



Date: December 13, 2004
For information: 603-610-7222

Announcement of a Public Competition

Description

The City of Portsmouth Cultural Commission, Art-Speak, announces its *Overnight-Art! Competition: a celebration of the Portsmouth City Master Plan*. Art-Speak's mission is to promote appreciation, awareness, participation, and dialogue in the support of arts and culture in Portsmouth.

Scheduled for installation in mid-April 2005, *Overnight Art!* is a scattered-site exhibit of temporary public art. Artwork will be commissioned for up to six Portsmouth locations, installed one per day, and exhibited for up to two weeks. During these two weeks, a media campaign will reinforce the connections among the art pieces and the City Master Plan. The two-week event will conclude with a "Meet the Artists" reception.

Overnight-Art! is intended to highlight the arts and cultural themes in the Master Plan, and celebrate the conclusion of a highly inclusive and successful process. The locations were selected because of the way they speak to the different themes in the Master Plan. A map of the sites, the site-specific competition guidelines, and site requirements and specifications will be available with the Application.

Eligibility

Artists living and working on the Seacoast will be encouraged to apply. All forms of art and collaboration among artists and media will be encouraged. Proposed artwork must be suitable for outdoor installation, and must be an appropriate reflection of the City's Master Plan.

Art-Speak board members are ineligible to participate, but will be represented on the jury. Artists may submit applications for different sites.

Application Process

On Monday, December 27, 2005 applications will be available online at www.art-speak.org. Due at City Hall on January 25, 2005, applications should include the \$15 application fee, a one-paragraph written description, reference to the preferred location, and an appropriate representation of the proposed piece. The application fee is waived for artists listed on the Art-Speak *Arts and Cultural Directory* (<http://www.art-speak.org/artists.cfm>).

A budget for up to \$750 should be enclosed with each proposal. Budget categories should include materials, labor, storage/work space, transportation/delivery, and installation/removal of commissioned work.

A jury will evaluate submissions. Evaluation criteria will be included in the Application. Art-Speak reserves the right to reject submissions. Commissions will be announced at noon on Monday, January 31st at Portsmouth City Hall.

Honorarium and stipend

\$500 honorarium and up to \$750 in stipend (for all aspects of materials, fabrication, and installation/removal) are available.

Additional Information about Competition

Commissioned art projects will enable artists new to public art to have opportunities for professional development through public presentations, creation of larger-scale public artworks, and documentation of artwork, which may be helpful for future public-art competitions. The Competition is intended to showcase the work of local artists.

Commissioned artists will receive a letter of commendation from Portsmouth Mayor Evelyn Sirrell. In addition, Art-Speak will provide photographic documentation as an added element of artist support.



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ART-SPEAK ARTS AND CULTURAL DIRECTORY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE DIRECTORY?

Art-Speak is the City of Portsmouth's Cultural Commission. The *Art-Speak Arts and Cultural Directory* is a tool to promote Portsmouth's cultural scene. It highlights individual artists, artisans, craftspeople, and also artist ensembles and collectives. In addition, it includes cultural organizations, galleries, performance venues, businesses, historical houses, and cultural-heritage resources serving Portsmouth.

With the Directory, Art-Speak aims to:

- Raise awareness and appreciation of artists and cultural organizations;
- Foster new connections and collaborations among artists, cultural organizations, and the greater community;
- Increase professional opportunities for artists of all kinds; and
- Develop larger audiences and increased participation in all cultural events and activities.

ARE THERE REQUIREMENTS?

Yes, there guidelines and criteria for both artists and art-related organizations.

I. Artists

Guidelines:

1. The *Art-Speak Arts and Cultural Directory* defines professional artist, ensemble, or collective to include full-time and part-time working individuals as well as artist-ensembles and artist-collectives.
2. Qualifying artists' engagements may occur in New Hampshire, the New England Region, across the country, and/or in international venues.

Screening Criteria:

1. The artist or at least one member of the ensemble/collective must reside and/or work frequently in Portsmouth.
2. Submitters must have exhibited, performed, been commissioned, recorded, or published in the past two years.

II. For Organizations, Businesses, and Venues

Guidelines:

Organizations, businesses, and venues, whose primary emphasis is to promote, develop, sustain, preserve, and celebrate the full range of arts, culture, and heritage in Portsmouth, are eligible for listing.

Screening Criteria:

1. The organization, business, or venue must be based Portsmouth and/or provide quality artistic, cultural, and historical activities, products, and experiences to the greater Portsmouth community.
2. The organization, business, or venue must be in business for more than one year.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS? CAN I COMPLETE THE APPLICATION ON-LINE?

At <http://www.art-speak.org/addlisting.cfm>, you will find two on-line forms—one for artists and one for organizations, businesses, and venues. You can complete and transmit these electronically to the Art-Speak marketing committee for screening. If you meet the Guidelines and Criteria, your submission will be published in 15 days.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF LISTING?

- Promotion of art work and specialty media via the Internet;
- Periodic email updates to listed artists regarding opportunities, e.g. *Overnight Art! Competition*; and
- Being known to the Portsmouth Cultural Commission, whose mission it is to promote appreciation, awareness, participation and dialogue in the support of arts and culture in our community.