

CALL TO CURATORS EVERYWHERE

CHARLOTTE STREET FOUNDATION CURATORIAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM

**Seeking Applicants for the position of
2013-14 Charlotte Street Curator-In-Residence
Residency Term: Aug/Sept 2013-May/June 2014
la Esquina Gallery / Kansas City, Mo**

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: APRIL 1, 2013



DESCRIPTION

Charlotte Street Foundation seeks applications from outstanding curators based in the United States wishing to be considered for the position of 2013-14 Charlotte Street Curator-in-Residence.

The 2013-14 Curator-in-Residence will be awarded an approximately 10-month residency in Kansas City, including live space, stipend, and program budget. They will be responsible for conceiving, producing and presenting a series of original exhibitions and public programs (which may include talks, discussions, workshops, screenings, performances, events, etc) for Charlotte Street’s la Esquina gallery—a 2500 square foot “white box” located in the downtown area of Kansas City, Missouri—over the course of their term.

Through the Curator-in-Residence program, launched in 2012, Charlotte Street Foundation seeks to provide unique opportunities for exceptional emerging curators to immerse themselves in Kansas City and to actively engage with artists and the arts community of our region. The Curatorial Residency offers an annually selected Curator-in-Residence a high-profile public platform through which to explore, develop and test ideas, build relationships, and advance their curatorial practices and careers. The exhibitions and programs they develop are expected to be responsive to, and inclusive of, work by artists from the Kansas City region while exemplifying fresh perspectives and forging connections between area artists and artists from elsewhere.

Through this program, Charlotte Street Foundation seeks to enable promising, ambitious curators to actively, thoughtfully engage with Kansas City’s energetic, diverse, emergent arts community, and to further develop their curatorial voices and

practices through direct, hands-on experience programming a highly regarded, well-established contemporary art space. The residencies are intended to encourage and support innovative, experimental, resourceful, community-responsive curatorial approaches that will introduce new ideas and foster critical discourse, creative production, and community participation in the Kansas City region.

Teaching partnerships with the Department of Art and University of Missouri-Kansas City and Kansas City Art Institute in connection with the program provide further opportunities for the annual Curator-in-Residence to connect with area art students while furthering their teaching experience.

This initiative extends Charlotte Street's longstanding commitment to nurturing and supporting Kansas City's artists and arts community and to fostering connections among and between artists and arts practitioners from Kansas City and elsewhere.

DETAILS

The 2013-14 Curator-in-Residence will be based in Kansas City for the duration of the residency, actively engaging with our region's artists and arts community, and working in close collaboration and coordination with Charlotte Street Foundation. Charlotte Street Foundation artistic staff, and a Curatorial Residency Program Advisory Group comprised of artists and arts professionals, will provide ongoing advisement and feedback, and will help to facilitate connections with a range of artists, curators, critics, and other culture producers in the Kansas City area. The Curator-in-Residence will additionally be paired with a professional curator "mentor" from one of the area's art institutions.



The Curator-in-Residence will be awarded a **stipend of \$7000 for the 10 month residency** (paid in monthly installments), and will have access to a total **program budget of \$7000** to fund the production of their exhibitions and programs. (Costs to be covered through the program budget include all artist fees, shipping, publications, installation-specific materials/supplies, travel costs, etc. associated with the production of their programming.) Basic marketing materials, gallery operation costs, and standard supplies will be covered by Charlotte Street Foundation separately.) **Free live space** will be provided (live space utility costs will be the responsibility of the curator). The curator will be provided a desk and full access to Charlotte Street's offices. A **travel stipend** of up to \$750 to cover travel to and from Kansas City will be available on an as needed basis.



Applicants should understand that a hands-on approach is required. Curators will be fully responsible for the generation and implementation of their exhibitions and programming at the gallery. It is expected that this will include a series of no less than three approximately eight week exhibitions, running early November 2013 through May 2014, with related and additional public programs. Equivalent alternative approaches are welcome, including the development of a program schedule that is more performance, project, and/or event-based. Charlotte Street Foundation will work with the selected curator/s prior to and during their residencies as needed in order to assist in the planning of programming to occur during the residency term. Programming generated by the curator will be integrated into Charlotte Street's ongoing programmatic and marketing efforts.

The curator will also be expected to maintain an active Curator-in-Residence blog throughout the duration of their residency, and to actively assist in promotional and outreach efforts related to their programming.

Applicants should also understand that as Charlotte Street's Curator-in-Residence, they will work in close collaboration and coordination with Charlotte Street Foundation as a contract staff-member, and will serve as a representative of, and ambassador for, Charlotte Street Foundation during their term. The Curator-in-Residence will be expected to respect and employ standards, guidelines, processes, and priorities established and provided by Charlotte Street Foundation.

Qualified, interested candidates will be considered for guest lecturer positions at University of Missouri-Kansas City and Kansas City Art Institute, to teach one course per semester (most likely at one school in the fall, the other in the spring) in curatorial practice, professional practice, and/or art writing. Teaching income will be \$3000-\$3500 per course.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong working knowledge of contemporary art, artists, and curatorial practices;
- Masters Degree in Art History/Curatorial Studies/Museum Studies or similar academic training preferred;
- Track record producing compelling and innovative contemporary art exhibitions, projects, and public programs;
- Interest in exploring the unique character of a regional arts ecosystem;
- Disposal toward collaboration, experimentation, and learning through doing;
- Commitment to developing programming responsive/relevant to the community and context in which it is presented.
- Strong written and oral communications skills, organizational skills, and capacity to work cooperatively and in close coordination with others toward shared goals

ABOUT LA ESQUINA

Operated under the auspices of Charlotte Street Foundation since 2007, la Esquina is a highly regarded venue that has been committed to the creation and presentation of experimental, risk-taking work by local and national artists of all disciplines, and to engaging diverse audiences directly with artists and their ideas. Suitable for exhibitions, performances, site-specific project and events, the 2500 square foot “white box” space features 20 foot ceilings, two moveable walls, operable garage doors on its north and south sides, and a small, elevated front “patio” outside the main entrance. A surface parking lot provides parking for gallery visitors as well as servicing Charlotte Street’s offices and several other adjacent businesses. Regular gallery hours are Thursdays: 11-6pm & Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays: 12-5pm.

TO APPLY:

Interested, qualified candidates should submit the following:

1. A letter of interest and intent. In this letter (850 words or less, please), please explain:

- Your interest in this opportunity and how it relates to your personal and professional goals;
- How past experiences and training have prepared you for and will inform your approach to the residency;
- A description of your intended approach to developing programming for the gallery. What specific interests and ideas might you pursue? How do you envision your process? How do you imagine engaging and responding to artists and the arts community in Kansas City? If you have ideas for specific exhibitions or programs you would organize, please describe them.
- A description of teaching experience, if applicable.
- A description of particular resources, relationships, assistance, etc. that you believe would be important for you in connection with the curatorial residency.
- Any relevant information about significant pre-existing commitments during the period August 2013-June 2014, or other relevant schedule-related consideration. It is expected that the residency will span mid-August through mid-June, though exact terms shall be discussed, and some flexibility exists. Assistance will be provided as possible to the selected curator should they wish to conduct preparatory site-visit(s) prior to the beginning of their term.
- Other relevant information you wish to be considered.

2. Resume/C.V., including all relevant curatorial and critical writing experience and training

3. Samples of Past Projects including:

- Images of past curated shows and projects (10-20 jpegs)
- Each image file must be titled with your Last Name, underscore, First Name, underscore, image number. Example: Smith_John_01. Accepted File type: JPG only. Maximum size in any direction: 1000px. Image resolution: 72 DPI. Maximum size per file: 1 MB
- Maximum 2 video links (if applicable).
- Scanned copies of up to 3 reviews.
- Scanned copies/pdfs of catalogs (if applicable).

- Brief curatorial statements about/descriptions of the past exhibitions/projects represented in the images/videos/press/catalogues (150 words or less per project, please).

4. **Names and contact information** for two professors/arts professionals/other professional contacts who can speak to your work and qualifications.

SCHEDULE

Application posted: February 13, 2013

Applications accepted: immediately

Final deadline for applications: April 1, 2013

Notification for interviews: April 10, 2013

Interviews to take place: April 15-May 15, 2013

(Skype interviews with semi-finalists; in person interviews with finalists)

Final selection by no later than: May 20, 2013

Visit www.charlottestreet.org for more about Charlotte Street Foundation.

EMAIL QUESTIONS AND APPLICATIONS to: kate@charlottestreet.org.

FAQs

What expectations does Charlotte Street Foundation have for the Curator-in-Residence?

The curator will be expected to use the time, space, funds, and public platform awarded to them to their fullest capacity; to actively engage with Kansas City area artists, arts professionals, and audiences; and to develop a dynamic schedule of programming for la Esquina that is stimulating, challenging, and introduces a fresh critical and curatorial perspective to Kansas City. Ideal residents will be hands-on, motivated, independent, curious, energetic, inventive, resourceful, responsible, organized, and collaboratively minded.

What will be the process of selecting the Curator-in-Residence?

A panel of artists and arts professionals, including representatives of Charlotte Street Foundation, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City Art Institute, and others from the community, will review all applications and narrow to a short list for Skype interviews. These interviews will provide an opportunity to review qualifications, discuss ideas, raise questions, etc.

Will Charlotte Street accept applications from collaborative teams?

Yes, applications from collaborative teams are welcome, though additional funds will not be provided. Applying collaborative teams are asked to submit individual resumes or CV.

Are students allowed to participate in the residency program?

Current graduate students may apply for a residency to begin only following the completion of school.

Will installation support and related gallery assistance be provided?

Charlotte Street Foundation does not have a full-time staff of preparators or assistants, but program staff will provide installation and technical assistance to the fullest extent possible. In addition, Charlotte Street Foundation will secure semester-long interns for curators as needed and desired. With advance notice, additional volunteer assistance may be available from artists participating in Charlotte Street's studio residency program. The gallery is equipped with general gallery supplies and basic tools.

What about marketing support?

Programming generated by curators will be integrated into Charlotte Street's ongoing marketing efforts. Charlotte Street Foundation will provide marketing support for the production of printed cards, promotion of programming via Charlotte

Street's website and social media, distribution of press releases, etc. The Curator-in-Residence will be expected to prepare content for marketing materials in accordance with Charlotte Street deadlines and standards.

What about office/work space?

The gallery is equipped with wireless internet access and a desk. Curators will also have full access to Charlotte Street's administrative offices, with a designated desk and access to the equipment and supplies therein. These offices are located in immediate proximity to la Esquina.

What is the arts community of Kansas City like?

Kansas City has an active, growing arts community. Resources include a free major encyclopedic museum (The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art), two free contemporary art museums (The Kemper Museum and The Nerman Museum), strong non-profit spaces (including Grand Arts, H&R Block Artspace at Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City Artists Coalition, Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art, Greenlease Gallery at Rockhurst University, The Studios, Inc.), many galleries, and a range of experimental, alternative, often informal activities and venues, including artist-run spaces and grassroots initiatives. Less than an hour away, Lawrence, Kansas features the Spencer Museum of Art at University of Kansas, as well as its own burgeoning arts community.

What is the area around la Esquina like?

La Esquina is located in Kansas City's Westside area, just off Southwest Boulevard, a main thoroughfare running through the center of the city. This area of the city features a large Hispanic population, reflected in the character of the immediately surrounding neighborhood, which includes numerous Mexican restaurants and Latino-owned businesses, along with diverse residential, office, and industrial properties. Boulevard Brewery, Kansas City's largest local brewery, which supplies free beer for all of Charlotte Street's openings, is located a block away. Several blocks north is a more gentrified area of the Westside, home to many artists, cafes, restaurants, and small businesses. For more about downtown Kansas City, visit <http://www.downtownkc.org/>

What about transportation?

While Kansas City does offer public bus transportation, it is strongly recommended that the Curatorial Resident have his or her own means of transportation once in Kansas City.

ABOUT CHARLOTTE STREET FOUNDATION

Charlotte Street Foundation's mission is to challenge, nurture, and empower artists of exceptional vision. The organization was founded in 1997 to support and recognize outstanding visual artists in Kansas City through direct cash awards. Since its launch more than 15 years ago, Charlotte Street has evolved, developing programs that engage and propel leading-edge artists of exceptional vision while fostering collaboration and a strong sense of community in Kansas City.

Charlotte Street believes that artists and art represent a valuable creative, social and economic resource. Today, Charlotte Street – with our community of artists – strives to be a primary catalyst in making Kansas City a vibrant, creative metropolis, alive with collaboration, passion, and ideas.

Programs and initiatives, informed by dialogue focused on the real needs of the creative community, include awards for visual and generative performing artists, project-based grants, studio residencies, a curatorial residency, exhibition and performance programming, and a range of professional development and educational programs for emerging and established artists based in Kansas City. A deep and sustained investment in the work and lives of individual artists, and strong commitment to fostering community and connections among them, is central to Charlotte Street's work.

Charlotte Street is regarded by national arts and philanthropic leaders as a model for multi-faceted artist support and community impact, and has received support nationally from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Leveraging Investments in Creativity (a program of the Ford Foundation), Pollock Krasner Foundation, Tremaine Foundation, and others.

Visit www.charlottestreet.org for more information.

PARTNERSHIPS

Through partnerships with University of Missouri-Kansas City and Kansas City Art Institute, qualified curators may be awarded adjunct/contract teaching positions, whereby they will develop and lead semester-long, hands-on curatorial and/or art writing workshops/practicum with art & art history students. These partnerships are designed to enable the curator/s to connect with important academic institutions, faculty, and students in Kansas City, and to actively engage students with gallery programming and the broader arts community. In addition, the teaching positions will provide a source of supplemental income.

Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI) is a four-year, independent, fully accredited college of art and design offering the bachelor of fine arts degree in a variety of disciplines. Its mission is to be a leader in visual arts and design education by preparing gifted students for lifelong creativity through intensive interaction with preeminent faculty and facilities, and by stimulating active public awareness, support, and participation in the visual arts and design. Host to nationally and internationally renowned faculty and 700-plus full-time students, many of whom remain in Kansas City following graduation, KCAI plays a central role in Kansas City's arts ecosystem. The Kansas City Art Institute is also home to the H&R Block Artspace, a contemporary art space dedicated to presenting innovative, high-quality exhibitions of regional, national, and international art; creating unique opportunities for local and regional artists and sustaining a strong regional arts community; and fostering active awareness, support and participation in the visual arts and visual art education. Visit www.kcai.edu for more information.

University of Kansas City-Missouri (UMKC) Department of Art and Art History offers BA and MA degrees in Studio Art and Art History, and an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. This steadily growing department, with a faculty that includes some of Kansas City's most active and respected studio artists, is located on the campus of UMKC, host of 15,000+ undergraduate and graduate students. The Department of Art and Art History is housed in the Fine Arts Building, which also features the UMKC Gallery of Art. Visit <http://cas.umkc.edu/art/> for more information.