Request for Artistic Proposals to Safely Bring the Community Together at Maryland Hall during the COVID-19 Crisis

Dedicated to Art for All, Maryland Hall in Annapolis, Maryland, is the region’s cultural core, convening and engaging all people in arts experiences that strengthen community.

We welcome, connect, and enrich all with inspiring arts experiences.

Maryland Hall is beginning to envision arts programming to serve its greater community through the summer and fall 2020. We know we need to adapt what we do in a creative and even more collaborative way in order to more safely meet the artistic and enrichment demands of our neighbors. We want to tackle this ever shifting landscape in partnership with the artists inside and outside of Annapolis, crafting new outlets for artistic expression and experimentation.

It is our hope this request for artistic proposals will lead to new ideas and new ways of using Maryland Hall’s assets together with the creativity of our community to feed our collective artistic needs.

About Maryland Hall

Maryland Hall was founded in 1979 by a group of artistic visionaries who believed the former Annapolis High School could best be re-used as a community arts center. Today, our historic landmark building is the community’s gathering place for the arts. Through year-round classes, performances, exhibits, tours, workshops and demonstrations people of all ages discover the transformative power of the arts. Each day, Maryland Hall nurtures inspiration, cultivates originality and fosters the imaginations of the children, families, students and adults who come through our doors.

Phases of Participation

We are currently imagining multiple phases of potential artistic participation. Each phase includes a gradual increase in participation of audiences and is designed to be unveiled once specific safety benchmarks have been achieved in Maryland’s Reopening Plan.

Under Construction Arts

Under Construction Arts is a program and a concept centered on opening up the creative process for audiences to learn about how work is developed and why long before it becomes a final product. Do you need space to develop a dance piece or talk to the community about a new theatrical piece you are building? Do you need time to work through a concept and want feedback from audiences to help frame your thinking? Will having a dedicated space to create your artwork help you achieve your artistic dreams? Then Under Construction Arts is the right stage to participate in.

During this stage we will safely provide space and time in Maryland Hall and work with you to not only create, but share your process with your audience and ours. Live streaming, audience talkbacks, podcast recordings and process video creation will all be a part of this phase. The facility of Maryland Hall offers dance studios, a main stage, blackbox theater, art studios, glass and pottery kilns and woodturning lathes.

Drive in Performances

We will turn the Maryland Hall parking lot into a drive in performance space with the ability to stream audio into participant cars. We are actively working with the Annapolis Film Festival to
provide drive in movies for our community, but see an opportunity to safely present live performance of any type to audiences safely seated in their cars.

During this stage we are looking for art that needs an audience. Music, dance, spoken word, comedy, live painting or artist talks, and the experimental are all fair game. We will provide the technical support and bring the audience together safely. Your job will be to share your talent.

**Front Step Concerts and Pop-Up Art Exhibits**

We believe it will be important to build from the outside of our venue first before we bring people inside. We will host artists in front of our historic building on the very dramatic front entranceway and provide audiences with ample safe space on our lawns outside.

Similar to the drive in performances, but with a much larger capacity for audience and a more open air viewing experience.

**Bowen Theatre Cabaret**

We will begin inside programming by modifying our Bowen Theatre into a cabaret space that can feature film, live performance, music, burlesque and any artistic output that would benefit from an intimate and relaxed atmosphere.

During this stage, the space will be scaled to meet State of Maryland gathering restrictions and social distancing guidelines while also fitting the needs of the participating artists. A relaxed environment for audiences to gather, have a drink and see a show will be the goal and artistic playfulness will be a priority.

**Timeline**

Flexibility, creativity and a collaborative spirit will be key during the timeline for each stage’s implementation. The ability to collaboratively plan and then wait for a more concrete schedule to take shape will be paramount.

While an exact schedule will be contingent on a host of national, state and local parameters, the tentative timelines is as follows:

- Under Construction Arts – early to mid-summer (June – August 2020)
- Drive in Performance - early to mid-summer (June – August 2020)
- Front Step Concerts – mid-summer to early fall (July – October 2020)
- Bowen Theatre Cabaret – fall 2020 (September - December 2020)

*These timelines only indicate the tentative timeframe for opening each of the four Artistic Participation options. They do not indicate a start and end to these projects.*

**Budget**

Artist Fees, ticket income and expenses will be mutually agreed to in advance of any participation. Equity across participation will be paramount and creative collaborative fundraising may be required to accomplish artistic goals.
Submitting Proposals

We will begin accepting proposals immediately and will continue to accept them on a rolling basis. Please submit your proposal online at [https://marylandhall.org/call-artists-seeking-proposals](https://marylandhall.org/call-artists-seeking-proposals).

Upon receipt, a member of Maryland Hall’s Creative Advancement team may be in touch for further clarification. We have no set timeline for notification at the moment. As the COVID-19 reopening landscape unfolds we will be able to present a clearer sense of timing.

Selection Process

Maryland Hall is building a fluid calendar of events in a very fluid environment. Be prepared for questions, conversations and brainstorming around your proposal. While we don’t know exactly what form these offerings will take, we do have some priorities.

- We will prioritize artistic projects that embody a collaborative spirit
- Priority will be given to artists based in Annapolis, Anne Arundel County and the State of Maryland, but we are open to proposals from anywhere
- Cultural, artistic and aesthetic diversity will factor heavily in the selection process

Thank you for considering participation in Maryland Hall’s Request for Artistic Proposals.

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