

Durham Arts Council Artist Call 2027 Info Session-20260331_214627UTC-Meeting Recording

March 31, 2026, 9:46PM

47m 34s

CS **Colleen Scott** 13:54
Hello, good evening.

SE **Sue Estelle-Freeman** 13:58
Hello.

S **Sam** 14:00
Yes.

CS **Colleen Scott** 14:01
I'm Colleen. I'm the Artist Services Manager. We're just going to wait a couple more minutes for some more folks to come in if they need.

A **Angela** 14:02
Hello.

SE **Sue Estelle-Freeman** 14:29
Yeah.

CS **Colleen Scott** 15:17
I'll give folks one more minute.
OK, I'm going to go ahead and get started. There might be more people coming in and I'll accept them and admit them whenever they do. Can everyone see my screen with the call for our info session title page?

BP **Brenda Pokorny** 16:08
Yes.

S **Sam** 16:08
Yes.

SE Sue Estelle-Freeman 16:09

Yes.

CS Colleen Scott 16:10

I am going to mute everyone.

Just for when I'm going through these slides and there'll be some time after to have a Q&A session. My name's Colleen. I'm the one who you all emailed to get the link to this info session. Thanks for being here. I'm the Artist Services Manager at the Durham Arts Council, so I do all of our exhibit programming as well as events like Centerfest and Art Walk among other things, and also some grants as well, because with nonprofits you kind of do a little bit of everything. Also on this call is McKayla Walker, who is going to be helping me with the chat and any questions you might have.

If you have any questions during the info session when I'm going through the slides, you can just put them in the chat to her and she can answer you in real time or you can wait until after the info session is over. I am transcribing this just so when that this info session is completed I can put the slides as well as our Q&A and other questions on our website. OK, I'm going to go ahead and get started. Thank you all for being here this evening.

The application is on Submittable-it is free to make an account. We use it for all of our artist calls as well as all of our grant programs because the application that you submit will be juried. Submittable is a great online platform that allows panelists and juror to review works and submissions. .

CS Colleen Scott 18:48

Get into a little bit in the next couple slides, but if you do have a preference of location, please be sure to indicate that in the application because that's helpful for us for where we place people.

We will also ask for a proposal narrative. This is going to ask things like what the intent of the exhibit is, as well as who will be involved. And this is a place to include logistics, which is important for us because this can indicate how the work will be

installed and delivered to space because we cannot accept shipped work, so artists have to physically drop off works to our space. There are a couple options that we can do for installation. It can kind of be collaborative with me and the artist. Or it can be the artist completely installing themselves or me completely installing themselves. It's up to what the artist wants to do. I'm flexible either way and I have done all three of the options I just mentioned.

For the resume, we just want to make sure that you include any past shows or residences or projects that you've done. It is a little bit different than a corporate resume. We just want to see what past experiences you might have had. There is a lot of text on these slides, but that's just because I'm going to use this as kind of an Evergreen resource to put on our website after. So again, if you have any questions or something's not on the slide, just send me an e-mail.

We're also looking for work samples, so these are high quality images that really highlight the work that you're going to be wanting to show. It must represent the type of work you're proposing to display, and if you're accepted and your proposal changes, that's something that you need to let me know before the materials are due to me. This is all outlined in the contract, but this is just something that I want to specify. So for example, if your proposal is doing a feature of your watercolor works and then a year has passed and so maybe you're switching completely into a sculptural form, those are changes that you know need to be discussed with me before we move forward. To see if it's going to be the right fit for our space.

All applications will be reviewed by a jury. It's an anonymous jury of three artists and arts admin in the triangle area. And then once the jurying is complete the applications will be sent to DAC staff and also Durham Convention Center staff to review and select. These are two different processes, so the Durham Convention Center selects internally, and the Durham Arts Council selects internally.

Now I'm going to go into a little bit about the gallery spaces. The first two galleries I'm going to be showing you are in the Durham Arts Council building and are programmed by the Durham Arts Council.

The first gallery is the Allenton Gallery, and this is on the first floor of the Durham

Arts Council. Right when you walk in, you'll see our large glass pavilion area and it's right through those doors is the Allenton Gallery. There's up to three walls to exhibit work here. And the Allenton Gallery and the other gallery I'll be talking about, the two that are programmed in our building follow the same exhibit schedule and exhibit timeline. They are up for about 8 weeks with one to two openings. The openings have historically fallen on the third Friday of each month because we do events and other activities within our space during that time and we kind of already have a great built-in network.

I do have a snapshot of the floor plan here with some measurements. As you can see on the left-hand wall here, there is a TV that we just mounted this year and this is a great tool for artists that exhibit to use to show their artist statements to show other work that's maybe not going to be in the exhibit, past exhibits, works in progress. It's also a great space to show any video content as well. And my recommendation for the Allenton Gallery is that this is a great space for solo shows and maybe larger works.

And the second gallery that's in the Durham Arts Council is the Semens Gallery, and this is on the second floor of the Durham Arts Council. You'll walk up the stairs here. It's also accessible by elevator. This is a larger gallery space, so there's five walls to exhibit work with an option to exhibit three.

So the three that, let's say you didn't want to do all five walls because that's a lot. The three that I would recommend would be this wall here, this wall here, and then this main wall here. And then back behind the main wall is actually our theater. This space is used a lot for openings or things like that in association with what's going on at the theater. And again, this follows the same timeline as the previous gallery I talked about, so it's about for eight weeks with one to two openings, and these floor plans also are on our website. But this gallery has a TV mounted here on one of the columns, so it doesn't affect any of the flow of the wall space.

And since it's such a big gallery space, this is a great space for group shows. In the picture that you see, this is a duo show. One work on the left, one work on the right, and then on that back wall you can't see it in this picture, but they intertwined both of their works.

And then the last space that we program is in partnership with the Durham Convention Center.

I don't have a great image of the space, so I'll try to explain it to you the best I can, but it's their pre-function corridor, it's the main lobby space for all their major conferences. If you see here on the left there is all the conference rooms and then there's a lot of wall space on the right. That's where we have programmed and displayed artists before. This is a different timeline. This follows what the Durham Convention Center folks, you know what timeline works best for them and the schedule of their building.

These shows are up for about 6 months, so it's normally split between December and June, and then the next show goes up through July through December. The Durham Convention Center has historically only accepted solo shows and large works because that seems to work best in that space. This space you can see it's individual wire systems on each wall, whereas our at the Durham Art Council galleries we currently don't have a wire system so to install it's classic hammer and nail.

And here's just a little snapshot of kind of what we're looking for. We're really looking for solo group show applications. A group show could be, you know, three artists who are friends and want to show their work together. That would be great. We would encourage you to apply. There is also incentive that staff may invite solo applications to participate in a curated group show. For example, two years ago there were two applicants that I thought would work really well together because they were both fiber artists. I asked if they wanted to be in a show together and ended up working out great.

We're also looking for artists located in Durham and Triangle. As I mentioned before, we are open to artists further out, but you do have to transport your work to us because we cannot accept shipped works. For example, I did have an artist who exhibited here from Virginia, and she was able to transport her work here via van, so something to be considered.

We are looking for artists who do have some experience showing their work. This can be group shows or one or two solo shows. If this is like your first show that you're

applying for, we just want to make sure that you have strong work samples and that there's a strong plan in place for how you're going to execute this. That's really what we're looking for. Again, we want this opportunity to be open to anyone, so we really encourage anyone who is interested in applying. I don't think I mentioned this, but there is a \$5 application fee. We've lowered it over the years just to make it more accessible for people who those higher application fees is a barrier to entry.

And these are some considerations. This is a bit more about our space to see if this space is the right fit for your work. Something to really preface and emphasize is that we're a multi-use space.

The galleries that the work will be exhibited in are rented out. They're rented out for a wide variety of things. It can be weddings, conferences, and we also have school and summer camps going on as well. There's a lot of children and activity and a high-volume area. Which is great for exposure, but it does mean that we have to be mindful about the type of work that we have to present in those spaces.

We will consider three to four, three to four small 3D works that can be displayed on a pedestal with the caveat that these may need to be removed from the gallery space during events. If they are removed, as we have done in the past for some other shows, they will be stored in my office and then be reinstalled the following Monday. We will not accept freestanding installations or sculptural work. Again, this is for like egress and that our spaces are used a lot for events.

The work that's hung cannot extend more than 6 inches from the wall. And again, this is kind of similar thing with egress and also making sure we have a nice balance between the art in space and also the events and people in the space.

The Durham Convention Center really wants large work in their space, so they will not accept work smaller than 30 by 30 inches. And that's just because they have a lot of wall space and they found that the larger the work, it just fills the space better and works better for them.

At this time, I do want to preface that the Durham Arts Council can only provide the exhibit space and marketing. We can't fund transportation or framing or any

additional costs, but we are working on our fiscal year 27 budget, so I'll let you know if any of that changes. You must be 18 years or older to apply.

We require at least one programming event and so in conjunction with your exhibit. And the reason why is whenever we have had artist talks or people do a tabling event or something like that in junction with their exhibit., it really creates a lot of great context for the audience and it also really helps sell their work when people have a story and a direct connection.

We really want to focus on having at least one programming event and normally these will fall on 3rd Fridays. But again, if you have a different date or time in mind, I'm open to brainstorming and seeing what will work with our building schedule. I just provided a couple examples of past programming. You by no means have to adhere to this.

Artist talks can be done in a lot of different ways. Some things we've done in the past have been like sitting down with a moderator or with me leading the artist talk. We've also done guided gallery tours, so take them through a couple of pieces around you with the gallery with a Bluetooth microphone. That's been lovely. Or a panel for a larger group.

We've also done artist demos. We've had artists tabling, selling their work, selling their prints. We recently just had an artist work in progress table, she was a linocut artist, so she came with her carving tools and the lino blocks that were in progress. And that was a great kind of mini exhibit of what goes behind the scenes to exhibit the work that you're seeing exhibited. And then also a guided activity or craft. For example, if the exhibit in the galleries really has a big emphasis on like the written word. I think doing a writing craft or writing workshop in conjunction would be a great fit for that.

OK, I know that was a lot too, but that's all I have so far. That's a super quick and dry run through with all the things that need to be considered on both ends for the application. Does anyone have any questions?

BP

Q & A Section

BP

Brenda Pokorny 33:48

Maybe now. Good. OK, thank you. So, I am one of a group of North Carolina mosaic artists. Sue on this call is also one of us that we have gotten together and we're proposing exhibitions of our group mosaics in various places. So I started going through the application for us and there are eight of us who perhaps might be interested up to eight of us. But in the resume section, I didn't know what to do. So I was thinking maybe have each of us a few lines and then I would kind of consolidate that into one document that would have like the highlights of each of the eight of us. How should I do that?

CS

Colleen Scott 34:43

Yeah, that could work. Or it could even be like a blank Word doc with links to each of your resumes. That could work too. Or in the past, some people have just submitted one person's resume, and then at the very bottom of the application where it says additional links, they put other people's resumes in there. If neither of those options work, you can put one person's resume and you can e-mail me everyone else's resumes too, and I can save that on file.

BP

Brenda Pokorny 35:10

OK, excellent. So I could potentially do a document that has a link, a live link for everyone and and upload that. OK, OK.

CS

Colleen Scott 35:16

Yes, that has worked in the past. And if you have any issues, just send me an e-mail.

BP

Brenda Pokorny 35:23

OK, excellent. Thank you. Another quick question. Do you take a Commission from sales?

CS Colleen Scott 35:25

Yes.

Yes, we take 30%, so 70% to the artists, 30% to the Durham Arts Council.

BP Brenda Pokorny 35:31

OK. Thank you.

Thank you.

CS Colleen Scott 35:36

Mhm.

And yes, I think Michelle, you were next if you still have a question.

MR Michelle Richardson 35:44

Yes, I was just let into the meeting like 12 minutes in, so I'm not sure what I missed.

Are you going to send us any type of like slot or or follow up information about this?

CS Colleen Scott 35:56

Yes, yes. These slides will be posted on our website under our exhibits page.

MR Michelle Richardson 36:00

Perfect. Perfect.

You you said they'll be posted on your website or you're gonna send them to us?

What did she say?

CS Colleen Scott 36:10

I can do both. I was going to just post them on the website, but I can also send them to you.

MR Michelle Richardson 36:11

OK, yeah.

OK, that'll be perfect. OK. I heard you say something about the size of the pieces. Is that for, was that for a different gallery?

CS **Colleen Scott** 36:27

The size constraint is more so in relation to the Durham Convention Center. They don't work smaller than 30 by 30 just because they have such a large space. At the Durham Arts Council have some limitations on the sizes of works, but I'm more open so we don't have as many restrictions.

MR **Michelle Richardson** 36:49

OK, so there are actually two different places that we're having to or have an opportunity to apply for.

CS **Colleen Scott** 36:55

Yes.

MR **Michelle Richardson** 36:56

OK. All right. Thanks.

CS **Colleen Scott** 36:57

Yeah.

And I think you may have missed that. So my apologies, Michelle. And yes, Bonnie.

MR **Michelle Richardson** 37:05

It's OK.

BB **Bonnie Brooks** 37:15

Hi, I was, I was interested in the Convention Center. You said 30 by 30. So I have a painting that's like 24 by 48. Would that be OK?

CS **Colleen Scott** 37:29

I would say so, yeah.

BB **Bonnie Brooks** 37:31

So you wrote that there's like 10 pieces. So um, are these all?

CS **Colleen Scott** 37:36
Mhm.

BB **Bonnie Brooks** 37:40
Very large spaces because when I look at that wall in that picture, it does not look really big. You know, we're on the right hand side anyway, but like you said, it's deceiving.

CS **Colleen Scott** 37:49
I'll see if I can get more information from the Durham Convention Center as well about the specifics, but I have installed in this space a few times and it's really long space, so there's probably enough space on the walls to fit about 8 works and then there's a wall you can't really see that can fit about two that's adjacent.

BB **Bonnie Brooks** 38:32
All right, thank you.

AD **Abby DeLotto** 39:03
That more as a venue type of description and of all the walls that you have in the non-Convention Center, should I request a certain length of wall or is there any kind of? You know, boundary or general alignment of space that you do for individuals, individual artists.

CS **Colleen Scott** 39:27
Yeah, normally individual artists will request a gallery space. We don't really limit it to the walls. So for example, the Allenton Gallery, which I pulled up here, currently has a solo show by Ciara Stewart who's the linocut of artist I spoke about. And she proposed this show as she called Carving Light. Her exhibition and artist statement kind of intertwined of like this was a solo show to show the further development of her work since her last exhibit working in her linocut and exploring different narratives and different styles of work. She was experimenting around a little bit with collage work with also linocut, and so she only ended up using two walls. The two

main walls that you walk in and not the third wall, which is the 16 by three wall by the elevator. So that's why I think this space is specifically great for solo artists because it's not quite as large or overwhelming and it can do well with a show like Ciara's only has about 10 pieces.

Did that answer your question?

AD **Abby DeLotto** 40:48

Sort of. The request for 10 samples is not the limiting factor to how many pieces would be on the walls if I were selected OK.

CS **Colleen Scott** 40:57

Correct.

Correct. It's more so like a snapshot of that. You can do this type of work and it be consistent and also at a high quality is kind of what we want to see. So for example, for Ciara's show, I'll just keep using her as an example.

CS **Colleen Scott** 41:18

She had some works in her previous show that sold, so her inventory was then the work samples that she had submitted were no longer quite as relevant, but she was able to reach out to me and update me on what she was thinking for her new show and send me those samples of work and that work.

AD **Abby DeLotto** 41:28

Understood.

AD **Abby DeLotto** 41:38

OK. And I think one last question from me. I know I'm sure the purpose in in large in large measures is to sell things, but will you submit, will you permit not for sale pieces?

CS **Colleen Scott** 41:55

Yes, they can't be the whole show. So for example, Ciara has about two to three pieces that are listed as not for sale out of her 10.

AD Abby DeLotto 41:59

Oh, of course.

OK. All right. Thank you.

CS Colleen Scott 42:11

Are there any other questions before I let us go for the evening?

MR Michelle Richardson 42:27

I have one more question since you mentioned the gosh, it just slipped my mind. Oh yeah. So when you're submitting examples, are you supposed to submit the exact work that's going to go in the show or you just said you wanted it for quality and all that?

CS Colleen Scott 42:45

It's kind of a bit of both. If you do have the work that's going to be in that show, that would be great with the caveat that we know that those pieces can potentially change because it's a year.

MR Michelle Richardson 42:48

Thank you.

So if the proposal is just an an an I like in the idea stage. Then you wouldn't be able to submit work just to show what type of work you do, the style, the quality of it. You have to submit the exact pieces that's going to go up.

CS Colleen Scott 43:16

Not necessarily. So let's say for example, you're wanting to do a different series of work. Let's say you want to focus more on acrylic nature paintings, and you only have about two of those that have currently been completed, but you still have a portfolio of people acrylic paintings. I would include the two-nature acrylic paintings along with, you know, cause it's 10 images along with eight other paintings to support those other ones. Does that make sense?

MR Michelle Richardson 43:46

Yes, thank you.

S **Sam** 43:49

So I have a question. All right. So if we're doing, let's say we're doing a show with two people and the judges, they like one, but they don't really care for the other one. What happens then?

CS **Colleen Scott** 44:14

All applications are viewed as one, so if you're applying to the show as a duo group, you should apply it under one applicant that so five of the work samples will be at one artist, five of the work samples will be at the other. Or some people in the past have done all work samples of one artist with a Google Drive link to all of the other artists work, but all of the applications will be viewed as one. So we're not going to be separating proposed group shows that apply together.

S **Sam** 44:44

OK, so it couldn't say, couldn't give the option of take, take her or take me or take us both. So. So actually we should apply separately as solo shows perhaps.

CS **Colleen Scott** 44:51

No.

You could, but if you want to show together and have a strong idea of how you want to exhibit your work together, I encourage you to apply together, but that's up to the artist discretion.

S **Sam** 45:01

Yeah.

And so you were saying when there is anything on a pedestal has to be small, is that what I heard and it would come down, OK.

CS **Colleen Scott** 45:14

Yeah, that's just something that we've had issues with in the past, so we have to be really strict about it.

S **Sam** 45:28

Can you define how tall or how wide? What's the limit on that?

CS **Colleen Scott** 45:35

It's a traditional pedestal, It's like 10 by 10 maybe. But again, this is something that if you have any questions and want to send me the picture and measurements, I can definitely tell you from that if we think it could work in the space.

S **Sam** 45:55

OK. All right. Thank you.

BB

Bonnie Brooks 46:01

Can you mix mediums such as I do? I do mostly oils, but I also do acrylics also. I was just wondering if you could mix the mediums in a solo show.

CS **Colleen Scott** 46:17

Yes, yeah.

BB **Bonnie Brooks** 46:20

OK.

CS **Colleen Scott** 46:24

Anything that shows kind of your artistic journey.

Were there any other questions?

We're getting done in record time. I was like 7-7 is kind of late, but I just wanted to give us that time just in case, but.

S **Sam** 46:43

One more question. Will we receive any kind of critique from the judges?

CS **Colleen Scott** 46:50

Yes, they are required to leave comments. So once the decisions come out, if let's say

that you aren't accepted, you can e-mail me and ask for any feedback, and I'll be happy to provide that.

S **Sam** 47:06

Great.

OK, great. OK.

CS **Colleen Scott** 47:12

OK, well, if you guys have any other questions, feel free to e-mail me and I'll send out these slides tomorrow morning and also post these on our website tomorrow morning. But thank you for attending, thank you for all your questions and I hope you all have a lovely evening.