

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Exhibition Opportunity: **STEAMBOT**

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY: Open to all artists, engineers, and programmers.

DEADLINE: Friday, October 23, 2009

ARTWORK OPPORTUNITY

Kirkland Arts Center (KAC) is seeking individuals and collaborative groups to create interactive artwork for an exhibition in the KAC Gallery during October and November of 2010. *Steambot* will feature work that combines both current and 1900's-era technology. "Hacking" is a term that usually refers to the modification or subversion of computer software for the purpose of re-configuring its intended use. Hacking essentially opens up a closed system for manipulation. *Steambot* looks to explore what happens when old and new technologies are "hacked" and joined through their newly shared vulnerability. Once individuals are selected through a jurying process, they will be given the opportunity to work alone or collaborate with other selected artists. Taking inspiration from pioneers like Nikola Tesla and Thomas Edison and embracing the world of Steampunk, Cyberpunk, and Retro-futurism, *Steambot* aims to collapse the time between the cutting edge of today and the craftsmanship and ingenuity of the past.

BACKGROUND

The Pacific Northwest has a rich history of technological innovation, from the early settlers' development to the growth of corporate giants like Boeing and Microsoft. *Steambot* asks, "What does this dynamic history look like?" and "What does it say about us as a culture?"

Built by Peter Kirk (Kirkland's founder) in 1893, the historic Peter Kirk Building has housed the Kirkland Arts Center, where it has stood at the crossroads of tradition and innovation for over 47 years.

Kirkland Arts Center provides exemplary visual arts education in a dynamic, community culture. The cornerstone ceramic arts program attracts artists from the Northwest and further afield who share their expertise with students and teachers, and the Gallery's accessible, contemporary art exhibitions showcase innovative works that stimulate a lively public dialogue.

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

October 23, 2009	Proposal deadline
November 23, 2009	Artists' notification
December, 2009	First artists' meeting (group presentation of proposals)
April, 2010	Second artists' meeting
October 10-13, 2010	Exhibition installation
October 14, 2010	Opening reception
November 20, 2010	Exhibition closes

ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS

SELECTION PROCESS

A selection panel consisting of art and technology professionals, the *Steambot* jury will review artist application materials. Based on the selection criteria listed below, the panel may choose 12 to 20 artists to proceed throughout the collaboration process. Once the final group is chosen, participants will be invited to meet and share their proposals with one another. Finalists will be given the opportunity to team up with any other finalists or groups of finalists, working towards new or previously proposed projects.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Participants' selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Quality and strength of past work as demonstrated in the submitted application materials;
- Previous experience working creatively with technology;
- Demonstrated familiarity or interest in the art and technology of the region;
- Availability to attend exhibition planning meetings.

ARTIST SELECTION SCHEDULE

Deadline for entry: Postmarked on or before Friday, October 23, 2009

Selection panel: Week of November 16, 2009 (TBD)

Group presentation of proposals: December, 2009 (TBD)

APPLICATION MATERIALS

ARTISTS APPLYING FOR THIS PROJECT MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS:

ONE-PAGE LETTER OF INTEREST – Explains the artist(s)' interest in the project, relevant past experience, and why the artist(s)' work is appropriate for this project. If submitting as a team, the letter should include a description of how the team works together and clearly explain any relevant collaborative work experience. Please submit digital file on a CD-R as well as one printed copy.

WORK SAMPLES – Up to 10 digital images on a CD-R. Label the CD-R with the applicant(s)' name, contact information, and number of images. Artists are encouraged to submit images of past work that best illustrate their qualifications for the project. If applying as a team, the team submits a total of 10 digital images.

- File format – submit only high quality JPGs
- Image size – images must be at least 3x5" in size and 256 dpi resolution
- File labeling – Files must be titled with artist's last name, first initial, followed by a number indicating the viewing order. The numbers must correspond to the accompanying annotated image lists. Use "0" in front of single digit numbers. Do not use more than 30 characters, and use only letters, numbers, and underscores.

Example: Doe_J_01

ANNOTATED IMAGE LIST – a sheet of information including artist's name, day and evening telephone numbers, and email address on top of list of images included on CD-R. For each image include corresponding image number, title of artwork, medium, date of artwork, and size. If relevant, also include name of client or commissioning organization and budget. Please submit digital file on a CD-R as well as one printed copy.

ARTIST'S RESUME (two-page max.) – for team applications please include resumes for all team members, up to two pages for each team member. Please submit digital file on a CD-R as well as one printed copy.

QUESTIONS? – Please contact KAC Exhibitions Director, Cable Griffith at 425-822-7161 x102 or email: cgriffith@kirklandartscenter.org.

MAIL OR DELIVER APPLICATIONS TO:

Kirkland Arts Center Gallery
STEAMBOT
620 Market Street
Kirkland, WA 98033