

## Call to Artists/Artist Teams

Request for Qualifications | New Horizons - Neighborhood Residencies

**Deadline to Submit Materials: 5:00 PM (EST) Friday, January 31, 2020**

### Project Description

Launched in 2019 by Erie Arts & Culture, with preliminary funding from the Erie Community Foundation, New Horizons empowers residents, merchants, community organizers, artists, and culture-bearers to actively be involved in shaping the social character and built environment in their neighborhoods. The initiative, in the first three years, invests in the City of Erie's urban core. This includes neighborhoods located within the zip codes of 16501, 16502, 16503, and 16507.

As part of New Horizons, Erie Arts & Culture is accepting qualifications from artists that are interested in conducting placemaking residencies within the geographic area stated above during the 2020 calendar year. Residencies are funded in part by Erie Insurance through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP). Through this initiative, artists will work collaboratively with neighborhood organizations and residents of the community to either directly raise awareness of community needs or develop creative solutions to ongoing community issues.

Erie Arts & Culture seeks artists who are dedicated to exploring the intersectionality between the arts and social, environmental, racial, and economic justice. Artists interested in being considered for a neighborhood residency should respond to this RFQ by emailing a Letter of Intent (LOI) and portfolio to [chanel@erieartsandculture.org](mailto:chanel@erieartsandculture.org). A Selection Committee, comprised of staff from Erie Arts & Culture and members of the Erie Neighborhood Growth Partnership will review all submissions.

### Project Budget

Each neighborhood residency will include two artists, with one artist designated as the project lead and the other an associate artist. Project leads will be awarded a stipend of \$6,000. Associate artists will be awarded a stipend of \$4,000. Each residency will also include a small-to-moderate stipend for material expenses - at a minimum amount of \$1,500.

Erie Arts & Culture has funding to support seven neighborhood residencies in 2020 - providing paid opportunities for a total of 14 artists.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and a resident of Erie County.
- Applicants do not need a formal education in the arts, but must demonstrate a commitment to their artistic discipline and process.

- Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to community and an interest in exploring the intersectionality between the arts and social, environmental, racial, and economic justice.

## **Residency Planning**

Members of the Erie Neighborhood Growth Partnership will work with the seven selected artist teams to facilitate town hall style forums within their service areas. Members include Bayfront East Side Task Force (BEST), ServErie, Our West Bayfront, and the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJNN). These forums will provide artists with an opportunity to hear directly from neighborhood residents about the issues that are most important to them.

All residency plans should be informed by the input gathered through these forums. Residency plans will specifically outline the artists' methodology for community engagement, what issue(s) the residency is addressing, a timeline for completion, and the desired outcomes to occur as a result of the residency.

All residency plans will be reviewed and approved by Erie Arts & Culture prior to the implementation of residencies.

## **Project Goals and Scope**

The following are Erie Arts & Culture's stated objectives for New Horizons.

- Infuse arts and culture into Erie's neighborhoods to ensure the benefits of arts and culture are more fully recognized, utilized, and valued.
- Make access to information about arts and culture experiences, programs, and events easy and accessible to everyone.
- Integrated public art into neighborhood and district development and revitalization plans.
- Grow the capacity of artists and cultural organizations so they are better equipped to serve as community leaders.
- Utilize cultural events as a platform to discuss issues that are relevant to the cultural, economic, wellness, educational, environmental, and social needs of communities.
- Record, preserve, and share the culture and history of Erie, both past and present.

By accomplishing these objectives, Erie Arts & Culture aims to manifest the following outcomes.

- Erie and Northwest Pennsylvania are differentiated from other regions as a result of arts and cultural experiences perceived as extraordinary.
- Feelings of engagement and connection to the community are deepened by widening participation in arts and cultural experiences for all.
- The vibrancy of communities, in particular those that have been historically under-resourced and/or undergoing revitalization, is enhanced by increasing the accessibility and availability of arts and cultural assets and experiences in Erie County and Northwest Pennsylvania.
- As a community, we have a better cross-cultural understanding because of increased accessibility to arts and cultural experiences that are inclusive and representative.
- Individuals at all life stages have increased access to, and participation in, meaningful arts and cultural opportunities, whether socially, educationally, or economically.

## Description of Locations

Selected artist teams will conduct their residencies in neighborhoods within the City of Erie. Specifically, neighborhoods in 16501, 16502, 16503, and 16507. These neighborhoods range from distressed to highly distressed, which has led to moderate to severe disinvestment<sup>1</sup>.

The neighborhoods that comprise these zip codes, which represent the urban core, have historically been under-resourced and have the highest concentration of poverty within the City of Erie. The following percentage of residents living in these zip codes live below the poverty level<sup>2</sup>.

16501 = 64.1%

16502 = 30.7%

16503 = 42.5%

16507 = 30.8%

You will also find the highest representation of diversity within these neighborhoods. Collectively, the demographics of the four zip codes are<sup>3</sup>:

White = 59.35%

Black = 20.58%

American Indian = 0.50%

Asian = 3.02%

Hawaiian or Pacific Islander = 0.04%

Hispanic or Latino = 9.57%

Two or More = 4.67%

Other = 2.37%

## Application Submission Instructions

All materials should be submitted by January 31, 2019 by 5 PM EST.

Materials can be emailed to Chanel Cook, Director of Programs and Community Relationships, at [chanel@erieartsandculture.org](mailto:chanel@erieartsandculture.org). If an applicant desires to send hard copies they can do so using the following mailing address:

Erie Arts & Culture  
% Chanel Cook  
RE: Neighborhood Residencies  
23 West 10th Street  
Suite 2  
Erie, PA 16501

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<sup>1</sup> City of Erie, PA: Comprehensive Plan and Community Decision-Making Guide

<sup>2</sup> Per the United States Census Bureau - American Fact Finder (2013-2017, 5-year estimates)

<sup>3</sup> Per the United States Census Bureau - American Fact Finder (2013-2017, 5-year estimates)

## Application Materials

Artists who want to be considered for a residency should provide the following support materials.

- Artist biography (One page max)
- C.V. (resource when writing your CV - <https://www.erieartsandculture.org/blog/build-your-portfolio>)
- Artist statement that emphasizes the nature of your work and your artistic process.
- Letter of Interest addressing the following:
  - Why are you interested in a neighborhood residency?
  - What are some previous projects, if any, that you've completed that are relatable to this opportunity?
  - What is your methodology for working within the community?
- Examples of past work (10 images)
- Artist website and/or social media

If you have any questions about the requested support materials, please contact a staff member at Erie Arts & Culture.

## Timeline

**December 30, 2019:** Distribute RFQ

**January 31, 2020 (5:00 PM EST):** RFQ submission deadline

**February 7, 2020:** Resident artists selected and notified

**February 17-21, 2020:** Town hall forums

**March 6, 2020:** Preliminary residency plans due

**March 13, 2020:** Residency plans finalized

**March 16, 2020:** Residencies begin

**October 30, 2020:** Conclusion of Residencies

**November 9-13, 2020:** Town hall forums

**November 30, 2020:** Final reports due

## Commitment to Equity

Erie Arts & Culture is committed to championing policies and practices of equity that empower a just, inclusive, and equitable region. We recognize that many existing systems of power grant privilege and access unequally, and that equity is crucial to the long-term viability of both the arts and culture sector and communities-at-large.

## About Erie Arts & Culture

Founded in 1960 as the Arts Council of Erie, Erie Arts & Culture is the Local Arts Agency (LAA) for Northwest Pennsylvania and partner of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA). Our role is to promote, support, and develop arts and culture at the regional level; ensuring broad opportunities for residents and tourists throughout communities in Erie, Crawford, Venango, Warren, Mercer, and Lawrence counties to engage with the sector educationally, socially, and economically. Our presence ensures that all communities - regardless of their geographic location or economic status - are systematically and equitably served.

In support of our mission, Erie Arts & Culture:

- Provides tools, resources, and financial support to individuals and organizations that specifically utilize arts and culture as a platform to engage the broader community.
- Grows the capacity of our sector to ensure extraordinary arts and cultural experiences.
- Creates an environment in which artists and creative industries, representing a wide variety of disciplines, can thrive.
- Funds opportunities for lifelong learning through arts and culture experiences in classrooms, institutions, and public spaces.
- Consults on how arts and culture can be a component in any development or redevelopment project.