



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2022 ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Release Date: January 6, 2022

Deadline: January 28, 2022

BACKGROUND

The Historic Clayborn Temple is excited to announce that we are officially launching our Artist in Residence program. In partnership with Artists At Work Initiative, Clayborn is requesting proposals to secure two artists to serve in the inaugural year of this community focused artist's residency from Spring 2022 - Spring 2023. Chosen artists will receive a salary and medical benefits for the life of the residency as well as a modest project budget to complete their work.

Historic Clayborn Temple serves as a 2022-2023 Cultural Hub for the Artists At Work (AAW) initiative in partnership with THE OFFICE performing arts + film. Artists At Work (AAW) is a workforce resilience program designed to support the rebuilding of healthy communities through artistic civic engagement. Conceived as a public/private partnership, the program will provide a salary, plus full health benefits and professional development resources directly to participating artists; provide financial support to participating local cultural organizations; and connect both to the work of local social impact initiatives in areas such as antiracism, justice reform, sustainability, and equitable development, health, economy, homelessness and housing, child welfare, and immigration. It is designed to impact the whole ecosystem of a community.

Selected artists will be employed by THE OFFICE performing art + film for the 12-month term, work in partnership with a local Social Impact Initiative or Community Partner to help bring focus to issues that are relevant and responsive to the needs of the community, and Attend monthly Professional Development workshops and Artist Work Shares.

HISTORIC CLAYBORN TEMPLE MISSION

Historic Clayborn Temple engages in culture and the arts inspired by the participants of the 1968 Sanitation Workers' Strike. Clayborn seeks to embody their declaration of the humanity and dignity of Black, poor, and working-class people and to continue their legacy of advancing human understanding through storytelling, engagement, and practice.

ABOUT HISTORIC CLAYBORN TEMPLE

Located just south of Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee, Clayborn Temple began its life in 1892 as Second Presbyterian Church. In 1949, the building was sold to an African Methodist Episcopal congregation who changed the property's name to Clayborn Temple in honor of a local bishop. For the subsequent years, Clayborn Temple served as a religious institution with an active and vibrant African-American congregation and in 1968 became the organizing headquarters for The Sanitation Workers' Strike. Every day people, along with civil rights and labor activists, advanced the dignity and economic wellbeing for sanitation workers, with the campaign's iconic "I AM A MAN" signs produced daily in the Temple's basement. Over the last four decades, the "I AM A MAN" signs have become a universal symbol for human rights and human dignity. The Strike is also known for being the campaign that Martin Luther King was working on when he was assassinated down the road at the Lorraine Motel.

For decades after The Strike, Clayborn Temple continued to operate as a religious and cultural institution for parishioners and visitors until closing in 1999 and falling into disrepair. Officially named a National Treasure, the building came back to life in 2018 and 2019, opening for events and community gatherings. The building is now closed for restoration and will soon reopen as a premier civil rights landmark and world class cultural arts center on the border of downtown and historically Black South Memphis.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In alignment with Clayborn's mission to animate the spirit of the sanitation workers strike, preserve the history and legacy of this space, and tell new stories that will lead us into the future, we are seeking candidates to become the first ever Historic Clayborn Temple Artists in Residence and help to tell the story of Clayborn's past, present, and future.

Below is an outline of each project's requirements. If you so choose, you may submit proposals for both projects, however, selected candidates will only be chosen for one project.

PROJECT ONE

DOCUMENTARY FILM PROJECT

As we work restore Historic Clayborn Temple and reimagine its role in Memphis and beyond, we understand that part of our work is to tell stories that both illuminate our past and help create our future.

To that end, we would like to produce a documentary film that tells the story of race and class through the lens of the stories of Memphis, Clayborn, and the Sanitation Workers' Strike of 1968.

Artists will utilize the resources of Clayborn Temple and engage with community members and affiliate organizations to produce a documentary that is tailored toward the preservation of the Clayborn legacy and the perpetuation of Clayborn's vision for the future.

Objectives of the documentary are to:

- Tell the story of Memphis and Memphians and their relationship to race and class.
- Detail Clayborn's history as a container and catalyst of the evolution of race and class in Memphis
- Share a vision for the future or restorative economics
- Chronicle the restoration of Historic Clayborn Temple

Submit a proposal/treatment and budget detailing your intended approach to the work. Include info on past filmmaking experience (storytelling, research, scriptwriting, directing, etc.)

PROJECT TWO

CREATIVE INNOVATION PROJECT

This is your chance to express yourself as a creative and share the stories you have been longing to share. With the Creative Innovation Project, we welcome all creatives of all artistic mediums to submit an idea to us for an artistic project. We are not placing limits on expression, we invite all ideas. Multiple ideas can be submitted by one artist.

Guidelines for project submission are:

- Must align and progress the mission of Clayborn Temple
- The program must be designed to prioritize community engagement and participation
- Specifics of program implementation must adhere to current CDC health guidelines
- The project must be sustainable after AAW term

Examples include but are not limited to murals, performance pieces (song, dance, theatre), installation, community programming, and public engagement. **Submissions are not limited to these examples** Let your imagination go WILD!

Submit a proposal that outlines your idea, the relevance of your idea to Historic Clayborn Temple, The Memphis community, and the plan to complete your idea. Be sure to include a timeline and budget.

Description	Start Date	End Date
Submission	January 6, 2022	January 28, 2022
Selection	February 1, 2022	February 15, 2022
Onboarding	February 21, 2022	February 21, 2022
Public Announcement	March 1, 2022	
Program Work Begins	March 2, 2022	

GUIDELINES

Please submit the following:

- **Cover Letter** stating why you are interested and your relationship to Memphis
- **Project Proposal** (Please include idea, timeline, budget, and plan for community participation)
- **Artist Statement** (Tell us who you are, what you do as an artists, and why this residency is exciting to you. Your statement may be submitted in writing or in an audio or video recording)
- **Portfolio/Work Samples** (Please include at least three examples of past creative work)
- **References** (Three Professional and/or Personal References from the people you have collaborated with that help us understand what it's like to work with you on creative projects.)
- **Artist Resume** (Appreciated but not required)

Candidates must be:

- In-need of full-time employment (not a tenured teacher/artist)
- Have, or are interested in, developing a social practice
- Eligible to work in the United States as a salaried employee on payroll with THE OFFICE performing arts + film

Please email submissions to manager@clayborn.org. Incomplete applications will not be considered. For more information about this project, please email manager@clayborn.org.

