



215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite LL-100
 P.O. Box 2985
 Madison WI 53701-2985
 Phone: (608) 261-9134
 Fax: (608) 267-8739
www.cityofmadison.com/mac

BLINK Grant Application

Applicant Information

Name Julia Levine
 Address (no P.O. boxes) 1005 E Johnson St
 City/State/Zip Madison WI 53703
 Phone 608-957-2938
 Email jlevine312@gmail.com

Deadlines

- Deadlines are: February 1, June 1, and October 1
- All application materials must be emailed to the Madison Arts Commission (madisonarts@cityofmadison.com) by 4:30 pm on the day of the deadline.



"The Beehive Project" by Chele Isaac, was an interactive public art project consisting of a large scale beehive, featuring a queen bee inside typing a story on an old typewriter. The public participated by helping to write the story.

Project Description

Project Title Notice

Location(s) Phoenix Cooperative; Tree Lane Apartments
 Islamic Center of Madison; James Madison Park Shelter; and more

Start date/time September 6 End date/time October 6

Project costs:

Wheatpasting Suppliea	<u>\$ 100</u>
Photo developing/printing	<u>\$ 700</u>
Artist Fees	<u>\$ 700</u>
Additional project income (if any):	<u>\$</u>
Neighborhood Organizing	<u>\$ 500</u>
Institute	<u>\$</u>

Amount requested from MAC \$1500

Estimated Total Costs / Income \$2000 \$2000

Do you have the necessary insurance coverage?

- Yes No

Do you have all necessary permits and permissions?

- Yes No In progress

Madison Arts Commission

The City of Madison (MAC) recognizes the unique value of the arts and the contribution they make to the quality of life within our community. Madison Arts Commission was created by ordinance in 1974, to advise the Mayor, Common Council and city agencies on matters which relate to the creation, presentation and funding of public art.

Conceptual Approach

Due to its creation within the Lussier Community Education Center led Neighborhood Organizing Institute, my project is conceptually grounded in larger organizing work. As such, artistic expressions of this project ultimately act to serve my organizing goals; principally the goal of building oppressed people's access to and expression of their power. The project aims to add an artistic component to the current citywide conversation around public safety. The project will highlight alternative narratives of what safety looks and feels like, as well as encourage public reflection on unsafe spaces. In the process, we will build support for local organizations focused on re-defining safety and providing alternative safety resources (like Freedom Inc.'s open spaces for black girls and Nehemiah's peer support program). "Notice" will lift up under-heard perspectives on public safety in order to build social and cultural capital for black and brown-led organizations to expand and receive material support.

Project Description (400 words or less)

"Notice" is a citywide exploration of public spaces. Wheat pasted photographs and quotations will appear around town on sides of buildings, notifying the public that individuals find the space unsafe. The wheat pasted photographs and interviewee quotations will remain in place for a month, September 8-October 6, 2019, during which time public interactions with the work will be documented. Then, a collected exhibition of the work, including re-prints of the original photographs and quotations, as well as these new documentations, will travel around the city's public libraries and organizing spaces. During these events, I will collaborate with community partner organizations such as Freedom Inc. and Nehemiah, to collect public feedback to create a working document of criteria for the city to use to evaluate the safety of its public spaces according to the needs of the most vulnerable.

The interviewees range in experience. From speaking about being trans and living on Langdon Street to sharing the isolation of being black and in a wheelchair in mostly white and able-bodied spaces like the Farmer's Market. Additionally, I've collected testimony about the lack of safety in the over-surveillance of Tree Lane Apartments, in the fear of massacre in a local mosque, and in harassment in James Madison Park. I am currently in the process of applying for public display in James Madison Park. I have identified and reached out to other entities that may be open to displaying the work on their buildings, such as Phoenix Cooperative on Langdon.

This project has received \$500 of material support through the Neighborhood Organizing Institute, a 10-month training program that curates supportive programming for community organizers. The additional \$1500 from BLINK would ensure that this project could move forward smoothly by paying for almost all material expenses and artist fees. Though I have extensive experience developing and displaying collaborative photographic portraits of individuals, this will be my first display of public art. Last year, through the help of several UW-Madison based grants, I interviewed and photographed 20 racial justice organizers throughout Wisconsin and displayed these in an exhibition. I'm excited to take my work outside and involve the public in the conversations that are spurred by visualizing the worlds of the under-heard.

2013-

- **Part of RAW Artists showcase** in Milwaukee, WI, Featured and interviewed in ACHE Magazine.
- **Attended Ithaca College** (2013-2014)
 - Rod Serling Scholarship for Photography
 - Film and Visual Arts major at the Roy H. Park School of Communications

2015-

- **Field Studies in Journalism and New Media- Rabat, Morocco (Jan- May 2015)**
 - Semester program for journalism students. Produced photo essays to accompany written pieces on Sahrawi student activists, a secret Christian church, tenets of a new housing development for people formerly housed in slums.
 - Photos published in U.S. News and World Report.

2016-

- **PEOPLE Program, Video Class Instructor** (Madison, WI) Summer 2016
 - Taught summer intensive video class to 20 high school PEOPLE program students.
 - Created curricula related to video creation, built a 4 -week course with 16 hours of programming.
- **Solo photography exhibit at Drunk Lunch Gallery** (Madison, WI in October 2016).
- **WI Network for Peace, Justice, and Sustainability, Intern & Board Member**
 - Updated and maintained membership information for a network of community organizations focused on sustainability, equity, and social justice.
 - Interviewed and photographed member groups. Posted snapshot-interviews online and in the quarterly newsletters to facilitate further networking between member organizations.
 - Organized Fall 2017 Fundraiser, contacted sponsors and invited member-groups, organized event space, publicized event on social media.

2017-

- **Hilldale Scholarship for independent research**

2018-

- **Graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison**
 - **Bachelor of Arts**, Major in Geography and Environmental Studies, Minor in African American History and Photography, May 2018. Classes in Photography, Photo-journalism.
 - Dean's List, Phi Beta Kappa
- **Created a visual-oral history project about racial justice organizing in Wisconsin** titled *Home is where the racism is...* displayed in Yatra Studio (Madison, WI in May 2018)
 - University Bookstore Award for excellence in research

Mock up #1- Wall of Doyle Administration Building, Madison, WI.
Photograph in same location.

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NOTICE



"When students of color go to school, they should feel safe enough where they can express themselves. We have the right to be safe and feel safe at school. Let me and my parents decide what is best for my safety."

Mock up #2- Wall of Phoenix Cooperative, Langdon Street, Madison, WI. Photograph same location.

NOTICE



**“Feeling safe here would take a giant cultural shift
I want people to see humans as humans.”**





Example photo #1: For this project, I worked with fellow UW-Madison student, Yusra Murad, on a collaborative portrait project to accompany a poem written by Yusra about the feeling of suspension between two worlds: America and Pakistan. This project demonstrates my ability to develop creative relationships with individuals to aid them in their emotional expression. The rest of the series can be found at julialevine.format.com.



Example work #2: Another photograph from the collaborative project with Yusra Murad.



UBLAC

Example work #3: Photograph of Markasa Tucker, organizer with Uplifting Black Liberation And Communities. Milwaukee, WI. 2018. I've included one portrait from the collection, "Home is where the racism is," a visual oral history project regarding racial justice organizers in Wisconsin, which I displayed in Madison at Yatra Studio in May 2018. Markasa participated in the event during a talk back in which seven organizers from around the state discussed strategy and philosophy with an audience of 25 or so.



Example works #4+ #5:
My work with Kennedie
King highlights more of
my experience with
intimate portraiture
with individuals.

