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To support a full creative life for all, The Madison Arts Commission commits to championing policies and practices of cultural equity that empower a just, inclusive, equitable city

## Deadlines

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



*“Rain” by Nadia Niggli. A series of 12 rain chains of shallow bowls that visually echo the lily pads. The artwork hung from bridge posts in Vilas Park to draw people’s attention to the beauty of the landscape and invite them to reflect on the watershed.*

Photo: Nadia Niggli

# BLINK Temporary Public Art Opportunities



## What is BLINK?

The Madison Arts Commission invites artists to provide a temporary tangible glimpse into their imaginations. We commission projects for up to \$1500 each. BLINK is an opportunity for experimental, ad-hoc, temporary works of art to sprout up throughout the community and vanish, leaving residents and visitors eager to see what is next. Madison neighborhoods and urban areas are open canvases. Creative projects in publicly accessible outdoor spaces will provide a glimpse of how the world looks through an artist’s eyes.

The objectives of Blink include broadening the role of the artists in the community by:

- Developing public artworks including performance, multidisciplinary, visual, and literature that have strong, inherent aesthetic quality and represent diverse communities and a wide range of artistic styles and disciplines.
- Encouraging collaboration among artists, architects, engineers and others.
- Encouraging public dialogue about and understanding of works of art, issues raised by public art, and the various roles artists can undertake.
- Providing opportunities for artists to advance their art forms.
- Dispersing temporary public art throughout the City of Madison (We strongly encourage artists to plan projects in areas underserved by the arts, sites off the Isthmus and UW Madison campus.)

## 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.

# Guidelines

Funding is solely available to residents or non-profit agencies residing in Madison. Funding MAY be used for artists' fees, production expenses, marketing costs, purchase of expendable materials, etc. Funding CANNOT be used to fund prizes or awards, grantee's tuition, purposes other than outlined in your proposal, permanent equipment, travel outside the City of Madison, refreshments or debts incurred for past activities.

Artistic quality must be of the highest standard in regard to design, materials, craftsmanship, assembly, and appropriateness to theme and character designated by Madison Arts Commission. Projects must be in place within six months of acceptance.

Artistic merit of proposed work including:

- Idea to be conveyed
- Appropriateness of media to idea
- Visual impact, including color, form and composition
- Harmony/compatibility with physical and social setting

Feasibility of the proposed work including:

- Durability
- Public safety
- Insurance risk assessment
- Maintenance obligation

Ability of the artist to successfully complete the project including:

- Training and experience
- Evidence of careful financial planning
- Technical competence and craft experience

## NEW TO PUBLIC ART?

Consider aligning yourself with an experienced artist or mentor. MAC can help connect you with one.



*Imagine, by Betsy Delzer, Bobbette Rose, Ben Delzer & Jeffrey Pohorski (Skunkfilms)*

## Before You Apply

You are not getting a grant for your project. You are selling MAC a temporary public art project for our art collection. If MAC accepts your proposal, this will be a commissioned piece of public art.

How does your project fit Blink? Is it Blinky enough? We are looking for projects that are: high quality, unique, temporary, surprising, placemaking, publicly accessible, ephemeral art. We have other ways to fund art projects through our annual grant fund.

Identify the location(s) you are considering for your project and check in with the arts administrator about using that site. The artwork must be appropriate size and scale to fit in with its proposed surroundings. Find out what entity (i.e., city, state, private property) has jurisdiction over that site. This is legwork/research for you to do. If the site is public property, find out what department has jurisdiction over that spot (i.e., Parks, Streets, Madison Public Library, etc.). You will need permission of the property owner to create your project. While MAC sometimes commits to a Blink project before all necessary permissions are secured, your proposal will be more competitive if you've completed this step. Funding is contingent on the artist's ability to secure permission for use of the site.

Research the regulations, from structural engineering to disability access, that apply to your project. Do not expect that just because it is art, it will be exempt from these requirements.

Secure stakeholder support. Contact key members of the community or special interest groups to alert them of possible incoming structures or events.

Expect that you will be responsible for all costs associated with the project, including the costs of fabrication, installation, maintenance, general liability insurance, permits, fees, deinstallation, site restoration, (some projects may require a licensed engineer to review design) etc. Put those costs into your budget. Blink funding is \$1,500. Does your project fit within that budget? If not, talk with the Arts Program Administrator.

Remember, if MAC approves your proposal, your project will become a Blink project and it needs to be identified as such. Your project and all promotional materials will need to display our logo and/or credit language. For whatever dates we agree upon (you propose them), the project is a Blink temporary public art project of the City of Madison. We will share images of the work and include the project in our Blink archive (giving credit to the artist).

# Submission



*Bluethrough, By Chele Isaac Photo: Jim Wildman*

## Do you have an idea you want considered?

**SUBMIT via email ([MadisonArts@CityofMadison.com](mailto:MadisonArts@CityofMadison.com))  
(these materials will not be returned)**

- A completed application
- PDF of Resume or Work History
- Up to 5 digital images of your work (include image descriptions that explain how the work sample relates to the proposed project).
- A visual representation of project (scan, PDF, or JPEG)
- If your email is returned (too large) please resend as a series of individual emails.

## Review Process

1. Initial review by Public Art Committee
2. Full commission review.
3. Funding notification

You are welcome and encouraged to attend public meetings related to your proposal. Check weekly meetings here:

### NOTIFICATION

You will be notified of award decisions approximately one month following the due date.

### FUNDING CREDIT

All publicity, press releases and promotional material must acknowledge that the project is a Blink temporary public art project funded by the Madison Arts Commission and display the MAC logo. Logos available online.

## How to Submit

All application materials must be received by the deadline. If the deadline falls on a weekend, your application must be received in the Planning Division (Madison Arts Commission office) by 4:30 p.m. the following Monday.

### Send Application Materials to:

[Madisonarts@cityofmadison.com](mailto:Madisonarts@cityofmadison.com)

### Please Note:

If you don't receive a confirmation email within 24 hours, please contact Karin Wolf, Arts Program Administrator at [Kwolf@CityofMadison.com](mailto:Kwolf@CityofMadison.com).



*Seed Pod, By Brenda Baker*

Photo: Eric Bailles

## PROJECT EVALUATION AND PAYMENT

To receive payment, artists are required to submit a list of three evaluators (who must complete evaluations prior to payment), final financial report form, three images of the project (the City may use these for promotional or other purposes) and W9's. When evaluations and all other necessary paperwork are submitted to the Madison Arts Commission Administrator, payment will be processed.



# Compliance

Grantees must comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, ordinances and codes. You must assume full liability and responsibility for the conduct of the project and agree to indemnify the City of Madison, its employees, and representatives for any sum which the City, its employees and representatives may become liable to pay in consequence of activity under the project. You must observe Madison General Ordinance (MG) Sec. 3.23 (Equal Opportunities Ordinance), regarding your staff and the public availability of your performance or display spaces. This ordinance requires equal opportunities in housing, employment, public accommodations and city facilities and credit to person without regard to sex, race, religion, color, national origin or ancestry, age, handicap, marital record, less than honorable discharge, physical appearance, sexual orientation, political beliefs, or the fact that such person is a student. (You may request a copy of the ordinance from the Madison Arts Commission office.)

**Nondiscrimination Based on Disability.** Contractor shall comply with Section 39.05, Madison General Ordinances, "Nondiscrimination Based on Disability in City-Assisted Programs and Activities." Under section 39.05(7) of the Madison General Ordinances, no City financial assistance shall be granted unless an Assurance of Compliance with Sec. 39.05 is provided by the applicant or recipient, prior to the granting of the City financial assistance.

Contractor hereby makes the following assurances: Contractor assures and certifies that it will comply with section 39.05 of the Madison General Ordinances, "Nondiscrimination Based on Disability in City Facilities and City-Assisted Programs and Activities," and agrees to ensure that any subcontractor

who performs any part of this agreement complies with sec. 39.05, where applicable. This includes but is not limited to assuring compliance by the Contractor and any subcontractor, with section 39.05(4) of the Madison General Ordinances, "Discriminatory Actions Prohibited."

Contractor may not, in providing any aid, benefit or service, directly or through contractual, licensing or other arrangements, violate the prohibitions in Section 39.05(4), listed below:

**Discriminatory Actions Prohibited:** Contractor assures that, in providing any aid, benefit, or service, it shall not, directly or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, on the basis of disability:

1. Deny a qualified person with a disability the opportunity to participate in or benefit from the aid, benefit, or service;
2. Afford a qualified person with a disability an opportunity to participate in or benefit from the aid, benefit, or service, or the City facility, that is not equal to that afforded others;
3. Provide a qualified person with a disability with a City facility or an aid, benefit, or service that is not as effective as that provided to others;
4. Provide different or separate City facilities, or aid, benefits, or services to persons with a disability or to any class of persons with disabilities unless such action is necessary to provide qualified persons with a disability with City facilities, aid, benefits, or services that are as effective as those provided to others;
5. Aid or perpetuate discrimination against a qualified person with a disability by providing significant assistance to any agency, organization, or person that

discriminates on the basis of disability in providing any aid, benefit, or service to beneficiaries of the recipient's program;

6. Deny a qualified person with a disability the opportunity to participate as a member of planning or advisory boards; or
7. Otherwise limit a qualified person with a disability in the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or opportunity enjoyed by others receiving an aid, benefit, or service from a recipient, or by others using City facilities.

Contractor shall post notices in an accessible format to applicants, beneficiaries, and other persons, describing the applicable provisions of Sec. 39.05 of the Madison General Ordinances, in the manner prescribed by section 711 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USCA Sec 2000e-10).

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**Notice Regarding Lobbying Ordinance:** If you are seeking a grant from the City with a value of over \$10,000, then you are likely subject to Madison's lobbying ordinance, sec. 2.40 MGO. You are required to register and report your lobbying. Consult the City Clerk for more information. Failure to comply with the lobbying ordinance may result in fines of \$1,000 to \$5,000.

**LATE or INCOMPLETE  
Applications Will  
Not be Considered**