



Call for Artists

Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference | October 9-11, 2024

The Center for Community Progress is issuing a call for artists, arts organizations, design agencies, or similar entities in the St. Louis region to develop an interactive, temporary indoor arts and placemaking installation as part of the [2024 Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference](#) (RVP). RVP will take place October 9-11 at the [Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch](#) in St. Louis, Missouri.

About the Center for Community Progress

The mission of the Center for Community Progress is to foster strong, equitable communities where vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties are transformed into assets for neighbors and neighborhoods.

We are the leading national, nonprofit resource for urban, suburban, and rural communities seeking to address the full cycle of property revitalization. We recognize the severe negative impact that vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties have on neighborhoods and the people living in them, including economic, social, psychological, and environmental harms. We also recognize the legacy of unjust laws, policies, and systems that cause some communities to bear an unfair share of this burden.

We believe these properties can be tremendous resources if returned to productive uses that benefit the surrounding community.

About the Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference

RVP is a national conference dedicated to strengthening communities through new strategies to transform vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties into community assets. The conference brings people together around these common challenges and equips them to return home and effect meaningful, on-the-ground change. RVP will focus on efforts to revitalize disinvested communities in ways that meet the needs and priorities of residents, create new opportunities for and in partnership with marginalized communities, and rectify unjust land use, housing, and related policies that contribute to decline.

RVP attracts a mix of government, nonprofit, community, and private sector leaders. Attendees include urban planners, city attorneys, elected and government officials, community development corporation staff, land bank leaders, academics, police officers, code enforcement officials, neighborhood association leaders, residents and activists, developers, representatives from lending institutions, and more. Approximately 1,000 people are expected to attend the conference in St. Louis.

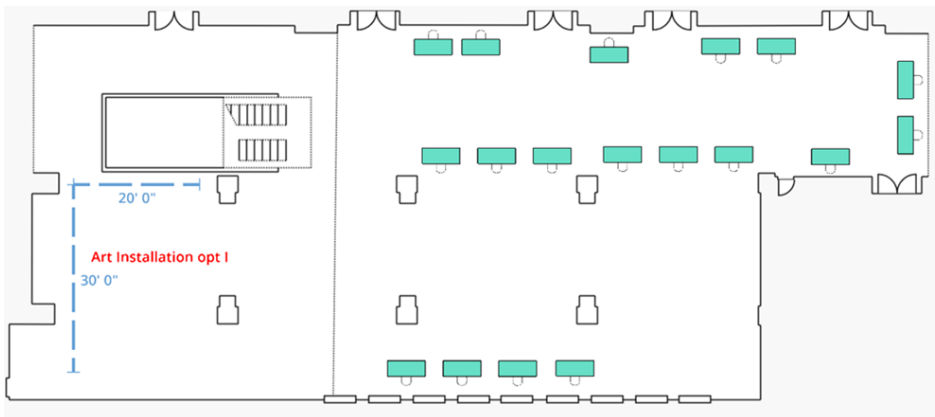
More information about the Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference is available at <https://communityprogress.org/rvp24/>.

About the Arts & Placemaking Installation Opportunity

The Center for Community Progress encourages the integration of creative placemaking into community revitalization strategies.

Community Progress seeks an artist, arts or design organization, or other similar entity to create an interactive installation to showcase the value and impact of creative placemaking, collaboration between artists and local government, and/or incorporation of artmaking into revitalization policy and practice.

The installation will be temporary and will be constructed and displayed indoors during RVP in a 20' x 30' space in the grand foyer.



A key component of the installation should be to create an interactive experience for conference attendees that celebrates and elevates the role of creative placemaking in community revitalization. This may include engaging conference attendees to participate in a visioning project, artists' office hours, performances, interactive activities, a "mock vacant lot" arts project, and more.

The goals of the installation are to:

- Spark conference attendees' interest and understanding of creative placemaking.
- Provide attendees with an interactive experience that celebrates and elevates the role of creative placemaking in community revitalization.
- Inspire participants to explore creative placemaking in their home communities.

The selected applicant will be responsible for setting up the art installation on October 8, providing staffing during the conference, and tearing down the art installation on October 11. The selected applicant will be provided a complimentary conference registration as part of this engagement.

Community Progress has budgeted up to \$5,000 for the arts installation, inclusive of all staff and materials costs.

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Qualifications

Community Progress is interested in proposals from artists representing a broad range of cultural and artistic practices, including those with expertise in visual, performing, folk/traditional, and digital/media practices. Given the theme of the conference, Community Progress encourages organizations and practitioners to apply that center their work around principles of equity, including those that feature or draw attention to historically under-represented classes like women and people of color. Preferred applicants have demonstrated expertise or commitment to creative placemaking, inclusive community engagement, and/or community revitalization.

Anticipated Timeline

Applications Due: July 1, 2024

Artist Selected and Notified: July 12, 2024

Application and Deadline

Interested artists should prepare the following information:

1. Name and contact information
2. Relevant experience and background information. This can come in the form of a resume, short bios, organizational background and mission statements, and links to Instagram, YouTube, or other content currently available online that may serve as a portfolio.
3. Responses to the following questions. Feel free to include pictures or links. Please limit responses to 250 words for each question.
 - a. Please describe your experience with temporary arts installations, creative placemaking, or community engagement through arts.
 - b. Please explain how you plan to approach this commission and its connection to the conference theme of equitable community development.
4. Example scope of work feasible within the stated budget, inclusive of all design, personnel, materials, and other costs.

Applications should be submitted as a single document (e.g., Word or PDF) to Julia Zimmerman at jzimmerman@communityprogress.org. **The deadline for submissions is June 26 at 6:00 PM ET.**

Questions? Please reach out to Julia Zimmerman at jzimmerman@communityprogress.org.