



Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County

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ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: Program Information and Background

Introduction

The St Vincent de Paul Artist in Residence (“AIR”) program provides qualified artists working in any medium with unlimited access to materials in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County’s (“SVdP”) Main Warehouse Facility and use of an equipped art studio. In return, the artists make art from reclaimed waste and talk to tour groups and train SVdP Functional Found Art staff on replication of new products. The Artists also contribute a few of their pieces to the organizations permanent collection, which is exhibited in a variety of venues. Some of the larger sculptures are installed in cultural facilities throughout the East Bay.

We are modeling the SVdP **AIR** after the AIR Program at SF Recycling & Disposal, Inc. (a subsidiary of Norcal Waste Systems, Inc.). The SFR&D program is a unique education program that inspires people to conserve natural resources. By providing San Francisco artists with the opportunity to work at the dump, SFR&D has developed an innovative program for the benefit of both the environment and the arts. The program’s outreach activities target the general public, school children, and the San Francisco arts community, while the SVdP **AIR** program targets the East Bay community.

Artists are chosen biannually by an advisory board made up of environmental and art professionals. The program does not provide housing and expects artists to reside with a 60 minute driving distance of the organization. SVdP hopes to keep the program focused in the East Bay by targeting the East Bay art community. Applications are not accepted from artists outside the Bay Area.

Mass Media

One of the most efficient ways to reach the public is through mass media. We reach out to all types of media including print, TV, radio, journals and magazines for the waste industry, art, ecology, East Bay neighborhoods, and local colleges and Universities. The organization and the artists develop a press kit that is sent out six to eight weeks before the artist’s reception held in the month after the end of each residency. The press kit includes information about the artists, a short description of the program, images of the artist’s work, and a calendar listing which includes basic information like time, date and place.

Our Stores

SVdP has four thrift stores in Alameda County. The Alameda Thrift Store, located at 2315 Lincoln Ave, houses products created by our current Functional Found Art program, a program employing SVdP clients to create products from recycled objects. The SVdP **AIR** artist will assist in creating one to two new products and will instruct our Found Art Studio staff in their assembly and replication.

Tours

Tours for potential artist applicants and the general public may be scheduled. In addition to an overview of recycling and garbage, tours discuss the art program in more detail and explain the art program's mission, history and selection process.

Art Shows

At the end of every residency, SVdP holds a free public exhibition and reception to show the work from the artist. Shows are held in the Alameda SVdP Store and a suitable gallery as appropriate.

Public Exhibitions

After an artist finishes his/her residency, SVdP continues to promote the artist and recycling by exhibiting art in various public spaces, downtown office buildings, lobbies and government offices in the East Bay. These exhibitions introduce innovative and alternative ways of reusing materials to those who do not normally attend art shows.

Lectures

We hope to speak at public venues, which are usually related to the arts or the environment. We will give presentations; speak at the public library, Lawyers for the Arts, the Foundation Center and numerous professional associations.

Hand-out Materials

We will keep brochures available at art shows, round the organization, and for people on tours and for anyone who requests them. The brochures are updated at least annually. We design postcards for each art show and send them out to former artists, board members and people who do not have email. We will use email as our main form of communication.

ARTIST SELECTION

Selection Process

Applications for the Summer 2008, are available on our website and are due by May 16th. We do not accept late applications.

To apply, artists should return the actual application form (contact information, references), resume, four photos and a proposal. We do not accept any extra materials such as videos, CDs or writing samples, but the artist may indicate in their cover letter that these materials are available, and sometimes we will ask for them later.

The director and staff review applications and eliminate any artists that are not local, have not followed application requirements, or are not professional artists. We summarize resumes and proposals, then these summaries at the committee meeting.

Applications received by May 16, 2008, will be reviewed first by SVdP staff. We will select 10 artists to be interviewed by the Selection Sub-Committee. These interviews will be held during the fourth week of May. At this meeting, the Artist in Residence will be selected.

MATERIAL GATHERING GUIDELINES

When gathering materials, safety is your primary concern. Whenever you collect materials you must wear gloves, and steel toed boots. Dust masks and earplugs are also available but not required.

The operation of heavy machinery (trucks, tractors, fork lifts, etc.) in the vicinity requires that you remain alert and cautious. You must anticipate their path of operation. Make eye contact with the operators before proceeding to ensure they know you are there. The machines are very noisy, so the operator won't be able to hear you. Make sure the operators know where you are and remember that he/she has the right of way. Do not obstruct operations or take any chances.

Please use a shopping cart or dolly to transport items to the studio. You may request a forklift through the director of the program, but not from other employees including the forklift drivers. Never park your vehicle in a location that blocks traffic flow or access. Let the workers know that you are there.

Material Resources

Main sources for artists' materials should be items discarded from our warehouse and or container customers (metal and wood). SVdP staff will bring dumpsters to the Artist's staging area for the Artist to sort through. When the Artist has finished sorting, SVdP staff will remove the unwanted materials. Another source are materials designated for recycling (plastics, cardboard and paper). Such items will be placed on the dock, prior to disposal in the recycling bin, for the Artist's review.

Air Studio

Located at 9235 San Leandro Street in East Oakland.

Studio Rules

- ❑ Keep all items away from the entrance doors, both outside and inside to make it easy to get in and out. Do not leave items in the front of the studio or they will be thrown away.
- ❑ Put tools away. If you do not find something where you left it that means we probably put it away.
- ❑ When you use the last of something, let us know so we can replace it.
- ❑ Return brooms and dustpans to the warehouse.
- ❑ Report broken or misplaced tools.
- ❑ When you leave the studio, make sure gates are closed and locked. Double lock the front door.
- ❑ No drugs, alcohol is allowed on the SVdP site.
- ❑ No toxic substances are allowed on the SVdP site.

Support Staff

The AIR program is supported by a part time coordinator who perform the following tasks: coordinate annual selection process, approves stipends, orients the artist to the program, maintains mailing list and media list, develops and mail postcard invitations, curates end-of-residency shows and off site special exhibitions, maintains SVdP art collection (storage, location, repair), budgets, files, photographs of all artwork made in the program, maintains web page, keeps studio equipped, organized and cleaned out at the end of each residency, responds to media inquiries, negotiates contracts with artists, maintains files on each artist, negotiates for artwork for organization's permanent collection, hosts art shows.