

Madison Public Library Thurber Park Artist in Residence Statement

We are writing to uplift some artists that we feel could do great work if selected for the Thurber Park Artist in Residence. We see a lot of potential for growth that could propel any of these artist's practices forward in a significant way.

Based on our intended involvement moving forward we looked at the applicants primarily through a lens of community engagement and programming. We see lots of potential with these artists to connect with the community and to do programing at Madison Public Library locations.

With this first group of artists we see great potential with their current projects to engage the Thurber area and library communities. Each artist has multi-faceted projects designed through the lens of connection. The community is integral for them to create their work. These artists are Aaron Steffes, Ankur Malhutra, and Sharon Tang.

The next group of artists we would like to uplift all use paint as their medium to hold up a mirror to the community. They all have unique perspective to share and are excellent storytellers. All these artists have worked on large scale murals and told important stories with the community. These artists are Richie Morales, Melanna Bass, and Chel Ramos.

The final group of artists we would like to uplift both have incredible skills in creating large scale sculptural and installation work. We feel that they would create playful interactive spaces with the public and could ultimately create amazing large-scale public art out of this residency opportunity. These artists are Austin Swearengin and Kay Acheson

There are many excellent candidates for the Thurber residency, and we are excited to find out the committee's final selection.