

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – EUROPEAN UNION NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF CULTURE (EUNIC) AND BALTIMORE OFFICE OF PROMOTION AND THE ARTS (BOPA) “TRANSIT” PUBLIC ART RESIDENCY

EUNIC and BOPA “Transit” Public Art Residency

The EUNIC cluster in Washington, DC and the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts seek an accomplished artist to participate in “Getting to Know Europe: Transit” in Baltimore, Maryland from January 2014 to June 2014.

Baltimore shares some characteristics familiar in other post-industrial European cities: shrinking size and population, mixed ethnic population, social disintegration, an economic background of de-industrialization, efforts to reduce crime, and a vibrant cultural scene.

Baltimore City has 3 Arts & Entertainment (A&E) Districts within its metropolitan area: Highlandtown (East Baltimore), Station North (Midtown/North Baltimore), and Bromo Tower (Downtown/West Baltimore). They form the local context for “Getting to Know Europe” in Baltimore.

Each A&E District represents diverse and distinct communities in particular geographic areas. All are similarly impacted by the presence of large city transportation hubs. “Transit” will bring together EU and local artists through engagement with the community to explore how these hubs are used (omitted ‘by riders’) and provide access to creative placemaking, how they are integrated into the public realm, and how they are viewed by community residents. More information on each A&E district and their specific needs from the ‘Transit’ project are at the end of this document.

The goals of ‘Transit’ are to:

- Engage in creative placemaking in any arts practice that addresses a public space in one of Baltimore’s 3 Arts & Entertainment districts – Highlandtown, Station North, or Bromo Tower
- Promote dialogue among the diverse members of the Baltimore community around the issues of arts/culture and urban transformation/(re)development, forms of transit, and community cohesion
- Engage in an on-site artistic process in collaboration with representatives of Baltimore’s artistic, transport, civic, and other organizations and institutions
- Create artwork that is safe and easily maintained for the duration of the residency period, but which will also have a legacy in the A&E District
- Proposals that take an innovative approach to transport, community-building, participation, and urban (re)development are most encouraged

The chosen artists will visit the city of Baltimore for a six week-long residency between January and June 2014, during which time their work will be realized and delivered in a public location. Officials from the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts (BOPA) and the Arts & Entertainment Districts as well as the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) will assist the visiting artist in the preparation and delivery of the finished work. A representative from EUNIC seconded to BOPA will serve as the liaison between the artist, Baltimore officials, and EUNIC staff. The residency will include public events for the presentation of their new work, as well as an artist’s talk to introduce and contextualize the project.

Budget:

Artist honorarium & per diem - €4,600

Artist Travel - €1,100

Accommodation will be provided by MICA.

Project dates:

September 6, 2013 17:00 EST - Proposals due

September 30, 2013 - Selected artists notified

Residency will be a negotiated 6-week period between January 1, 2014 and no later than June 30, 2014.

Artist’s submissions will be evaluated by a jury of EUNIC, BOPA, and A&E staff on the following criteria:

- Artist's qualifications as demonstrated by past works and professional track record.
- Quality of the proposal based on artistic excellence and innovative approach, viability of the plans and suitability to the brief.
- Demonstrated experience of delivering work in the public realm

Interested parties should submit the following documents by **September 6, 2013 at 17:00 EST**:

- Detailed project proposal (including concept plans, timeline, and technical requirements)
- Documentation of previous relevant works (work samples, videos, photos, etc.)
- Curriculum Vitae

Please send submission materials or questions to:

UK: Salette Gressett, British Council – salette.gressett@britishcouncil.org

Spain: Xavier Ruiz, Embassy of Spain – xavier.ruiz@spainculture.us

Austria: Andreas Pawlitschek, Austrian Cultural Forum – andreas.pawlitscek@bmeia.gv.at

Eligibility:

The project is open to all artists who are citizens of the UK, Austria, Spain, Ireland and Greece, age 21 and over, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical or mental disability. Artist teams are eligible to apply, including teams of artists from multiple disciplines.

About EUNIC:

The European Union National Institutes of Culture (EUNIC) is a coalition of EU member states' national institutes of culture. It works across a global network of 70 cities, from Brussels to New Delhi and from Moscow to New York. Founded in March 2011, the EUNIC Washington Cluster aims to present contemporary, creative, diverse and thought-provoking cultural and educational programs to showcase Europe in Washington, DC and beyond.

About BOPA:

Our mission is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative city by:

- Producing high-quality special events, festivals and arts programming that stimulate communities economically, artistically and culturally.
- Inspiring and promoting literary, performing and visual arts, and artists.
- Celebrating Baltimore's rich, diverse heritage while enhancing the quality of life and sense of community for all residents.
- Forging partnerships that make Baltimore a premiere visitor destination.
- Managing cultural and historic attractions.
- Generating positive local, national and international publicity about Baltimore.

More information on the three Arts & Entertainment Districts can be found on the following pages.

STATION NORTH

About:

Located in the heart of Baltimore, Station North was the first area in Baltimore to receive the State of Maryland's designation as an Arts & Entertainment District in 2002. Spanning the communities of Charles North, Greenmount West, and Barclay, Station North is a diverse collection of artist live-work spaces, galleries, rowhomes, and businesses, all just steps away from Penn Station, Mount Vernon, Charles Village, the Maryland Institute College of Art, the University of Baltimore, and Johns Hopkins University. There are now twenty Arts & Entertainment Districts in Maryland, and similar programs in dozens of states. Station North continues to serve as a national model for Arts & Entertainment Districts.

By promoting and supporting artists and cultural organizations in the District, Station North Arts & Entertainment, Inc. seeks to create a vibrant neighborhood where arts, artists and entertainment venues flourish in the midst an economically diverse community with an abundance of healthy residential, retail and commercial offerings.

Project:

Station North Arts & Entertainment, Inc. (SNAE) seeks a qualified artist, performer, or designer to generate ideas that will support the ongoing activation and improvement of Baltimore's Penn Station plaza.

Penn Station is Baltimore's premier multi-modal transportation hub. Most of Baltimore's transportation infrastructure converges at Penn Station; Amtrak rail, MARC commuter rail, light rail, multiple bus lines, the Charm City Circulator, the Johns Hopkins shuttle bus, the Jones Falls bike trail, taxis, and Interstate 83 service the station. Despite this phenomenal convergence, the station's plaza remains underutilized and poorly designed. Instead of welcoming visitors to Baltimore, the plaza's lack of shade, seating, activity, and amenities encourages visitors to leave quickly. With the new University of Baltimore Law School recently opening to the south of the plaza, and several large scale development projects underway to the north in the Station North Arts & Entertainment District, the time has come to improve the experience of using Penn Station plaza.

The plaza is heavily used by thousands of commuters each week; these commuters primarily travel to Washington, DC for work. Visitors from cities between Boston and Richmond also enter Baltimore through Penn Station plaza. Additionally, students at local universities including University of Baltimore, Maryland Institute College of Art, and Johns Hopkins University regularly use the plaza as a means to travel other points in Baltimore and outside the city.

Selected artist must work closely with SNAE and artists living and working in the Station North Arts & Entertainment District to ensure that the project is locally relevant and inclusive. Projects may take the form of proposals for ephemeral events in the plaza or recommendations of physical improvements to the space. Ideal projects will combine both of these approaches to ensure that the plaza's environment is improved and activated. The artistic and experimental aesthetic of Station North Arts & Entertainment District must be incorporated into the plaza, while creating a project that is of a scale and quality appropriate for such a prominent location. Low cost solutions to this design problem are preferred as the implementation budget is limited. The project should also reference and build on the work that SNAE and others have done with Penn Station plaza, including food truck gatherings, concerts, and other events.

Website: www.stationnorth.org

More information (including photos): [Station North Projects](#); [Public Information Article](#)

BROMO TOWER

About:

The Bromo Tower Arts & Entertainment District unites the city's Westside community, and underscores its potential as a thriving arts neighborhood in downtown Baltimore. The Bromo Tower A&E District is easily located in close proximity to the city's main sports venues, the convention center, central business district, and the Inner Harbor. The District builds on a significant collection of existing arts assets, including visual and performing arts venues: The Arena Players, Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower, Everyman Theater, France Merrick Performing Arts Center, Maryland Art Place (MAP); and venues representing local independent artists: Current Gallery, EMP Collective, H&H Building (Gallery Four, the Whole Gallery) and Sub-basement Studios.

The Bromo Tower Arts & Entertainment District area is currently well served by several modes of transportation, in addition to being a very pedestrian-friendly area. Residents, employees and visitors travel to/from and within the district easily and inexpensively. Visitors to the district from outside of Downtown can utilize the light rail, MARC train (regional commuter line), and Metro system (subway) to attend events, performances, and openings. An additional Metro system line (Red line) is under development and will include a hub stop just south of the Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower at Lombard and Eutaw Streets. Inside the district boundaries, additional transit options include the Charm City Circulator (free ridership) and MTA local bus lines.

Project:

The focus of Bromo Tower District's 'Transit' placemaking project will be the Howard Street corridor. Howard Street is an especially challenging space as it was once a bustling corridor of large retail stores. Long vacant, these large structures are beginning to show signs of redevelopment. It is hoped that the newly-designated A&E District will further spur such activity. A major north/south commuter option, Howard Street's light rail line passes by the Station North district, through the campus of the Maryland Institute College of Art, and terminates adjacent to a MARC (commuter train) station at Camden Yards.

Reimagining the corridor, (how it is used by riders, how it integrates into the community, and how it is viewed by community residents and businesses) is an opportunity to mobilize urban planners, architects and artists, and engage community residents and businesses, to strategically transform the transit environment in the District. The accepted proposal team will work with officials from Maryland Department of Transportation and Baltimore City Department of Transportation, as well community stakeholders throughout this project.

In 2009, a strategic plan for the Howard Street corridor was drafted. This plan articulated a public art strategy that recommended that artists be included as concepts for a renewed Howard Street take shape. This summer (June 2013) two streetscape projects led by MTA and DOT are being realized. The 'Transit' creative placemaking project will build on those existing plans. In addition, opportunities exist along the corridor to re-imagine functional fixtures (transit shelters, light fixtures, electrical boxes, etc.) with temporary, semi-permanent and permanent public art.

Utilizing 'Transit' the Bromo Tower District hopes to:

- Create an accessible, unique, arts destination
- Leverage the State's regional identities and heritage
- Supply opportunities for dynamic and participatory arts experiences

Website: [Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts – Bromo Tower A&E District](#)

View the 2009 strategic plan here: [Howard Street Strategic Plan Overview](#)

More information (including photos): [Public Information Release](#); [Strategic Plan](#)

HIGHLANDTOWN

About:

Originally settled by Germans, Poles and Italians, the Highlandtown neighborhood is now home to a great diversity of people. Families who have relocated from Latin and South America, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe, live alongside African Americans, young urbanites and artists in our safe, walkable, diverse neighborhood. The International Resettlement Center, located in Highlandtown, resettles refugees from all over the world. While most Baltimore neighborhoods have experienced population stagnation or decline, Highlandtown grew last year.

Highlandtown became a designated arts district 10 years ago. The Creative Alliance, an arts organization housed in a 1930s-era theatre, was the catalyst, providing high-quality arts programming that reflects the diversity of Highlandtown and the creativity of Baltimore. Art in Highlandtown lifts up the everyday experience of its residents. Murals, often conceived through a collaborative artist/community process, brighten up building facades. Students practice art-making in classrooms and libraries. Festivals celebrate community-made art and feature traditional folk performances. Artists transform empty storefronts into temporary galleries and artists open their work spaces for neighborhood tours.

“Baltimore’s Best Creative Hub”, the Creative Alliance developed and operates the city’s only community-based multi-arts center for presenting exhibitions, performances, films, workshops, salons, classes, and youth programs. The 22,000 square foot Patterson houses 8 artists’ live/work studios, two galleries, a 200-seat theater, classrooms, cafe, and offices. Our Residency Program attracts emerging and mid-career artists from around the world to Baltimore. Incubator for Baltimore’s burgeoning art scene and Highlandtown’s cornerstone redevelopment project – Creative Alliance at The Patterson is a vital economic and cultural force in the city.

Project:

While Baltimore has a number of public transit alternatives - bus, light rail and regional train - only the bus runs through Highlandtown. The bus stops are in poor condition with insufficient seating and lighting and no shelter. During rush hour, bus stops can be overcrowded with bus riders overtaking pedestrian space on the sidewalk. The stops do not display signage or other physical symbols that show riders they're in a fabulous arts district.

In 2012, the neighborhood began Creative Placemaking workshops to encourage residents to envision intersections, bus shelters, and public spaces that reflect the artistry, diversity, and vibrancy of Highlandtown. Feedback from these workshops will inspire streetscape improvements to and around the bus stops and shelters to add public art, light, outdoor seating, green spaces and places for outdoor performances. The goal is to express Highlandtown as a vibrant international arts district through these transit spaces.

The chosen artist will work with the Creative Alliance staff and community members to produce an artistic project that enlivens the sidewalk space, proposed bus shelter, and bike rack adjacent to the Creative Alliance’s arts center – The Patterson. The artist will collaborate with community members to create a project that respects their input. The artist residency in the Highlandtown A&E District will take place during an agreed-upon 6-week period between January 1, 2014 and June 1, 2014.

The photograph below shows the sidewalk adjacent to The Patterson where the project will take place. The bench to the right of the two story window is the approximate project location.



Website: www.creativealliance.org

More information (including more photos): <http://www.southeastcdc.org/>