



Black Futures Series—An Archive

Call to Artists / Designers

Print multiple / publication documenting collaborative work and creative happenings

DEADLINE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Project Summary

Cincinnati Art Museum seeks an artist / designer to document gatherings at the museum and within its neighborhood of Walnut Hills, resulting in design and production of a physical publication that forms a historical record of collaborations and happenings centered on Black creativity.

Beginning February 25, 2022, the Cincinnati Art Museum will present the concurrent special exhibitions [*Working Together: The Photographers of the Kamoinge Workshop*](#) and [*David Driskell: Icons of Nature and History*](#). Both exhibitions highlight art created in the context of the Black Arts Movement and shed light on the featured artists' commitment to mentorship, to creating exhibition and publication platforms for Black artists, and to self-representation of Black life.

To honor and continue the work of Driskell and the Kamoinge photographers, the museum has partnered with ArtWorks, Cincy Nice, OhioDance, the Robert O'Neal Multicultural Art Center, and WordPlay Cincy to create the Black Futures Series. This multi-faceted series of collaborative gatherings will engage local established and aspiring Black creatives across the visual and performing arts in building mentor networks, occupying creative platforms, sharing histories, and nurturing excellence. More information about the Series is available through the exhibition websites referenced above.

Forming the archives necessary to write Black art history is also central to the work of Driskell and the Kamoinge photographers. Your proposed work should be a physical touchstone about the ideas that animate the Black Futures Series, and a means to enter into the historical record the collaborative work taking place during the Series.

Selected artist / designer will:

- Attend and document Black Futures Series events between February 24 and May 15, 2022. Documentation may be images and words, which may be collected from event participants as well as produced by the artist / designer.

- Using the collected and produced observations and documents, design a printed multiple celebrating the ideas underlying the Black Futures Series and serving as a lasting archive of participants' work together over the course of the Series. The publication may take the form of a book or other published format capable of being produced in required quantity within available budget. It is desirable for the publication to take a form amenable to digital distribution in addition to physical realization. (For example as a PDF file or similar.)
- Oversee all aspects of production resulting in 250 physical copies of the publication delivered to the museum by August 1, 2022. The museum will then distribute physical copies to local stakeholders and relevant public collections/archives at no cost to recipients. Likewise, if a digital version of the publication is feasible, the museum will make it available to the public, in whole or part, without charge.

Eligibility and Selection Process

Cincinnati-area artists and designers are eligible to submit applications. A plurality of visions and voices are necessary to envision and communicate the themes of this project.

Artists/Designers who identify as Black or from any facet of the African diaspora are strongly encouraged to apply. Artists/Designers who identify as Indigenous, LatinX, Asian, mixed race or any other segment of the global majority frequently underrepresented or marginalized in the fine arts sphere in America are also encouraged to apply.

A committee of representatives from the partner organizations responsible for planning the Black Futures Series—Cincinnati Art Museum, ArtWorks, Cincy Nice, OhioDance, the Robert O'Neal Multicultural Art Center, and WordPlay Cincy—will select the winning proposal and begin orienting the artist / designer by end of day Friday, February 18, 2022.

Required Application Materials

Complete applications must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, February 13, 2022, and must include:

- Resume or link to professional website
- Artist's statement, max. 250 words
- Sample images, maximum 3, of current or past work. Please include at least one work that speaks to prior experience creating print multiples / publications if possible.
- Written project proposal. Proposal should:
 - Explain your plans for documenting gatherings
 - Describe what you will produce: your vision for a physical object that commemorates the ideas and activities of the Black Futures Series
 - Describe how you will produce it: your anticipated timeline for gathering material, design, and production; your anticipated means of production (for example, what press or other publication means would you use); and how you would allocate the project budget

Full application submitted by email to russell.ihrig@cincyart.org, with subject header "Black Futures Series Archive [your name]."

Project Budget

\$5,000 will be the total commission fee awarded to the selected artist / designer. This total amount includes the artist / designer honorarium as well as all costs incurred to produce and deliver 250 finished copies of the publication. The selected artist / designer may retain up to 5 of the 250 copies for their own archive.