



Artist Fellowship Program Evaluation Request For Proposals

Socrates is requesting proposals from experienced Program Evaluators. The organization's goal is to determine measures and program evaluation of the current state of the Park's 20+ year Artist Fellowship and Exhibition Program, 'The Socrates Annual'. This is one of Socrates' longest standing and signature Programs, having served 299 artists over its duration. Socrates welcomes proposals from those experienced in program development, community engagement and organizing, artist support and public art; additional experience with residency programs is a plus. The goal of the evaluation is to evaluate the program's impact—its successes and challenges within the program's structure, the incremental changes made within the past five years, and make suggestions for opportunities at a key moment of evolution for the organization: after running more than twenty years, on the cusp of breaking ground for a new building, combined with a leadership transition.

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Position Responsibilities

- Assist Socrates in establishing performance criteria to determine measures of success
- Monitor and evaluate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in line with Socrates' mission
- Review an overview of existing evaluation tools, survey and demographic data from the Program's 20+ year history
- Design and develop data collection (survey and interview) and program evaluation tools
- Collect, examine and translate Program data from the past 5 years
- Conduct reviews of Program related documents, published information and reports
- Facilitate communication between Organization and Stakeholders including artist alumni, full-time, part-time staff and former staff
- Produce written reports and presentations with data and findings that define terms of success and challenges, and propose immediate (1 year) and long-term (5 year) next steps for opportunities

Essential Deliverables

- Connect with staff and stakeholders through interviews and surveys
- Write a Final Report evaluating the Programs' success, opportunities and suggested recommendations for future directions based on performance criteria
- Present Final Report to Organizational Staff and Stakeholders, including methodology, documentation and recommendations for the Program's future



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Qualifications

- Experience in arts non-profit Program Evaluation and Reporting on findings in cultural institutions to general, leadership and funding audiences
- Familiarity with industry standards in the arts and cultural sector and public art in particular
- Experience collecting and presenting anecdotal data and assessing non-monetary community value and impact
- Experience and values working within anti-oppression and anti-racist frameworks
- Training in the areas of racial diversity, equity and inclusion for the arts and cultural institutions
- Demonstrated history of working directly with organizational teams
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to interact with diverse groups of people

Fee: The Evaluator will be paid \$10,000 for their services: half upon signing the contract, the remainder upon completion of deliverables. This is an independent contractor position and is not eligible for employee benefits.

The position works remotely and the Evaluator will meet with staff and stakeholders primarily via phone and video conferencing. At least one site-visit to the Park will be required to adequately develop a Program Evaluation that addresses the particularities of the Park as work and exhibition space.

To Apply: Send a proposal to jobs@socratessculpturepark.org including the following attached *in a single* PDF in the order that follows:

Cover letter expressing interest and qualifications
Resume

Proposed timeline for this project: **October 2022 and ending November 2023**

Example of previous evaluative work such as reports or analysis, via PDF or links

We will accept and review applications on a rolling basis until **August 12, 2022**. Please use "Artist Fellowship Program Evaluator" in the subject line.

About Socrates

In 1986, visionary sculptor Mark di Suvero founded Socrates Sculpture Park as a community-engaged and accessible arts space dedicated to supporting artists in the production and presentation of public artworks. Socrates was designated as a New York City public park in 1998, ensuring the land would be protected for generations to come. Today the Park is firmly established as a cultural anchor in Queens, producing topical exhibitions of contemporary public art and offering robust programming that intimately engage the five-acre waterfront landscape and diverse audiences.



The Park is committed to serving artists – from early-career to international renown – by providing an open platform for public art and encouraging unfettered ambition in scale and subject matter. The vast majority of artworks exhibited at Socrates are built on-site in the outdoor artist studio space. This gives Park visitors the unique opportunity to witness the often labor-intensive art-making process. The Park also remains open to the public during exhibition installation and de-installation.

Socrates does not have a permanent collection and all artworks are temporarily on view. An archive of every exhibition at the Park is available [HERE](#) and a searchable archive of over 1,000 Socrates artists is available [HERE](#). Additionally, you can browse a digital library of exhibition catalogs and publications [HERE](#).

The Park typically presents three major visual arts initiatives each year: The Spring/Summer Exhibition; 'The Socrates Annual' fellowship & exhibition; & The Broadway Billboard series.

About the Socrates Annual

Every year, a jury [*we have curatorial advisors*] selects a group of artists for 'The Socrates Annual' fellowship through a competitive Open Call application process. Artists including [Sable Elyse Smith](#) (2016), [David Brooks](#) (2009), [Hank Willis Thomas](#) (2006), [Orly Genger](#) (2004), and [Sanford Biggers](#) (2001) have participated in the fellowship program since it was formalized in 2000.

Artist Fellows are each awarded a production stipend, access to the Park's outdoor artist studio, as well as select technical and administrative support needed to realize ambitious public art projects. The fellowship traditionally culminates in the fall with 'The Socrates Annual' exhibition, which showcases the Fellows' diverse artistic approaches, mediums, and subject matters—comprising a compelling survey of contemporary art practices. Starting in 2020, the Open Call has offered a thematic prompt for artists to address in their proposal, resulting in thematic 'Annual' exhibitions.

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