

Request for Proposals

Seeding Vitality Art Program - Request for Teaching Artist for Botanical Drawing: Senior Series

RFP Issue Date: 12/17/2018

Proposal Due Date: 1/11/19

Preliminary Curriculum Due Date: 2/7/19

1. Background/Introduction

For over a century, the Garfield Park Conservatory has excelled in its mission to **provide all Chicagoans with the opportunity to develop a relationship with nature**. Located on the city's West Side, the Conservatory offers hundreds of thousands of visitors year-round access to its extraordinary collection of exotic plants and extensive program of exhibits, workshops and activities designed to educate and inspire an understanding of our natural world.

Formed by a group of people in the Garfield Park community, the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance (GPCA) is a non-profit organization that works closely with the Chicago Park District to provide educational programming, events and resources to Conservatory visitors.

GPCA is seeking a teaching artist to facilitate an 8-week long series of art classes to engage older adults in skill-based learning and intentional social engagement through **botanical drawing**. This program is made possible by the [Aroha Philanthropies Vitality + Art](#) project.

The selected artist will receive a \$1500 stipend for an estimated 50 hours of work over the 8-week long program (contact and non-contact hours, including a culminating event). There is also a mandatory training in Chicago on March 19, 2019, by Lifetime Arts, that you must attend. Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance will cover supply costs for all class participants.

2. Project Goals and Scope of Services

Our goal is to hire a teaching artist to facilitate an 8-week long course for older adults on botanic art through the drawing medium. Each class builds off techniques learned throughout the series, and will be about 2 hours long on Monday mornings. The class size will be up to 15 people.

The class dates are (2019) April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 13, 20. We will also hold a culminating event for the class participants in the evening on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

The breakdown of time will be determined as needed for the class, but we expect it to be close to as follows: As a teaching artist in this program, you will have 3.5 hours for each class (teaching and prep time), general prep time throughout the course, and time for prep, installation, and take-down of an exhibit/exhibition for the culminating event. We are also providing additional 'office hours' for you to work even more one-on-one with students outside of class time. We have a budget for supplies and will work with you to purchase the materials needed for the course.

We are looking for teaching artists with a depth of knowledge about their medium, teaching experience, and ideally experience and interest in working with older adults. Our educational philosophy at the Garfield Park Conservatory is student focused, with teachers meeting the needs of participants at their individual skill levels. We will have learners of all abilities and experiences, and are looking for a teaching artist who could give one on one attention to student needs. We are looking for more hands on learning than a lecture based course. The beautiful natural environment at the Garfield Park Conservatory will provide rich subject matter for student art, and we are looking for a teaching artist who will work with students in the collection in meaningful ways.

This class is part of a series of three hands-on art classes for older adults taught at the Garfield Park Conservatory in 2019-2020. All teaching artists are required to attend a training at Lifetime Arts in Chicago on March 19th, 2019.

This class aims to help older adults cultivate sensory experiences, increase content knowledge about nature and plants, understand the relevance of plants to our daily lives, actively change their attitudes and behaviors to become better stewards of the environment, and acquire a concrete skill as a result of their participation.

Through providing these classes, we strive to:

- Empower people
- Diversify the portfolio of our teaching artists and further diversify our programming
- Open Conservatory spaces to wellness
- Create parallels between nature, art, and daily life
- Provide opportunities to re-engage with wonder and imagination
- Bring grounding experiences to visitors of all ages

3. Time and Place of Submission of Proposals

Please send all proposal materials to mcoburn@garfieldpark.org by **January 11th, 2019**. We will make our decisions and communicate with you no later than **February 1st, 2019**, with preliminary curriculum due to GPCA by **Feb 7th, 2019**.

4. Elements of Proposal

- Letter of interest
- Work samples (Google Drive folder, Dropbox folder, CD, DVD, flash drive)
 - Can be mailed or brought to: 300 N Central Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60624 - ATTN: Programs Department.
 - Please keep in mind, samples submitted will not be returned.
- Curriculum examples
- Artist statement
- Resume and two references
- Availability to attend a training at Lifetime Arts in Chicago on March 19th, 2019.

5. Evaluation Criteria

- Proposal that reflects our goal:
 - “To hold creative space for enriching arts programs that provoke exploration, innovation, and imagination at one of the nation’s largest and finest historic conservatories.”
- Body of work
- Experiences with applying your curriculum and working with older adults
- References

Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance is an Equal Opportunity Employer

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Malik Coburn at mcoburn@garfieldpark.org.

