



Program Description, Eligibility, Criteria, Application and Selection Process

Initiative Description

E(art)H Chicago will highlight important environmental issues in Chicago and the work being done locally to address them through visual and conceptual art -- from sculpture, paintings, dance, spoken word, music, film and more. The intention of the program is to raise awareness, nurture both urgency and hope, and inspire action around climate change, resource utilization and environmental justice. Citywide placement of art in Chicago neighborhoods and downtown will bring together residents during a coordinated period to educate and activate on climate change.

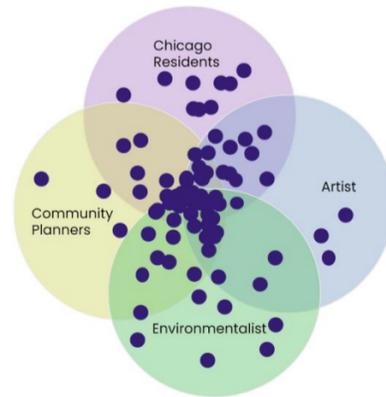
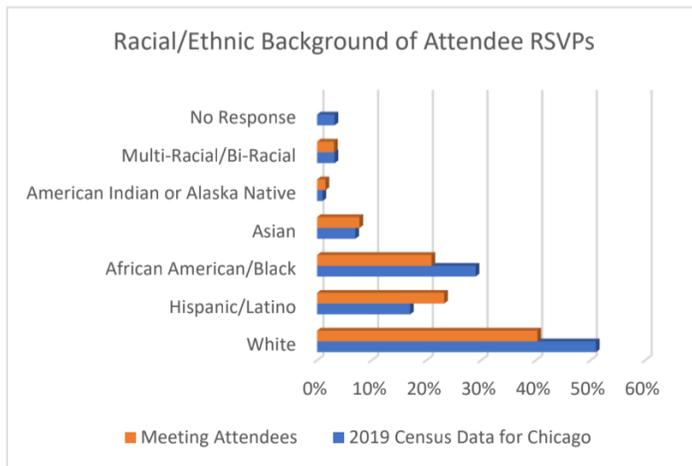
With over \$300,000 in funding for local artists to be awarded through an online application process, inclusive works of community-based art will be displayed throughout the city, interconnecting multiple neighborhoods with attention to artists and communities directly impacted by industrially polluted corridors. One large artwork project (a physical piece only) will be funded and placed downtown in a highly visible location in order to unify and draw attention to the other artworks in neighborhoods across the city.

This will be a competitive application process due to limited funds availability. The artist grant application process will launch in December 2021, and the selected artists' works will be experienced by the public in the spring or early summer of 2023. The art experience will take place over a two-three week period during which there will be coordinated events and installations in various city locations.

Project Background

The [Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation \(ISEIF\)](#) is the primary funder of this project, and supports organizations and initiatives that educate Illinoisans on the new tools, programs and behaviors that are needed in a smarter and cleaner energy landscape.

Development of this plan included over 30 meetings with leaders in the environmental, art and community development fields and input from over 75 Chicagoans of all ages and backgrounds. Artists, environmentalists, community leaders and organizers, scientists, and other Chicago residents participated in three project design sessions held in July and August 2021 to collectively co-create parameters (the how and the what including values, vision, form) around the project with partners and stakeholders. These sessions employed interactive techniques via an expert facilitator, which fostered creative thinking and collective decision-making.



Eligibility

This is a program for Chicagoans by Chicagoans. Individual artists (age 18+), collaborative groups or 501(C)(3) organizations (including those that work with youth) are welcome to apply. We welcome artists at all levels, including: emerging, working, established, self-taught or professionally trained. The review committee is committed to choosing a diverse array of artist proposals and at least \$100,000 of project funds are dedicated to supporting artists from or art that engages environmental justice communities.

We are looking for applicants from all backgrounds and perspectives and encourage proposals from:

- Artists whose work reflects the artist’s community / neighborhood
- BIPOC individuals
- Emerging and self-taught artists
- Established artists who apply in partnership with emerging artists
- Individuals in neighborhoods directly impacted by industrially polluted corridors
- Individuals proposing projects in art opportunity areas. Art opportunity areas are loosely defined as community areas in which there are fewer public art assets. Some of these areas include but are not limited to neighborhoods in Chicago’s southeast side (Grand Crossing, Chatham, Roseland, West Pullman), greater southwest side (Garfield Park, Austin, Lawndale), northwest side (Albany Park, Hermosa, Avondale)
- LGBTQ individuals
- Persons with disabilities
- Projects that involve community collaborations / partnerships

Grant Funding

A minimum of 5 artworks will be funded:

- 2 - 5 smaller artworks projects: funding between \$7,500-\$10,000
- 2 - 4 medium artworks projects: funding between \$10,000-\$30,000
- 1 - 3 large artworks projects (this project level is only for physical pieces of art): funding between \$50,000-\$100,000

Funds can be utilized for:

- Artist stipends that represent a reasonable portion of the applicant's overall budget.
- Materials and supplies that are a reasonable portion of the applicant's overall budget.
- Community organization / partner stipend.
- Indirect costs, such as studio rental, insurance, accounting, etc.
- Art transport (including driver, vehicle rental and gas if needed).
- Art placement costs.
- Archival costs.
- Community engagement event(s) accompanying the art.
- All project expenses that will be incurred during the grant period and are NOT listed under Funding Restrictions (below) are eligible for support through this program.
- Expenses associated with COVID safety and disability needs relating to art creation, transport and exhibition.

Funds are restricted from being used for:

- Capital improvements.
- Tuition for a degree or certificate-based, university level or any other educational program.
- An applicant or collaborator on more than one proposed project.
- Fundraising events, religious ceremonies, or advocacy of specific political candidates.

It is the project team's responsibility to cover any project-related expenses in excess of the grant-awarded amount of funding.

Proposal Criteria

We are seeking artist proposals that meet the following criteria:

1. Location and Community Focus

It is encouraged that artist applicants have a relationship with the community (or communities) where you are proposing the artwork be developed and/or displayed. Also, we strongly encourage artists to partner with others in the community to ensure a local voice from the community. If needed, the Foundation and/or other E(art)H supporters and partners can foster connections to facilitate partnerships and art placement in public spaces. We are also seeking to fund one large artwork project (a physical piece only) that will be located in a highly visible location downtown. We understand that the relationship between the artist and the community may not exist for this central location but this piece will thematically connect to all the other art.

2. Types of Art

Artwork is defined by this program in the broadest possible manner and may include sculptures, murals, paintings, dance, music and theater, poetry and spoken word, film, performance, experiential and any other art that applicants wish to propose. Physical pieces will be located on public land in conjunction with E(art)H Chicago partners to ensure accessibility. Performance and event-oriented pieces will need to be accompanied by an audience engagement plan.

3. **Artwork Focus**

Artwork must explore the intersection between art, the environment, resources and climate change. It must also showcase environmental challenges faced by people in the region, a specific Chicago neighborhood, and/or work already being done or could be done in Chicago to address those challenges. We welcome proposals of artwork that augment existing community art (whether already on display or not) that hasn't received substantial outside funding.

4. **Program Values**

Values for this program were determined through a community wide co-creation process. Artworks chosen for this project should be able to articulate or explain how they intend to honor the following values in the art form itself:

- **Actively Listening to the Voice of the Community:** Artwork that reflects the neighborhood and amplifies community voices.
- **Reclaiming Space + Power:** Extra consideration will be provided for artworks focused on inclusivity, racial equity and on how climate change can disproportionately affect some people and communities, not just the environment/planet.
- **Public Space + Community:** Work that blends art and a gathering space, a place for future community events to take place, or a place to meet will be given extra consideration.
- **Uniting People Together Through Mutuality + Joy:** Prioritization of positive, hopeful and uplifting messages.
- **Inspiration + Impact:** Inspires people to take action within their neighborhoods on climate, natural resource use and environmental injustice.
- **Repurposing, Recycling and Sustainability for Creative Practice:** Extra consideration will be provided for artworks made from fully recyclable or reused existing materials, powered by a renewable energy source, and/or use materials that match the length of the exhibition.

5. **Timing**

Artwork proposed must be able to be completed between April 2022 thru April 2023 to allow time for grant funds distribution, art installation, venue planning, etc.

Application Process and Requirements

The application will be available online at <https://www.earthartchicago.org> between December 8, 2021 - January 31, 2022. We invite individuals with language requirements other than English to contact us directly at applications@earthartchicago.org. Some questions can be responded to in writing or via video, however basic questions will be required to be answered in writing.

The application will be a 2-stage process starting with completing a Letter of Interest (LOI) form at <https://www.earthartchicago.org>, followed by an invitation to submit a full proposal for a select number of LOI applicants. Once the full proposal is submitted, applicants will be required to participate in a 30-minute online interview. After the Letter of Interest application stage, those invited to submit a full proposal will receive a stipend upon submission of a complete proposal. Smaller artworks projects will receive a \$100 stipend, medium artworks projects will receive a \$175 stipend, and larger artworks projects will receive a \$250 stipend for the full application process.

Letter Of Interest (LOI) questions include:

- Name, Address, Email Address, Phone #
- If available: website URL, social media links
- Project Title (up to 100 characters)
- **Artwork type (select one):** Dance; Film; Mural; Music; Painting; Poetry or Spoken Word; Sculpture; Theater; Other experimental; Other.
- **Individual or Group Application:** Are you applying as an individual or collaborative group of 2 or more individuals/organizations? We welcome applications from collaborative groups.
- **Youth Involvement:** Are you applying as an organization that works with youth where youth will be primarily involved in creating the artwork? *Note: If invited to the full proposal stage, parental consent will need to be verified for each person under 18 years old working on the project.
- **Estimated Grant Amount Requested:** Provide an estimate, keeping in mind materials and supplies, artist stipend, community partner stipend, and other project expenses. A detailed budget will be requested if invited to participate in the Full Proposal Stage.
- **Artist information (up to 5,000 characters):** Please supply the full name(s) of each proposed artist participant. Also provide a brief biography of each participating artist, including artistic background, previous public artworks created if any, and any relevant information about process and inspiration.

If applying as a 501(c)3 organization, also list the names of any staff who will be working on or assisting in this proposed project. Include the background and mission of the organization.

A video link can be provided instead of a written answer. Please keep video under 2 minutes. If using YouTube or Vimeo, ensure your video is unlisted or private and provide the password if needed. We recommend using Gather Voices for ease of recording & sharing – you can record your response to this question on Gather Voices here: <https://gather.video/EZxT> When you have finished recording your video on Gather

Voices, you'll receive a share link via email which you can then copy & paste into the LOI form response box.

- **Short Project Description (up to 3,000 characters):** Please provide a summary of your proposed project. Areas to include are: the project concept, environmental issue you are addressing, how it amplifies communities affected by this issue, and how you might engage the community throughout the creation process.

A video link can be provided instead of a written answer. Please keep video under 2 minutes. If using YouTube or Vimeo, ensure your video is unlisted or private and provide the password if needed. We recommend using Gather Voices for ease of recording & sharing – you can record your response to this question on Gather Voices here: <https://gather.video/qASt> When you have finished recording your video on Gather Voices, you'll receive a share link via email which you can then copy & paste into the LOI form response box.

- **Location (up to 1,500 characters):** What neighborhood do you live and/or work in, and what neighborhood(s) do you have in mind for where your artwork should be placed? Do you have a location you'd like to consider within a public park or other public space? The Foundation and partners can facilitate connections for the placement of your artwork, but it will be helpful to know in advance your preferences if any.

A video link can be provided instead of a written answer. Please keep video under 2 minutes. If using YouTube or Vimeo, ensure your video is unlisted or private and provide the password if needed. We recommend using Gather Voices for ease of recording & sharing – you can record your response to this question on Gather Voices here: <https://gather.video/mX3j> When you have finished recording your video on Gather Voices, you'll receive a share link via email which you can then copy & paste into the LOI form response box.

- **Community Connections (up to 1,500 characters):** Describe any relationships and history of engagement you have with the community in your proposed location(s) for your project. Name organizations when appropriate. We would be happy to help facilitate connections if you want them but don't have them.

A video link can be provided instead of a written answer. Please keep video under 2 minutes. If using YouTube or Vimeo, ensure your video is unlisted or private and provide the password if needed. We recommend using Gather Voices for ease of recording & sharing – you can record your response to this question on Gather Voices here: <https://gather.video/imre> When you have finished recording your video on Gather Voices, you'll receive a share link via email which you can then copy & paste into the LOI form response box.

- **Artwork Examples:** Share 2-3 examples of your previous artwork via images or video (upload images and/or share video via youtube or vimeo links) along with a brief description of the work sample(s) being shared. If available, we prefer examples of

previous work that are relevant to that being proposed. If you have samples of previous public artwork you have created, please provide images of that work.

Please note: Do not send any physical items as they will not be able to be returned. You can upload multiple images or examples in one file (ex: a single PDF) or upload separately.

A video link can be provided, please keep video under 2 minutes. If using YouTube or Vimeo, ensure your video is unlisted or private and provide the password if needed. We recommend using Gather Voices for ease of recording & sharing – you can record your response to this question on Gather Voices here: <https://gather.video/aXWe> (for example #1); <https://gather.video/UGpQ> (for example #2); <https://gather.video/NzaQ> (for example #3). When you have finished recording your video on Gather Voices, you'll receive a share link via email which you can then copy & paste into the LOI form response box.

- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** We would like our participants to be representative of the vast diversity of our city. We ask below questions about race, gender identity and disability. Applicants are not required to answer these questions.
 - **Race (select all that apply):** If willing, let us know if you or members of your group identify with a particular racial group. Racial groups can include: African American/Black; American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Hispanic/LatinX; Middle Eastern/North African; Multi-Racial/Bi-Racial; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; White; Other
 - **Gender Identity (select all that apply):** If willing, let us know if you or members of your group identify as: Female; Male; Transgender Female; Transgender Male; Gender variant/non-conforming; Other
 - **Disability:** Do any of your group members self-identify as having a disability?

Full Proposal Questions - UPDATED: Please see →

<https://earthartchicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Final-Full-Proposal-Questions-Earth-Chicago.pdf>

Additional Application Notes:

- E(art)H Chicago grants will be considered income to individuals or entities who are not 501(c)(3) organizations. Along with the grant agreement for signature, we will request a W9 from every grantee. For both 2022 and 2023, a Form 1099 will be sent to all grantees who are not 501(c)(3) organizations.
- Artists may retain ownership of their artwork.
- No reporting will be required of artists after the art creation / display, however simple artwork creation progress updates will be required between grant approval and the artwork creation deadline.

- Organizations or individuals working with youth under the age of 18 will be required to gain written parental permission for all youth participants.
- By applying, being selected for and accepting a grant, artists are agreeing to photographs, video, marketing and other promotion of the artist and their non-confidential project artwork creation process and project artwork.

Selection Process

All applications will be initially screened to ensure they are complete and meet the basic application criteria. Complete and criteria-passing applications will then be reviewed by a review committee to be composed of up to 10 people with strong community ties and diverse representation.

The review committee will include individuals from:

- Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation (ISEIF)
- Chicago Frontline Funders Initiative (CFFI)
- Select partner organizations
- Community members with specialization in the arts, community development and the environment
- Chicago residents
- Nominations from co-creation session participants

Review Scorecard Elements:

- **Messaging:** Message being conveyed through artwork and how it honors the [values](#) of the project.
- **Artist Experience:** Is there evidence that the artist(s) has/have adequate training and experience?
- **Budget:** Does the project seem economically feasible if awarded the amount requested? Is the budget complete, accounting for direct and indirect costs?
- **Location:** We hope the art we support will impact people across Chicago, therefore, art will be selected across various communities in addition to one physical art piece placed downtown. Consideration will be given towards art proposed in low-income communities, communities in need of public art and communities located in environmental justice areas.
 - Economic data, public art asset inventories, [Field Foundation's Chicago heat maps](#) and the NRDC'S [Chicago Cumulative Impacts](#) map will help facilitate insights into committee decision-making.
- **Art Opportunity Areas:** Extra consideration will be given to art proposed in art opportunity areas. Art opportunity areas are loosely defined as community areas in which there are fewer cultural and public art assets. Some of these areas include but are not limited to neighborhoods in:
 - Chicago's southeast side (Grand Crossing, Chatham, Roseland, West Pullman)

- greater southwest side (Garfield Park, Austin, Lawndale)
- northwest side (Albany Park, Hermosa, Avondale)
- **Range:** How public the artwork can be - does the art lend itself to larger public audiences?
- **Physical Materials:** For artworks using physical materials - the environmental friendliness of those materials and matching the longevity / sustainability of artwork to the length of exhibition. Extra consideration will be provided for artworks made from fully recyclable or compostable materials (where appropriate) and/or powered by a renewable energy source.
- **Audience Engagement:** How interactive or participatory the artwork can be.
- **Community Engagement:** Community collaboration and/or engagement. We will give preference to applicants who have community engagement plans.
- **Additional Funding Sources:** We will be more favorable towards proposals that haven't received significant outside funding for this specific project.
- **Other Considerations** for final committee selections:
 - Grant size diversity based on applicant pool
 - Art category diversity based on applicant pool

Resources for Applicants (Available in December/January)

The following resources will be available to artist applicants in order to ensure foundational knowledge of Chicago's environmental challenges related to climate change, energy and environmental justice, along with an understanding of what's being done to address these issues locally:

- Virtual application info session during January 2022. A recording of the session will be available thereafter including Spanish translation of the recording.
- For educational and inspirational purposes, an online resource guide will provide insights into Chicago's environmental challenges and some existing initiatives working to address those challenges.
- Applicants selected to receive grants will have access to local subject-matter experts in the arts and environment.
- No Applicant Turned Away - For all those applicants who we are unable to support, alongside other interested community members looking to get involved, we will provide a community resource toolkit for self-activation of independent artwork with information on where to access potential resources, financial and otherwise. Suggestions in the toolkit may include connections to community groups, such as local park advisory councils and

nonprofit organizations. Relevant artworks that are developed without program funding still have the potential to be listed on the website as an 'inspired' or otherwise categorized project.

Timeline

- December 8 - February 2, 2022 - Call for Letters of Interest (LOI)
- January 5 + 18, 2022 - Pre-application workshop (recorded for those unable to attend)
- February 9, 2022 - Invitations for Full Application
- March 7, 2022 - Full Application Deadline
- April 4, 2022 - Grant selections communicated to applicants
- April 8, 2022 - Public Announcement of Artist Grant Selections and Program at EXPO Chicago
- April 2022 - April 2023 - Art creation period
- May / June 2023 - Launch Public Arts Projects (program to run for 2 weeks with on-site celebration event)