversations about civil rights and the validity of communities, families, and individuals. The completed paperwork is mailed to elected public officials as a form of direct activism, bringing the conversation from art space to lawmakers.

Creative Challenge: Statement of Self & Advocate for the Arts

Kirby's forms guide participants to express and challenge their opinions, and put them on view. This activity includes two forms to fill out. Think about how we use forms and what information we usually communicate with them.

- Complete a Statement of Self: Fill in your answers to questions about yourself and draw a self portrait in the provided box. Take this home and put it on display or file it away for you to find later.
- Complete a postcard to send to your legislators: Decorate the front that reads ADVOCATE FOR THE ARTS, and on the back write why you think that the arts are valuable to you and your community, and why art programs should receive government funding. Address and mail your post card to start the conversation with your representatives.

Bring this card home with you. COLLECT ALL 12 cards by completing ArtPrize 10 Creative Challenges!

Contemporary art is a reflection of our current society and human condition. It responds to the world in every material imaginable, and writes a living history that gathers a multitude of voices and perspectives.

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Card #12

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Alex Maness