



Alexander Dwinell, *Displaced (3xx)*, Multi-channel video installation, Building Stories at Flux Factory, 2017

# 2018/19 ENGAGING ARTISTS FELLOWSHIP

ENGAGING ARTISTS is More Art's fellowship program for artists seeking to both develop and sustain their public art and socially-engaged practice.

This 1 year Fellowship provides an infrastructure and laboratory for NYC-based emerging and underrepresented artists to gain a deeper understanding of the history of the field of public art, incubate and present their work, collaborate with communities in shaping society, and build sustainable careers.

**Deadline Extension: April 27, 2018 by 11:59 PM**  
[Complete the online application form.](#)

## Fellowship History & Methodology

In the past 5 years of Engaging Artists the thematic focus of the program changed annually to coincide with topics More Art has explored through public art commissions and cultural programs each year. Past Fellowships have explored topics, including, immigration & labor (2017), housing justice (2016), aging & immigration (2015), and homelessness (2014).

This year's Engaging Artists Fellowship will be shifting from a thematic approach to a methodology-based approach to support the professional development of early-career public artists working in social engagement.

**Engaging Artists** is designed for emerging artists seeking to develop or continue their practice in collaboration with advocacy organizations, schools, coalitions, unions, groups of neighbors, or the public at large. We also highly encourage applications from artists whose work is participatory or follow traditions of interventionism but has not thus far involved partnerships or elements of community organizing and pedagogy.

We welcome artists who are looking to use the space of the Fellowship to develop a new project, a current project in its early stages, or a new phase of an existing project. The Fellowship is designed to support a cohort working on developing works from the research phase to public presentation.

### How do we define public art?

We define public art as a process and/or method of exhibition that takes place in public space and is accessible to a broad audience. We define a socially-engaged practice as one that involves the public in the creation of art in ways that build power and agency among participants and strive towards equity and justice. This fellowship is best suited for artists who use research, engagement, direct experience, and interdisciplinary collaboration to intervene in systems or institutions (public or private) that have tangible effects on people's lives, including the processes of civic and political participation itself.

More Art identifies a range of possibilities for this approach, and the 2018-2019 professional development program will focus on honing the practical skills and ethical frameworks needed to make realizable interventions in public life.

**Read: [More Art's Core Principles & Resources](#)**

## The Fellowship includes\*:

- Intensive professional development workshops and peer network support
- Strategic meetings with More Art to network, receive feedback, mentorship, and curatorial support.
- Monthly feedback sessions with other cohort members, More Art staff, and guest practitioners in the field (both arts and non-arts professionals, including artists, public art administrators, educators, urban planners, community organizers.)
- Public presentations curated and promoted by More Art, featuring research, works-in-progress, and completed works inspired or generated through the fellows' community-based work
- Marketing via the More Art network, email list, and social media
- Fellows may request funds up to \$1000 to cover the costs for Fellowship related projects, workshops, research, and presentations.
- Opportunity to receive Post-Fellowship project support of up to \$4000 in funding
- Off-site workshop space
- Access to Materials for the Arts

\* Valued at \$25,000 per participant

## Eligibility Requirements

### Who does the program serve?

More Art welcomes applications from underrepresented and emerging socially-engaged public artists based in the five boroughs of New York City and/or in easy commuting distance.

Applicants must have at least 3 years of professional experience. Currently enrolled undergraduate students may not apply. Collective applications are welcome.

We encourage applications from first generation and immigrant artists; artists of color; individuals from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; artists who have been excluded from the resources of the art world because of disability, cultural, racial, and linguistic heritage and/or identity; who do not have formal artistic training; or whose creative practices have been historically underrepresented and/or marginalized. More Art welcomes applications from artists of all disciplines, including but not limited to: visual artists, performers, choreographers, musicians, designers, and new media artists.

Fellows must attend 80% of the professional development workshops, and Fellowship meetings [[See Program Timeline, pg. 6](#)]. Failure to complete these requirements will jeopardize eligibility for Project Support and participation in capstone public presentations.

## Program Curriculum

Fellows participate in intensive professional development workshops, addressing the history of socially engaged art, community organizing methods, and best practices for establishing and sustaining community partnerships, as well as individual critiques and group feedback sessions to support fellows in the development and creation of new and continued work. Sessions are led by More Art staff and guest facilitators.

Topics to include:

- Histories of socially-engaged public art
- Best practices for collaboration, participation, contracting, and community engagement
- Mapping the ecosystem of political issues
- Project life-cycles and sustaining community partnerships
- Site analysis and team management
- Active listening, interpersonal and group facilitation
- Participatory workshop design
- Navigating the public art commission process
- Asset mapping and visioning project goals
- Privilege, power, and equity in public art
- Budgeting and funding opportunities for public artists
- Case studies in public art, placemaking, and community-engaged design

## Community Engagement and the 'Artists-in-Residence' Model

**More Art believes art and artists play an integral role in empowering social justice movements by creatively illuminating social issues, engaging new audiences in activism, and catalyzing public discourse.**

Engaging Artists enables artists to deepen their understanding of public art, socially engaged through direct action including volunteering, outreach initiatives, workshops, educational programs, and public works. When applicable, More Art will assist fellows in establishing and/or sustaining crucial partnerships with community-based organizations, advocacy groups, agencies, neighborhoods, places, individuals or groups of New Yorkers.

Each fellow will be required to dedicate **at least 100 hours** researching and working with(in) partnering organizations or contexts over the course of the first 6 months of the program, situating their status as artists-in-residence. Often fellows get hands-on with the day-to-day work of activism and advocacy, which at times may not directly involve the arts.

**[Learn more about past partner organizations.](#)**

## Artist Community and Mentorship

In order to build strong artist-led coalitions, More Art believes in creating synergies between artists in various stages of their careers through dialogue and access to accomplished artists working in/with the public. There will be opportunities to connect with More Art's commissioned public artists, that may include: Sari Carel, Shimon Attie, Krzysztof Wodiczko, Dread Scott, Ofri Cnaani, Pablo Helguera, and Mary Mattingly.

Fellows will also have an opportunity to engage and collaborate with a diverse network of past Engaging Artist Fellows whose work address issues of immigrant rights and economic empowerment as well as health and human services, housing justice, and gentrification. A large number of our fellowship alumni work in collaboration with others they have met during their time in the program.

### **Past Fellows:**

Bryan Rodriguez Cambana

Fanny Allie

Hidemi Takagi

Christie Neptune

Bridget Bartolini

Workers Art Coalition

Vanessa Teran Collantes

Ligaiya Romero

Priscilla Stadler

Su Jeong Ka

**[Learn more about past cohorts, here.](#)**

## Project Support

Each year, 2-4 project proposals are selected by a guest panel of artists and leaders in the arts. Two categories of project support are granted to aide individual fellows and collectives in varying stages of developing rigorous public art and community-based projects. Up to \$1000 is awarded for selected projects that could use support while developing community collaborations, researching, building participation, and fine-tuning workshop design. Up to \$4000 is awarded for selected projects gearing up to stage a culminating exhibition in public space, event, series, collaboration, or engagement, within the year.

**[Read more about the 2018 Projects](#)**

## Final Artist Presentations

The Fellowship culminates in capstone public presentations of the artists recent work and research. This is an opportunity to introduce a wider public to each fellow's work. In the past, cohorts have presented their work at the Queens Museum, Flux Factory, and UnionDocs, among other locations.

## 2018-2019 Program Timeline\*

**The Engaging Artists Fellowship is a 1 year program: June 2018-May 2019.** Fellows have the opportunity to apply for project support funding in the winter of 2019, which if selected may extend the duration of Post-Fellowship support another full year. [See Project Support, pg. 5]

2018

### I. June-September: Research, Outreach, and Community Engagement

**June 7** · Fellowship Orientation at The Neighborhood Preservation Center

**Late June** · Intensive 2-day public art workshop and retreat (Date TBD)

Over the course of summer 2018:

- Fellows pursue research, site-studies, and outreach work with community partners
- Biweekly meetings are scheduled with More Art staff and each fellow
- Monthly professional development sessions are scheduled with professional practitioners

### II. September-December: Public Art Project Design

- Bimonthly professional development sessions
- Continuation of community engagement and partnership evaluation
- Strategic meetings with More Art

**Late September** · Fellows submit draft project proposal

**October** · “Doctor's Hours” with guest critics and curators

2019

### III. January-April: Curatorial Development

- Continuation of community engagement and project design
- Workshopping project budgets and artist statements
- Project development consultations with public art practitioners
- Preparation for public presentation

**February** · Open Call for 2019-2020 Project Support

**March-May** · Culminating public presentations, artist talks, and related programs.

\* Dates are subject to change. This timeline I built to illustrate the arc of the program. It does not suggest a Fellowship project must follow this timeline from start to finish nor does it guarantee the presentation of a complete project at the end of the program. More Art focuses on supporting fellows in the early stages of long term work. Each phase (I-III) denotes the focus of professional development programs and support.

# Application Questions

## Application Narrative:

1. Describe a past or current project. Include any relevant information about the project's medium, form, duration, project timeline/phases, community engagement strategies, content and/or function. (400 words)
2. Please provide up to 10 supporting media that depicts the project in various stages or in its final form, including images of objects in public settings, or performances in addition to community engagement components. If performance or time-based media was part of the project, please provide 1-3 videos that are no longer than 4 minutes in length.
3. Who was your intended audiences for this project? Were you able to reach this audience? What were the challenges in doing so? What unexpected audiences did you reach? (200 words)
4. Who were your collaborators on this project, if any? Describe the roles they played. (200 words)
5. Describe any power dynamics you noticed between yourself, any collaborators, or audiences in the project described above. (200 words)
6. How do you see community organizing, advocacy, volunteer work, or activism intersecting with this project, if at all? (optional)

## General Questions:

1. Why are you interested in participating in the 2018-19 Fellowship? (200 words)
2. Submit the contact info for one professional reference.
3. Provide a maximum 3-page career narrative/CV. (Please include anything that you view as integral to your practice, including exhibitions, publications, projects grants, employment, activism, volunteer service, education, and teaching that relate to your life as an artist. This may include non-arts experiences.)
4. Does your practice exist within or interface with disciplines outside the arts? (100 words)
5. Do you live and/or work in NYC or at an easy commuting distance?
6. How would you describe your race and ethnicity? (optional)
7. Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community? (optional)
8. Do you identify as a disabled artist? If selected, what type of access accommodations should More Art provide to ensure you are able to fully participate in the Fellowship? (optional)
9. What has been the largest barrier, economic or otherwise, to pursuing your career? (optional)

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## FAQs

### **How long does the Fellowship last?**

Selected fellows will be notified in May 2018. The Fellowship will begin in June 2018 and end in May 2019, lasting a year. There is the opportunity to apply for Post-Fellowship project support.

### **How many applicants are accepted?**

8-10 Fellows will be selected and notified by May 4-8th, 2018.

### **What kind of work samples should I include?**

Include your strongest work samples for the past or current project described in your narrative. We encourage you to submit what you believe the best example of your work to date. Feel free to send sketches, renderings, or mock-ups in addition to project or process documentation.

### **Do I have to complete a project within the Fellowship year?**

No. Your project does not need to and in many cases should not conclude within the Fellowship year. We only require that you develop your project during the year and have at minimum one presentation of your work that reaches a wider public. The Fellowship is a professional development program for early stages of public art project incubation, experimentation, collaboration, and implementation. We are more interested in supporting artists who see their socially-engaged work and public practice as a long-term commitment. Many Fellowship projects become multi-year initiatives that the Fellowship supports in the early stages.

### **Do I have to live in New York City?**

You do not have to currently reside in New York City to be eligible for the Fellowship. However, the Fellowship is designed to support artists whose work takes place (at least partly) in New York City. If you do not currently live in New York and would like to apply, we would expect you to live in short commuting distance (no more than 1-hour) to develop your project and attend regular meetings. We cannot currently provide funds to assist with travel or living expenses.

For any questions regarding the program, email Kate Levy [kate@moreart.org](mailto:kate@moreart.org)



## More About More Art

More Art is a NYC-based nonprofit organization that fosters collaborations between professional artists and communities to create thought-provoking public art projects that address contemporary social issues. We prioritize community participation, approach timely issues respectfully and poignantly, and encourage solutions-based dialogue and action. Projects are anchored by sustainable collaborations with grassroots organizations addressing social justice issues specific to their communities.

Since 2004, More Art has worked with some of the world's most celebrated artists, including Joan Jonas, Pablo Helguera, Dread Scott, Krzysztof Wodiczko, Ernesto Pujol, and Andres Serrano, to produce a wide range of durational artworks in public spaces.

More Art's staff and network of consultants and advisors are made up of curators, artists, cultural planners, educators, documentary filmmakers, arts administrators, organizers, entrepreneurs, and researchers that bring a nuanced perspective to public art.

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## Engaging Artists Supporters

