

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2010 *Create Change* Public Artist Residency Program

Do I have to get permission from the owner of the laundromat I have in mind before applying to *Create Change*? No. This is something we will do together once the details of your proposed project have been finalized.

What if I don't use a laundromat anymore, but I still want to apply? Sounds like it's time to pull out those quarters! If it's been a while since you dragged your laundry cart to the corner coin-op, go get re-acquainted. While you are doing your wash, pay attention to who uses the space, how, and when. Then revisit the application for this program.

I've already participated in several artist residencies. What does this program uniquely offer? *Create Change* has been designed to help you deepen (or develop) your public art practice, including the ability to create work that is as socially-relevant as it is artistically excellent. Overall *Create Change* is an opportunity to develop a more visible, active presence in your own community as an artist of color.

What is a socially-relevant project—what are the range of issues folks have worked on in the past? Social-relevance can be broadly defined. Perhaps the content or form of your project will be based solely on input from your neighbors....or it may be inspired by an issue that has surfaced in your neighborhood recently (e.g. a rise in gang activity; the need for more green spaces; the closing of an important senior center; etc.). It is also possible to create a socially relevant project that does not have any overt political content or call to civic action, but simply allows you to connect your neighbors in meaningful, lasting ways.

What are examples of past projects?

Past *Create Change* projects have spanned impromptu screenings of a short documentary on the disenfranchisement of Haitians living in the Dominican Republic to a free book exchange staged outside a laundromat in Bed-Stuy at a time when the local library had been closed for a year. Artists have worked in sculpture, drawing, mosaic arts, bookmaking, and film. To learn more about past projects and artists visit

www.laundromatproject.org/createchange

What if I am a writer, performance-based artist, or I work in crafts? Do I have to be a “visual artist” to apply?

Artists working in any art form are eligible to apply as long as your project can accomplish the goals of the residency and is feasible in the space and context of an active laundromat. Whether it's spoken word, film, folk art, sound, crafts, dance, or literature, there are a host of media that can work besides visual art. If you are a writer, you may also consider submitting a writing sample to profile the next wave of *Create Change* artists.

Can high school students apply?

We are not able (yet!) to invite *Create Change* projects led by high school students.

Do I have to be a professional artist to apply? How do you define a professional artist?

As a community-based program we recognize there are many accomplished artists who do not identify themselves as “professional artists” and/or do not earn their living solely from art-making. Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate that they have a record of relevant experience to carry out their proposed project; a solid creative practice; and strong technical skills in their medium to produce compelling works of art.

I am a working artist but have a 'day job' to earn a living. Am I still eligible to apply?

Yes. The program's newly added component of professional development activities will take place on weekends and evenings with the understanding that many artists have day-time employment. However, as you determine your capacity to commit to the full-span of *Create Change*, remember that you may be working in a new way (mounting a project at a laundromat) and pulling your neighbors into your process. Make sure you can give your neighbors, this program, and your project the time they deserve.

What kind of community interaction is The Laundromat Project hoping each project will have? Whether you choose to partner with a civic group/community-based organization to shape your project, or you maximize the space of the laundromat to informally solicit the expertise, talents, and perspectives of your neighbors...the key is that this is a *public* art project. Be prepared to get out there and talk to people before, during, and after creating the piece.

Here is one potential scenario of the kind of interaction your project might be inspired by and also inspire:

You have noticed that there is a local laundromat in front of which a few elderly men sit on crates and talk every morning. After attending a block association meeting you also learned that yet another senior from your street has passed away without any family nearby. At the next block association meeting you propose a project to document your community's history through the life stories of a few of its senior residents. As a group you might brainstorm the details of the project, including what you each feel you could contribute in terms of time, skill sets and relationships. Perhaps your portion entails interviewing seniors who come to the laundromat as

well as those you have connected with through your neighbors' introductions. You might also station yourself outside the laundromat while compiling the materials you and your neighbors have gathered (i.e. recorded interviews, photographs, newspaper clippings, etc.) in order to generate input and participation from laundry patrons and passersby. After announcing the culminating event for your laundry-based installation at the local community board meeting, the captain of another block association invites you to come to the next meeting to share your experience so they might mount a similar project on their street. A member of a local parents association asks some of the profiled seniors to share their stories with students...which leads to a weekly reading circle...which leads to...you get the idea.