



Application for Block Fest Artist Activators Residency

Deadline: Monday, July 16, 2018, 5:00pm

Contact: **Rick Darnell, Community Art Manger**

Phone: 415-626-2060

Email: rick@counterpulse.org

Hello and thank you for applying to the Block Fest Artist Activators Residency! Below is a description of the residency, please read fully before filling out the application. On page 3 you will find the application, please reach out if you have any questions or need support in completing the application. We look forward to learning about your work and reviewing your proposed activity.

About the Block Fest Artist Activators Residency

What is Block Fest?

Block Fest celebrates the Tenderloin and our block of Turk Street with free arts activities, community information, and discussion. Every Friday, from 3pm–5pm, Artist Activators host unique activities, workshops, or conversations for anyone who lives, works, or plays in the Tenderloin. From interactive performances and conversations to screen printing workshops and crochet jams, Block Fest has Tenderloin neighbors returning on a weekly basis. The program has been running monthly since November 2016 and is being expanded to weekly in the Fall of 2018. Block Fest is presented in partnership with Central City SRO Collaborative.

What is the opportunity?

Artist Activators are the creative force for each Block Fest. Artist Activators are responsible for four consecutive Block Fests across one month. The Artist Activator residency is 8 months long, though most of the work will happen during your specific month of activities. Additional commitments Artist Activators should expect are attending three cohort meetings, and volunteering at 2 other Block Fests during your 8 months in residence. The stipend for Artist Activators is \$900, with an option to receive a \$100 stipend for additional engagement work (writing on the blog and hosting an additional activity).

What kind of activities do Artist Activators host?

Artist Activators propose the activity in this application and the activity is designed with CounterPulse's support. Each Block Fest activity in an Artist's month can be the same or a themed series. Activities by Artist Activators can be visual arts based or they can be relational, performative, conversational, or participatory. Below are some tips for developing a competitive proposal for your month of activities:

- A goal of Block Fest is to create public space for neighbors to engage with each other, so activities that spark conversation are great!
- Another goal of Block Fest is to create spaces of respite. CounterPulse provides shade, table, seating, and snacks; we encourage Artist Activators to consider how their projects can also provide respite
- The activities should be designed that anyone can drop in and participate easily with minimal instruction
- Activities should have different levels of engagement, some participants may want to participate for the whole two hours, and others may want to only drop in for 15 minutes
- We encourage all Artist Activators to deeply consider how the invitation for participation is made (e.g. to people passing by on the street) and to consider this as part of the activity
- We preference activities that celebrate what makes the Tenderloin special and/or projects that surface underheard community concerns
- Block Fest is designed primarily for adult residents of the Tenderloin, though families and children also stop by. Activities should be appropriate for all ages and skill levels

Who should apply?

This opportunity is designed for artists or community members who:

- Strive to eliminate boundaries between disciplines, artists and audience, and divergent communities
- Include public interaction and engagement as part of their creative process
- Value the social-bond and empathy building power of arts experiences
- Are self-starting and able to thrive in a DIY environment
- Have vision for the arts as a tool for social justice and community action
- Tenderloin residents are encouraged to apply
- Teams are encouraged to apply. Teams will determine for themselves how to split the stipend, which is the same as the stipend for individuals
- Disabled, Visually Impaired, and/or Deaf people are encouraged to apply for this residency. Please let us know what accommodations, if any, we can provide
- Multilingual artists are encouraged to apply. We do currently have resources for translation accommodations for Spanish-speaking applicants. We hope to be able to support more languages in the future. For all other languages besides Spanish, conversational English language skill is required. We can accept applications in English and Spanish

Commitments for Block Fest Residency:

- Artists will present four drop-in workshops, over a span of four consecutive Fridays during their given month, from 3pm–5pm
- Artists will attend 3 cohort meetings and volunteer at 2 other Block Fests during their residency
- Artists will critically evaluate their activity and the program during debriefs after each activity (conducted over the phone) and after their full month of Block Fests (in-person)
- Artists will receive a stipend of \$900 and a \$250 supply budget, there is option to receive an additional \$100 engagement stipend for writing blog posts (2) and doing an additional activity with CounterPulse sometime during your residency

Space & Support:

- Block Fest activities will occur outdoors in the 23' wide x 4' deep x 9' high front alcove and entryway of CounterPulse
- CounterPulse provides table, chairs, and a pop-up tent
- In case of rain or inclement weather, activities can happen in the lobby of CounterPulse, but should be planned to occur outside
- CounterPulse will provide 1 house manager during each activity to support with set-up, take down, and facilitating the activity. Any support needed beyond the house manager should be provided by the artist
- Artists will receive administration, production, and outreach support from CounterPulse

Key Dates

- **June 25, 2018, 5pm-6pm, Open Calls Mixer - Learn about the program, ask questions, and meet other artists**
- July 16, 2018 5:00pm, Applications are due
- August 1–8, 2018, Notification of acceptance
- August 13, 2018, 4pm–6pm, Residency Kick-Off & Orientation (Cohort Meeting #1)
- September 7, 2018–November 30, 2018 – Fall Season of Block Fest
- December 1, 2018–January 31, 2019 – Winter Break - No Block Fests
- February 1–June 21, 2019 – Spring Season of Block Fest
- February 11, 5pm-6pm, Cohort Meeting #2
- June 3, 5pm-6pm, Cohort Meeting #3

Please note: At this time, Block Fest Artist Activators who have participated in previous Block Fests are not eligible to apply in this round of Block Fest.

Application for Block Fest Artist Activators Residency

Application Instructions:

- Fill in the contact section and application questions
- Please answer the questions as thoroughly as possible while minding the word limit
- Applications may be typed (preferred) or handwritten
- If you need help completing the application please reach out to Rick. Contact info below

How to Submit:

- Applications will be accepted via email or in hard copy
- Please do not submit any additional materials with your application
- To submit via email:
 - Save your document using the following labeling system: "YourName_BlockFest_LOI_2018"
 - Save your application as either a Microsoft Word or PDF document
 - Email your application to Rick Darnell: rick@counterpulse.org using the subject header: "Block Fest Applicant 2018: Your Full Name"
- To submit in hard copy:
 - Drop-off your Letter of Intent at CounterPulse during office hours listed below
- **Applications must be received (not postmarked) by 5:00 pm on Monday July 16, 2018**

Need Help?

You can reach out to Community Arts Manager, Rick Darnell if you need help completing your application. Rick can be contacted the following ways:

- By phone at 415-626-2060
- By email: rick@counterpulse.org
- In-person: Stop by CounterPulse (80 Turk St.) during Rick's office hours:
 - Monday 12pm–2pm
 - Wednesday 9am-11am
 - Friday 12pm–2pm

Contact Info:

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY : _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

WEBSITE (IF APPLICABLE): _____

Artistic Background & Activity Proposal:

Describe your work and artistic background. What experiences have you had that qualify you to be a Block Fest Artist Activator? (200 words)

Describe the activity you would like to present through Block Fest. How will it stay the same or change across the four weeks? (300 words)

**What are the technical needs of your project and how would your \$250 supply budget be used?
(100 words)**

**Describe your relationship to the Tenderloin. How will your activity will engage this neighborhood?
(300 words)**

Block Fest is scheduled for the afternoon of the four consecutive Fridays of the month. Please indicate at least two months, and up to five, that you are available September–November 2018 and February–June 2019. Please write months in ranked order of preference:

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

3rd Choice: _____

4th Choice: _____

5th Choice: _____

Discuss other availability concerns we should be aware of. (100 words)

Work Sample: Please provide URL link to recent past or current work that represents your proposed project. You may submit:

- up to 5 minutes of video for performative, interactive, or other time-based works
- up to 6 photographs of visual works
- up to 4 pages of written work

Please provide context for your work sample. Does the work represent the type of work that you are proposing? Is this a work-in-progress, or a finished piece? (200 words max)

Thank you for applying to be a Block Fest Artist Activator!