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Call for Artists: National Endowment for the Arts Our Town
Sharing of People, Places, Culture, and Stories through Art Creation in Seguin
Mexican/Tejano Community Co-Creation of Art Project Information
UPDATED 09/11/23

Project Summary

Teatro De Artes De Juan Seguin and the City of Seguin NEA Our Town Committee seeks to commission a professional Mexican American/Tejano artist to design and create a visual art and/or mixed media art creation. This art creation should be able to travel to educational, city, business, nonprofit, for profit spaces, etc.

The artist stipend for this project is \$8,000, inclusive materials. The application deadline is Saturday, September 30, 2023.

Project Background and Goals

The first recorded evidence of exploration in the Seguin region was in 1718 by Martin de Alarcon, Governor of the State of Coahuila and Texas. First inhabitants of the Seguin area were Paleo, Tonkawa, Karankawa, Comanche, Lipan Apaches, and Coahuiltecan Indigenous peoples. Eventually Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo settlements were founded to include the ranch of Jose Antonio Navarro and the Umphries (or Humphries) Branch. On August 12, 1838, 33 of the Gonzales Rangers, a volunteer group, joined Joseph S. Martin in laying out a townsite near Walnut Branch; first named Walnut Springs and later Seguin for Juan N. Seguin. During the Republic of Texas years, many settlers arrived from the south hoping to establish cotton plantations. An early census showed that some 30 percent of the county's population was African American slaves.

Recently, the Seguin community has been engaged in conversation about the Texas Rangers and many locals were not aware of the Texas Ranger stories. Our Seguin and Guadalupe County youth and adults alike are seeking more information and answers to a long-standing question, "What is the rest of the story about our community?" It is our goal is to bring the rest of the story to the forefront thus sharing and documenting the facts, the struggles experienced and the resiliency of the people who live(d) here through participatory community art creations.

Project Description

Teatro De Artes De Juan Seguin in partnership with the City of Seguin received a National Endowment for the Arts Grant to tell the stories of communities of color (African American, Mexican/Tejano, and Indigenous peoples) through community co-creation of art to include people, places, history, and culture in Seguin, TX.

Artist Eligibility

Local Seguin artists representing the Mexican American/Tejano community are preferred, but other Mexican American/Tejano artists are also encouraged to apply. Artist must have prior experience in visual arts/mixed media artworks and have experience in the creation of public art.

Selection Process

The artist will be selected by a mixed group consisting of Teatro De Artes De Juan Seguin Board members and the Teatro De Artes De Juan Seguin Executive Director, City of Seguin Staff, and a community member from the Seguin Commission on the Arts Committee.

Evaluation Criteria

The selection of an artist will be based upon:

- Completion and submission of an online application along with emailing cover letter, artist resume, artist portfolio (5%)
- Familiarity/knowledge of Seguin and its told and untold history. (10%)
- Artist Fee Explanation and List of Material to be used (15%)
- Artistic style 30%
- Artist's qualifications, including demonstrated ability to engage with the community on a participatory art creation 40%

Budget

The total amount to be paid to the artist is a stipend of \$8,000 inclusive of the following:

- All materials
- Attend 2 Community Platicas (Conversations) with community members who will share their ancestral stories using cultural symbols, artifacts, photos, etc. so that artist can engage with community to capture the stories for the co-community creation of art.
- Participate in an Artist Meet and Greet event so artist can share about themselves, their previous artwork, to include but not limited to displaying previous and current artwork.
- Participate in a 1-day artist in residency in an educational space.
- Participate in 2 Our Town Committee and artist rendering meetings.
- Be present at the Unveiling of the Co-Community Art Creation.

Project Timeline-*Subject to Change*

- Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 5PM CST
 - Deadline for application, resume, and portfolio submission
- Thursday, October 5, 2023
 - Our Town Partner Committee application review
- Friday, October 6, 2023

- Email and phone notification to artists who have been selected to move on to artist dialogue with committee.
- Monday, October 23, 2023, 5PM-8PM
 - Dialogue with Artists
- Tuesday, October 24, 2023
 - Artist(s) will be named.
- Thursday, November 9, 2023, 6PM Teatro Cultural Arts Center
 - Community Platica #1 with Seguin Mexican American/Tejano Community Members
- Sunday, December 3, 2023, 1PM Teatro Cultural Arts Center
 - Community Platica #2 with Seguin Mexican American/Tejano Community Members
- Friday, February 2, 2024, 5PM
 - Our Town Mexican/Tejano Co-Community Creation Art Creation Preliminary Rendering due
- Sunday, February 11, 2024, Afternoon
 - Artist and Committee Meeting to discuss preliminary rendering (Virtual and/or Face to Face)
- Friday, March 8, 2024, 5PM
 - Our Town Mexican/Tejano Co-Community Creation Art Creation Final Rendering due
- Sunday, March 24, 2024, Afternoon
 - Artist and Committee Meeting to discuss final rendering (Virtual and/or Face to Face)
- Friday, April 12, 2024, 5PM
 - Final Approved Community Co-Creation of Art delivered to Our Town Committee
- Friday, May 3, 2024 7PM
 - Art Unveiling at Teatro's 42nd ¡Viva Teatro! Recital and Cinco de Mayo Celebration at TLU Jackson Auditorium

Artist Submissions:

Artist should include a cover letter with their reason for wanting to be the artist chosen for this co-community creation of art, the artist's resume, artist's portfolio, artist fee explanation (not to exceed \$8,000), list of materials to be used. Electronic submissions to be emailed to teatrodeartes@gmail.com.

Additional Information:

All information submitted to Teatro De Artes De Juan Seguin will be kept by Teatro De Artes De Juan Seguin.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Dr. Yvonne M. De La Rosa, Executive Director of Teatro De Artes De Juan Seguin at teatrodeartes@yahoo.com.