



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

February 6, 2019

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Anne Mannes, Recreation and Community Services Manager – Programs *AM*

SUBJECT: Interview and appoint an applicant to fill the vacancy on the Artist-in-Residence Collaborative

RECOMMENDATION

Interview and Appoint an Artist-in-Residence for a three-year term (January 2019 – December 2022).

BACKGROUND

The standard term for the Artist-in-Residence (AIR) has been one year typically beginning on July 1 and ending June 30. In 2017, the Council appointed Stephanie Mohan (photographer) for a two-year term with direction to staff to create a program which encouraged more collaboration among artists.

In July 2018, the Council approved the Parks & Recreation Commission recommendation to change the AIR to a three-year term and expand the number of artists from one to three. The Council extended Stephanie Mohan's residence until December 31, 2021, and added Georgia Gibbs (painter) who has been an active Volunteer Board member and co-founder of the Art Walk, until December 31, 2021.

DISCUSSION

Per the approved process, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) issues the Request for Proposals (RFP) and interviews the AIR applicants. PARC then refers the top three applicants for the Artist-in-Residence position to the Council to be interviewed.

The RFP for the 3rd artist was issued in late 2018. An interview panel (Panel) consisting of two Town staff members and the current Artists in Residence interviewed three candidates for the Artist in Residence position: Angelina Frost, Sierra Salin and Susan Pascal Beran. All the candidates offered unique ideas and projects to bring to the community. PARC supported forwarding the candidates to the Council for consideration.

A primary criteria for selection for the 3rd Artist in Residence should be to ensure that the artist's area of expertise complements and supplements the existing artists (photographer, painter). Ideally, the artist should be able to bring a new talent and skill to help elevate the structure of the program, be able to work collaboratively with the other artists, and work cooperatively with Town staff.

**SPECIAL MEETING
AGENDA ITEM # 1**

Below is a summary of each applicant based on information they provided.

Angelina Frost – is a local activist and creator of the Catalyst Studios- a small collective of musicians and artist and AfterSchool@TheHub – all located within School Street Plaza. She has been active in our community for several years and while she does not focus on one particular art medium, she is skilled in a variety of art paths, including singing, dancing, acting, painting and bead and wire art. She has a dynamic and diverse background, a record of teaching experience with community classes of all ages, and strong community roots. Her most recent project is starting the AfterSchool@TheHub intended to serve kids in sixth grade and up.

Sierra Salin – is a long time local who does a variety of art projects in the town and demonstrates a love for Fairfax and a passion for philosophical dialogue. Sierra is a dedicated creative and community person. He works in a variety of mediums, including photography and painting. He enjoys working on projects with local school kids.

Susan Pascal Beran – is an established and well known exhibited public art sculptor and artist. Throughout her career she has done public, private and corporate commissions, meeting with people to find out what is important to them and then shapes these experiences and perspectives into art that defines them—making many of her sculptures landmark pieces and totems. She has a rich background in teaching classes for children, adults and seniors. She is familiar with the Town's operations as a member of the Fairfax Open Space committee. She also has demonstrated the ability to work collaboratively. Susan graduated from Stanford University majoring in linguistics and speaks several languages fluently.

For your reference, attached are the applications, interview questions, and the RFP.

FISCAL IMPACT

AIR receives annual stipend of \$1000.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. RFP
- B. Interview Questions
- C. Applications

TOWN OF FAIRFAX

Artist in Residence Request for Proposals

The Town of Fairfax requests proposals to fill the Town's Artist-In-Residence program which supports three unique artists. The term is for an approximate two-year period January 1, 2019-December 31, 2020. The position is open to all types of artists (poet, dance, sculptor, actor, musician, etc.). The purpose of the position is to bring the creative experience to the residents of Fairfax.

ABOUT THE POSITION

For the past two decades, the Town of Fairfax has benefited from the services of the Artist in Residence. These artists have given of their time and creative energy to the citizens of Fairfax. Any type of mixed media art is encouraged. Some offerings include: art exhibits, after-school classes for youth, working with teens in the community, art classes for adults, art workshops for the Ross Valley Seniors Club, overseeing art projects in town, and contributing art activities and projects at the Fairfax Festival and the Town-wide picnic. Artist should also maintain their own website as a way to keep the community informed of their classes and events on an on-going basis.

Currently, there are two Artists-in-Residence, one a photographer, the other a fine arts artist. Beginning in 2018, the AIR program grew from one artist to a multi-artists program. The artists' collaborative team, which consists of the AIR's and Recreation staff personnel, decided to add a third member to the AIR group, at the request of the Fairfax Town Council. The AIR's work together on projects, and on developing the future art scene in the Town of Fairfax.

The Artist in Residence receives free use of studio space in the Pavilion Loft, free use of other town facilities based on availability for classes and workshops, an annual stipend of \$1,000, and the title of Artist in Residence. The artists must share the space of the Pavilion loft, and it is not intended for public use. The Artist in Residence has considerable latitude in their role as artist for the Town of Fairfax. However, the artists must make proposals to the Recreation Department prior to their event planning and its promotion, provide art assistance and/or programming during the Fairfax Festival and for the annual Volunteer Town Picnic, as well as attend the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) meetings to report on activities. The Artist should reside in the Ross Valley region, preference shall be given to Fairfax residents.

PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL

Interested artists should submit 4 copies of a written proposal including the following information:

1. Name, Address, Phone, E-mail, and website or Instagram.

2. Resume of applicable experience and education
3. Three professional/personal references with phone numbers and addresses.
4. An outline of the role of the Artist in Residence and programs to be offered as proposed by the applicant.
5. No samples of work are required at the time of written submission. They will be required at the time of the interview. Proposals should be no more than 5 pages, including attachments. The candidate will be selected on criteria developed by the Fairfax Artists Collaborative committee.
6. Proposers will be notified via e-mail if they are selected for a panel interview tentatively scheduled for the week of **December 10, 2018**.
7. Proposals become property of the Town of Fairfax and will not be returned. Proposers will not be reimbursed for any preparation costs of their proposals.

The written materials should either be turned in or mailed to: Town of Fairfax, c/o Recreation & Community Services Manager, Town Hall, 142 Bolinas Road, Fairfax, CA 94930 Phone: (415) 456-5652. E-mail: mbaird@townoffairfax.org

Deadline: Proposals are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday December 3, 2018.

Artist in Residence –December 2018

Interview Questions

GENERAL:

1. Tell us about yourself and why you have decided to apply for this position?
2. What skills do you feel make you the best candidate for this position?
3. The AIR position requires a strong sense of initiative. We are in the process of re-defining the AIR position and want to work with the new AIR to help define it? Can you describe a project or idea (not necessarily your own) that was implemented successfully primarily because of your efforts.
4. What motivates you to do your best work?

Youth and Community Work: *Part of the AIR position is working to create and implement art classes and also to volunteer during the festival or town picnic to create art and craft projects?*

1. Give me an example on how you've played a role in creating community? What was required? How did you do it? How was it challenging/successful? How did it go?
2. Tell us about the experience you have had working with children and adults in a class setting? What knowledge and skills have you gained that will help you in this position?
3. An important part of the AIR role is to serve as a liaison to increase and strengthen communication between the Town of Fairfax, PARC and to the community at large. Understanding that you would be the face for the Town of Fairfax, how do you foresee yourself developing relationships with all the stakeholders involved?
4. As a working artist what skills or tactics would you see yourself avoiding or emulating to make this position successful?