

CALL TO ARTISTS/MURALISTS/FABRICATORS

The Somerville Arts Council seeks applications to design a mural “photo booth” for the IGNITE festival, which celebrates global street food and culture – and fire!

DEADLINE TO APPLY: AUGUST 23, 2024



Photos above: left: Tiger head by the artist Pecan; right: Dino mural by Nathaniel Devarie

EVENT OVERVIEW: For over a decade, the Ignite festival has promoted an array of international talent and cuisine, and celebrated Union Square’s diverse business community. From fire dancers, roaming performers, art installations to food demos, this cacophony of fun has something for everyone and is not only a feast for the eyes, but also for your palate.

CALL FOR ART “PHOTO BOOTH”: For years, the event featured a giant painted tiger by the artist known as Pecan (above left). The tiger served as a great photo op location for festival goers. Alas, we had to retire this tiger. So now we seek a new “photo booth” for the festival!

VISUAL SPECS: We seek an artist to fabricate and paint the “photo booth” (like the example above, right side). Concept designs should represent the “flavor” of the festival. Some recurring festival themes are spice, diversity, fire, food, and ... tigers! We look forward to your creative interpretations of this theme. We seek something bold, bright, and playful.

PHYSICAL DESIGN SPECS: We seek a work that is 4.5’ wide x 6.5’ tall, with circles cut out for festival goers to insert their heads. The material will likely be plywood and should be roughly 1/8 inch thick. This will be a freestanding piece in the middle of the festival so it must stand alone and sturdy; reinforcing the plywood with a thicker wood as a “spine” will be necessary. The selected artist must also be able to fabricate a stand, which will be weighted down at the festival with sandbags and/or some sort of weight. A design might be a simple rectangle of wood (like simply a door with two holes for heads) or feature a cut-out edge, like the examples above.

Note: An artist may partner with an experienced fabricator (yet stipend remains the same).

TO APPLY, SEE NEXT PAGE

APPLICATION PROCESS

Questions & applications; contact: Heather Balchunas: hbalchunas (at) somervillema.gov

1. Submit a design that includes a sketch of the visual design as well as a sketch and description of how the work will be fabricated, including how it will stand and specific specs.
2. Include links, jpegs, and images of similar and related work, as well as a website url if possible. Include artist CV (if not readily available on website).
4. In the body of your email application: please answer the following questions: 1) Have you done similar work before? 2) If selected, will you complete the project alone or with a partner fabricator? 3) What is your vision for this piece? How do you think it will engage the public?

Selection Process: Entries reviewed between 8/23 and 8/30. Applicants will be notified by 9/30.

Execution and delivery timeline:

Aug. 30-Sept. 23: Creation of work

During week of Sept. 23: Site visit with artist and SAC to review work

Sept. 26: Artist delivers work to SAC (50 Evergreen Ave.)

Stipend: \$1,200 (includes material costs, fabrication and painting labor), additional \$100 travel stipend as needed.

NOTE: The Somerville Arts Council (SAC) will retain this work to use future years.