

CALL FOR ARTISTS DIGITAL ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

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Overview

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum is currently accepting proposals for its Digital Artists in Residence Program (DARP).

The Museum will award one residency to an artist or team of artists. During the residency, the artist(s) will complete an original, web-based project that explores an aspect of the contemporary immigrant experience in New York City.

The completed DARP project will forward the Tenement Museum's mission to "promote tolerance and historical perspective through the presentation and interpretation of a variety of immigrant and migrant experiences on the Lower East Side, a gateway to America."

Schedule

- ***Informational Meeting: October 1, 2008 at 6pm. Location: 91 Orchard Street***
There will be an informational meeting for all applicants who wish to learn more about DARP and the Tenement Museum.

Attending one of these meetings is strongly recommended. Each meeting will last approximately one hour. The same material will be covered in each meeting.

Anyone interested in attending these meetings should contact Jeff Tancil, Director of Web/IT at 212-431-0233 x.234 or darped@tenement.org.

- **Proposals are due October 15, 2008.**

- The Museum will award the residency by the end of November.
- The residency will begin in December, 2008.
- Artist(s) will have six months to complete their project.
- The project will launch no later than June 30, 2008.
- The residency will end when the artist(s) completes any promotion (interviews, press appearances) of their work. However, artists are asked to offer assistance maintaining their work after the formal completion of the residency.

Criteria for Selection

All proposals must focus on some aspect of present-day immigration in New York City. We accept proposals that approach this topic directly (e.g. explorations of how Chinese immigrants maintain their spirituality in a new land) or more abstractly (e.g. explorations of identity, assimilation, the American Dream, etc.).

Preference will be given to projects that:

- Embody and forward the Museum's mission.
- Display a deep, nuanced understanding of contemporary immigration issues, especially the topic that the artist proposes to cover in the project.
- Take an innovative, engaging approach to the proposed subject matter. For instance, *Folk Songs for the Five Points* (<http://tenement.org/folksongs/>) used soundmapping and music to create an interactive metaphor for identity and assimilation.

We are less interested in linear, documentary-style projects unless the proposal is exceptional or takes an especially interesting approach to these formats (e.g. the DARP residency *Gods of Chinatown*, <http://gods.tenement.org>).

- Can be successfully completed during the 6 month residency.

- We also give preference to artists or teams who are experienced in web design and/or development. If you wish to apply and do not have any web design or production experience, we strongly encourage you to find partners with these skills. We ask that you identify these people in your proposal and also show a demonstrated ability to manage a team and creative projects. (this can be its own bullet point)
- Make exceptional use of the Web's dynamic, interactive qualities. For instance, the most recent DARP residency, *We Are Multicolored* (<http://www.wearemulticolored.com>), gave users the tools to create their own flags as a means to explore national identity.
- Deploy technology in an innovative but usable way that serves the project's content and goals.
- Are distinct from past DARP projects and other interactive features on the Tenement Museum's web site, including the Virtual Tour (http://www.tenement.org/Virtual_Tour/index_virtual.html).

The Museum also encourages but does not necessarily give preference to projects that are:

- In some way tied to or inspired by the Lower East Side.
- If appropriate, are playful and/or encourage play.
- Focus on a precise aspect of the immigrant experience.
- Can be used in classrooms and/or workshops. For instance, the artists who created *We Are Multicolored* and *Folk Songs for the Five Points* held workshops with local youth groups. They also worked with the Museum to develop curriculum materials to encourage the use of their projects in the classroom.

Technology

All proposed pieces must be *web-based*; the DARP project does not support physical installations. The completed project must run across platforms and work in both Internet Explorer 6.0 and the latest release of Firefox.

The final project will be hosted on the Museum's web server. The Museum uses a Windows 2000 Server that supports the following technologies:

- Server and client-side scripting (PHP, Javascript, ASP)
- Flash
- Databases: MySQL and MSSQL databases
- Java & .jsp pages
- XML
- HTML, DHTML, CSS

The Museum can host multimedia files on its server. If your project will involve extensive use of audio, video or other media, please include an estimate of the size of these files in your proposal.

Accessibility

Applicants should be aware of users with special needs. Please consult the W3C's Web Accessibility Initiative's Guidelines and Techniques (<http://www.w3.org/WAI/guid-tech.html>) before applying. Final applications must include a brief statement detailing how your project will meet these guidelines.

Proposals: Review Process

The Museum's Director of Web/IT reviews proposals with the DARP Advisory Board, a group of web artists, designers and developers. The process for reviewing proposals includes:

- An initial review of all proposals.
- Following the initial review, the DARP Board will attempt to award the residency. If, for whatever reason, the Board is unable to identify one project for the residency, they may ask select artists/teams to submit additional materials that address any questions or concerns about the proposed project.
- There may be a second round of judging, depending on the quality and number of proposals that have been submitted.

Benefits for Artists

The Museum provides artists with a number of benefits, including:

Hosting/Server Use:

- During project development, artist(s) will also be able to utilize the Museum's web server to store and test their work.
- Once completed, the final project will be hosted and remain on the Museum's web site indefinitely.

Financial Support:

- The Museum will provide artist(s) with a \$5000 stipend for the duration of their residency.
- The Artist(s) can also be reimbursed for up to \$2500 worth of expenses. Expenses can include equipment, travel and labor (other team members or consultants). However, artist(s) will only be reimbursed for expenses that are deemed necessary for the completion of their work.

Promotional Support:

- After launch, a callout for the project will be featured on the Museum's home page (<http://www.tenement.org>) for six months. After this period, the project will be archived in the DARP section of the Museum's web site.
- The Museum will write and distribute a press release for the final project.
- The Museum will coordinate and assist with any press appearances or interviews.
- The Museum will draft and publish promotional announcements in its monthly e-mail newsletter.
- The Museum will handle all work and payment necessary to submit the site for two major web awards, including *The Webbys*.
- If the artist and Museum agree that printed promotional materials are of value, the Museum will pay for printing and mailing of these items. However, the artist will be responsible for designing—or finding someone else to design—any print materials.

Access to Museum Collections and Library:

- Collections: Artists may utilize the Museum's library, as well as its collections of historic artifacts and images. However, access to these materials will only be granted as is deemed necessary and artists should carefully detail proposed uses of the collections in their proposals.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to read about the Museum's collections before proposing any uses of these materials. Information about the Museum's collections is available at <http://tenement.org/collections.html>.

About The Residency

- ***This is an off-site residency.*** The Museum is unable to supply housing, office space or use of its office equipment. We can host occasional meetings or workshops at our offices, time and space permitting.
- ***Group Size:***
Applicants can apply either as individuals or as part of a group. If you apply as a group, you must demonstrate each member's role of in producing the project. Please note that the stipend and expense reimbursements are the same regardless of group size.
- During the residency, there will be periodic progress reviews with the Museum, including a review of a beta site no less than 6 weeks before launch.
- While the artist does not have to be based in New York, the ability to be in the city for some part of the project is strongly encouraged.
- This is not a collaborative project between the artist(s) and the Museum. Artists will be solely responsible for completing all creative and technical aspects of their project. The Museum will only provide the support and benefits detailed above.
- ***Launch Event:***
The artist(s) may be asked to participate in a launch event for their work. This will include submitting a list of friends, family and colleagues to invite to the

event and answering questions, both informally and during a Q&A session, at the event. The decision to hold such an event will be made jointly by the Museum and the artist(s).

If you are unable to attend either meeting, we suggest that you take one of the tours of the tenement at 97 Orchard Street. Information about these tours is available online at <http://www.tenement.org/tours.html>.

If you are unable to visit the Museum, you can also take a virtual tour of the tenement: http://www.tenement.org/index_virtual.html. However, we strongly suggest that you visit the Museum in person.

The two sections above should be included after the informational meeting dates.

How to Apply

All proposals are due no later than October 15, 2008. The Museum expects to award the residency by the end of November. Electronic proposals are preferred, though applicants submit paper proposals if necessary. All proposals must include:

Project Description

Applicants should submit a detailed description of their project that details the concept, scope and theme of one original work. Applicants should also discuss how their project will specifically address both the immigrant experience in New York City and the Museum's mission. Site maps, sketches and other materials that help illustrate the proposed site are encouraged but not required.

Attachments

All proposals must include the following attachments:

- *Itemized budget of proposed expenses*
- *Schedule*

Schedules should reflect the six-month duration of the residency. Schedules must include the following deliverables:

 - Three formal project reviews with the Museum's Web Producer and the DARP Advisory Board. One review must focus on the beta version of the site.

- Date that a beta version of the site to be completed and reviewed. The beta site must be delivered no later than six weeks prior to the launch of the project.
- Launch date.
- *Resume*
A current resume with details of artist's most recent projects, relevant work experience and related skills. If you are applying as a group, each member must submit a resume.
- *Work Samples*
Applicants *must* submit 2-3 samples of web sites and/or web-based projects that they have created. Applicants can either submit a list of URLs or CD-ROMs that include their work. Please specify the work that you performed on each project. Applicants can also submit additional samples of work completed in other mediums.

Submitting Proposals

Applications and attached materials should be submitted to the Museum either by mail or e-mail. *The Museum expects to award the residency by mid- October.*

Mail

Lower East Side Tenement Museum
91 Orchard Street
New York, NY 10012
Attn: Jeff Tancil

E-Mail

darpp@tenement.org

Please direct any questions to the Museum's Director of Web/IT. He can be contacted by e-mail (darpp@tenement.org) or phone (212-431-0233 .234)

About the Lower East Side Tenement Museum

The heart of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum is the tenement at 97 Orchard Street. From 1863 to 1935, 97 Orchard was home to an estimated 7,000 people from over 20 nations. The Museum uses the stories of 97 Orchard Street residents to raise public consciousness on social issues, which endure to this day, including: welfare, immigration and child labor. Museum walking tours and tenement building tours,

dramas, readings, media presentations, publications, exhibitions, and research projects reinforce this new approach to history and breath life into this neglected and vital area of our national experiences.

About DARP Project

The Digital Artist in Residence Project (DARP) is an ongoing series of web-based artworks dedicated to the exploration of contemporary immigrant experiences. Through DARP, the Tenement Museum awards residencies to emerging and established web artists. Residencies last for six months and are virtual.

To date the Museum has hosted six residencies. The works produced during these residencies have been featured in the *New York Times*, *BBC World*, *NPR*, *Metafilter*, *Wired*, *Gothamist*, *TimeOut New York* and other major press outlets. The six DARP projects are:

- **We Are Multicolored** (2008)
<http://www.wearemulticolored.org>
- **Gods of Chinatown** (2006)
<http://gods.tenement.org>
- **Folk Songs for the Five Points** (2005)
<http://www.tenement.org/folksongs>
- **Banana** (2001)
<http://www.tenement.org/banana>
- **Hard Place** (2002)
<http://www.tenement.org/HardPlace>.
- **Code City** (2002)
<http://www.tenement.org/codecity>
- **The Immigrant Experience** (2003)
<http://www.tenement.org/immigrantexperience>

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