



Independent Contractor Opportunity:

Artist Partner to join Arts & Social Impact Partnership with Ozark Regional Transit Authority

Key dates for the interview and application process:

- **Submit letter of interest to be considered as an interview candidate by Monday, February 15, 2022**
- **Two Public Info Sessions about the partnership will be held via Zoom on Monday, January 24, 2022 at noon and Tuesday, January 25, 2022 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm CST**
- **One hour Interviews will be held the week of February 21, 2022**
- **The artist's contract date begins on March 1 and ends on November 30, 2022**

Crystal Bridges is looking for a socially engaged artist residing in Northwest Arkansas to join the Arts and Social Impact Accelerator Program (ASAP) partnership with Ozark Regional Transit Authority and consulting artist Octavio Logo. ASAP is a multi-year partnership and collaborative incubator between Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, a social service agency, and a contracted artist. This program is funded by Crystal Bridges and managed by the Crystal Bridges Community Engagement team.

If you're interested in this contracted position, please submit a letter of interest that addresses three key points: (1) your past experience in the arts and community building and your knowledge of socially engaged arts practice; (2) Why you're specifically interested in engaging communities to elevate the need for public transportation in Northwest Arkansas; (3) Why you believe this would be a good fit for you and the partnership's goals.

Please submit your letter of interest to Community@crystalbridges.org by February 15, 2022 to be considered for an interview. The letter should be at least one page and no more than 3 pages.

For a more in-depth understanding of this opportunity, we will provide two public info sessions via Zoom on Monday, January 24, 2022 from 12 to 1 p.m., and Tuesday, January 25 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The sessions will be facilitated by consulting artist Octavio Logo, Crystal Bridges Director of Community Engagement Sara Segerlin, and Ozark Regional Transit Authority staff. Interviews will be held on Feb. 9, 10, 11, and can be held virtually or in-person. The finalist should be prepared to start on March 1.

For a detailed summary about the contracted position, please read the information below, including: an overview about the program and ORT partnership (page 2); the artist's scope of work, time commitment, and compensation (page 3); a resource guide on socially engaged arts practice (page 4).



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General Overview: Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art launched in February 2021 an arts and social impact program in partnership with three social service agencies and local artists in Northwest Arkansas. The three partnerships include Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese (ACOM) with theater artist Kholoud Sawaf, Ozark Regional Transit Authority (ORT) with Octavio Logo, and University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Northwest Medical Campus with artist Kalyn Fay Barnoski.

Our goal is to engage local artists and social service agencies to incubate new ideas to creatively address social issues through arts-based solutions that will deepen support for vulnerable communities. The partnership's creation and implementation of arts-based solutions will vary and are subject to the social issue(s) affected by the communities served through the agency.

Background of ORT partnership in Year 1 (2021) and future concepts for Year 2 (2022):

In 2021, we reached nearly 14,000 people in Northwest Arkansas by hosting five engagements that visited four cities in Northwest Arkansas at public markets and community-led festivals through a participatory paint the bus experience called "Where To". The Where To events are designed to encourage dialogue and exploration of ORT buses and public transportation with youth and families. The community listening program called "Discuss on the Bus" brings together local leaders and enthusiasts who ride on a bus route and discuss ways to elevate attention and bridge the gap on public transportation in our region.

Additionally, the partnership offered an open call for four local artists to create an illustrative mural design on five ORT buses that will be exhibited throughout 2022. The illustrations are inspired by the artist's own dreams and hopes for public transportation. The artist Octavio Logo spent 6-7 months investing significant time in getting to know ORT staff by attending a safety training session, working with drivers and mechanics to pre-wrap the bus canvases, holding an office space at ORT, and facilitating the inaugural engagements of "Where To" and "Discuss the Bus" ride.

2022 marks the second year of this partnership with ORT and Octavio. For the second year of the partnership we will continue to build on momentum developed in the first year by growing listening sessions and creating community events for and by specific communities impacted by public transportation. We are looking to cultivate allies among civic leaders in support of better public transportation in NWA. We seek to hire a contracted artist (or creative community organizer) to boost community organizing and listening methods. The artist will join the team

on March 1 and prepare to arrange listening sessions and community events from May to July 2022. These events will inform and seek out groups to collaborate on a community-driven transportation festival in early to mid-October 2022.



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Artist Scope of Work: Roles & Responsibilities

- Meet with social service agency and Crystal Bridges once a week to write up plans to identify issues and decide on plans for art practice to be used.
- Lead activities that are engaging, culturally sensitive, and age-appropriate for community audiences 1-2 days per week during the engagement periods.
- Plan and facilitate purposeful and engaging activities within the community that align with the issue or theme that the social service agency has identified.
- Work collaboratively with Crystal Bridges Head of Community Programs and community engagement team, who will provide assistance on planning and co-facilitation of engagement activities.
- Develop positive, caring relationships with community members to deepen partnerships between the organizations and the community.
- Collaborate with social service agency and Crystal Bridges to assess effective program operations and maintain quality/integrity of work.
- Actively participate in community dialogue to ensure the community's voice is present throughout the project.

Compensation, time commitment and support on supply expenses

- For quarters 2–3 (March to August): we are looking for a time commitment of a minimum of 50 hours per month and a maximum of 70 hours per month from March to August, averaging 15–20 hours per week in a month.
- For quarter 4 (August to November): we are looking for a time commitment of a minimum of 60 hours per month and a maximum of 80 hours per month, averaging 20–25 hours per week in a month.
- The artist will be compensated at an hourly rate (To be discussed at a later date), in which the artist will provide an invoice each month of logged hours for the museum to process monthly payments.
- Supplies and art materials will be funded by museum based upon engagement concepts and budgetary quotes.
- An independent contractor agreement will be made between the artist and Crystal Bridges, and will require a W9 tax form.

General Schedule Expectations

- Schedule will vary depending on project needs and artist's availability. Events will primarily be scheduled in the evenings and during the day on weekends. The schedule will be pre-determined through collaborative discussion each month with the Crystal Bridges community engagement team.
- Planning meetings will be done during standard office hours, Monday–Friday.
- Logistical and physical work by the artist can be done during regular office hours, evenings, and weekends to fit individual schedules.
- Engagement activities are dependent on times that best suit the specific audience needs, including evenings or weekend hours.
- In March, we will provide an onboarding process for the artist to get to know ORT staff, CB staff, and consulting artist Octavio Logo while also learning about the partnership's history and current evaluation. We will immediately begin creating plans for listening sessions and community events to be facilitated from May to July, as well as preparations for the community-led transportation festival.

Requirements for the role

- Must reside in Northwest Arkansas
- One year of established local community relationships and working with community organizations serving BIPOC, multilingual, and under-resourced communities and individuals in Northwest Arkansas.
- Ability to work with all ages and abilities.
- Is knowledgeable of Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Access practices.
- At least one year of experience as a teaching artist, art educator, creative entrepreneur, and/or community organizer
- Is professional, quality-oriented, and possesses good communication skills in both writing and public speaking.

For reference on socially engaged arts practices, please refer to our resource guide on the following page.

Resource Guide for Socially Engaged Artists and Art Organizations

Nationally recognized examples informing ASAP program

Socially Engaged Artists

- Mark Bradford** <https://www.artandpractice.org/about/>
- Theaster Gates** <https://www.theastergates.com/>
- Vanessa German** <https://crystalbridges.org/blog/the-world-of-vanessa-german/>
- Jon Gray** https://www.ted.com/speakers/jon_gray
- Vijay Gupta, Street Symphony** <http://streetsymphony.org/programs/>
- Rick Lowe, Project Row Houses** <https://projectrowhouses.org/>
<https://uh.edu/kgmca/about/admin/bios/rick-lowe.php>
- Allison Orr, Forklift Danceworks** <https://www.forkliftdanceworks.org/>
- Favianna Rodriguez** <https://favianna.com/>
- Michael Rakowitz** <Http://www.michaelrakowitz.com/enemy-kitchen>
- Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Urban Bush Women** <https://www.urbanbushwomen.org/>
- Amir Whitaker, Dr. Knucklehead** <http://www.projectknucklehead.org/>
<https://www.aclusocal.org/en/biographies/amir-whitaker>

Organizations

Reports & Case Studies through Field Scans

<https://creativeplacemakingresearch.org/field-scans/>

Met's Civic Practice Partnership Artist in Residence program

<https://www.metmuseum.org/press/news/2020/civic-practice-partnership>

National Guild for Community Arts Education

<https://nationalguild.org/>

Teaching Artist Guild

<https://teachingartistsguild.org/>

Open Engagement Conferences https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_Engagement

A Blade of Grass <https://www.abladeofgrass.org/>

Springboard for the Arts <https://springboardforthearts.org/>

Art Making Change: What is Socially Engaged Art? <http://artmakingchange.org/practices>

Murals Arts (Philadelphia) <https://www.muralarts.org/>

Theater of the Oppressed NYC <https://www.tonyc.nyc/>

Mid-America Artist Alliance/Interchange Program:
<https://www.maaa.org/professional-development/interchange/>