



DOUGHERTY ARTS CENTER

Works in Progress Teen Artist Professional Development Program

Program Description

Works in Progress (WIP) is an immersive program that prepares teens living in Austin for careers in the arts. Through weekly workshops and networking, students will develop their professional skills, prepare for artistic careers and education beyond school, and meet with industry professionals and working artists. The goal of the program is to encourage students to follow their artistic passions and explore the diverse paths available in the creative industries.

The Works in Progress program is presented by the Dougherty Arts Center (DAC), part of the Museums & Cultural Programs Division within the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Austin. We are committed to addressing the economic and racial inequities within our city, and teens from historically marginalized communities are especially encouraged to apply.

Program Goals

The goals of the teen program are to:

- Support participants in their exploration of artistic careers and creative industries
- Provide professional development training to improve the job-readiness of participants
- Create a diverse community of young people interested in the arts and foster a relationship between them and the City of Austin's cultural arts programs

Eligibility

Who is a good fit for this program?

- Teens who are 15-19 years old in age and living in Austin.
- Teens who are passionate about the arts including visual art, performing arts, film, and music.
- Teens who are interested in exploring careers in the arts and creative industries.
- Teens who are available for workshops on Saturdays from 10am-1pm from January 16 - April 24, 2021.
- Teens from historically marginalized communities are especially encouraged to apply.

Benefits

The program will offer participants the opportunity to:

- Gain professional development skills to improve job-readiness
- Network with Austin's artistic leaders and explore careers in the arts
- Connect with community resources and opportunities
- Create a Professional Portfolio including résumé, cover letter, artist statement and bio, and documented examples of artistic work
- Gain marketing skills including graphic design, social media, and website development
- Apply for a paid position within the Museums & Cultural Programs Division or the Get Ready! Teen Internship Program





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Commitment and Responsibilities

Applicants accepted into the WIP program must be able to:

- Attend all scheduled meetings (in-person or via Zoom) from 10am-1pm on Saturdays from January 16 – April 24, 2021
- Complete “take-home challenges” when assigned
- Work to build a Professional Portfolio that includes a resume, cover letter, artist statement and bio, and documented examples of artistic work
- Complete an online application to either Get Ready! Teen Summer Internship Program or Dougherty Arts Center’s Activity Specialist position
- Attend final networking event on April 24, 2021

Schedule and Application Process:

The Works in Progress program runs from January to April, 2021. Below is the schedule for the application process.

- Applications open October 1, 2020, and close November 20, 2020.
- Interviews from November 30 - December 11, 2020
- Decisions are announced on December 18, 2020
- Deadline for teens to accept on January 4, 2020
- The program starts on January 16, 2021

Applications can be submitted online at [HERE](#), or you may request printable pdf by emailing dacworksinprogress@gmail.com.

The application includes:

1. Applicant Contact Information
2. What Austin City Council District you live in. View the Council District Map to determine your district here: <https://www.austintexas.gov/GIS/CouncilDistrictMap/>
3. School and Expected Graduation Date
4. Demographics
5. 2-3 images or videos of your artistic practice
6. Short Answer Essay Questions
 - What is your main artistic medium?
 - Describe your experience or interest in the arts.
 - Explain your interest in this program and what you hope to gain by the end.
 - What positive characteristic will you bring to this program?
 - How do you see yourself using creativity or the arts after school?
7. Transportation or Virtual Access Needs
8. Availability
9. Contact Information for a Non-Family Member Reference



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Selection Process

All applications will be reviewed by a panel of judges comprised of objective and knowledgeable art professionals, arts administrators, educators, and community members. Panelists will score applications individually in accordance with the established evaluation criteria. An interview panel comprised of Dougherty Arts Center staff will also interview each qualified applicant. Dougherty Arts Center staff will make the final applicant selection.

Selection Panelists will use the following criteria to score the applications:

- Applicant shows an equitable need for the program; verified by City Council District, Race/Ethnicity, and Title 1 School Enrollment. **30 points**
- Applicant shows artistic merit through work examples submitted and answers to essay questions. **20 points**
- Applicant expresses the interest and desire to grow creatively and professionally through answers to essay questions. **20 points**
- Applicant is available to attend all scheduled workshops and agrees to complete workshop challenges and a Professional Portfolio. **20 points**
- Applicant's character, engagement, reliability, and interest in a career in the arts are verified through their Reference. **10 points**

Implementation

Following the applicant selection and approval from DAC Management, the selected applicant will be notified via email by December 18, 2020. Accepted applicants must respond with their ability to participate by January 4, 2021, or their spot will be offered to another participant on the waitlist. Participants will be contacted prior to the program start on January 16, 2021, to address any transportation or virtual access needs.

Accessibility

The City of Austin is proud to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require assistance for participation in our programs or use of our facilities, please call 512-974-3914.