

**Smith Center Artists in Residence Program
at the Inova Schar Cancer Institute**

Application Guidelines for Artists

Smith Center for Healing and the Arts seeks artists to work with patients and caregivers at the Inova Schar Cancer Institute, scheduled to open March 2019, in Fairfax, VA. Artists will be contracted as founding members of the Smith Center's Artist in Residence Program, established in partnership with the Inova Life with Cancer program.

The Artists in Residence Program (AIR): The AIR Program is one component of a comprehensive integrative arts and healing program that will also include a permanent art collection and ongoing exhibitions, performing arts events, culinary arts and other workshops, as well as survivorship resources and wellness education for the public – all of which support the Institute's core mission and philosophy to provide patient-centered care. AIR artists work directly with patients, caregivers and clinicians to create opportunities for stress reduction, self-awareness and self-expression in the Institute's outpatient infusion, radiation, and waiting areas.

The Artist's Role and Responsibilities: For over two decades, Smith Center has worked with professional artists to integrate their creative process as a tool and strategy to help others strengthen and sustain their healing process. AIR artists receive ongoing training and supervision to motivate and guide the participation of patients and caregivers (including family members) creative experiences at whatever the level of skills, interest or capability of each person. Patients and caregivers who participate often express great relief from pain and anxiety associated with their illness. Most especially, they are grateful for the opportunity to discover and explore what they Can do, when otherwise feeling inhibited or confined by their current situation.

The AIR Team: Smith Center recruits, trains, and supervises visual artists, storytellers, poets and writers, musicians, and dancers to inspire and make it possible for all who visit or work at the Inova Schar Cancer Institute to participate in arts-based activities. The team includes local (northern Virginia and Washington metro area) working artists (i.e. currently creating and presenting work for audiences) who can commit to providing AIR services on a regularly scheduled basis at the Institute. All artists are compensated via a contract for service. Smith Center provides and/or reimburses for arts supplies or other resources as needed. Art materials and services are provided free for patients and caregivers at the Institute.

Who Should Apply: The following are eligibility requirements for artists interested in applying for the Smith Center AIR program.

- **Active Artists:** must be actively creating and presenting work for exhibitions, performances, or other outlets that demonstrates a high level of knowledge, skills and experience in the visual, performing or literary arts necessary to inspire and guide the

creative work of others (note: semi-retired or retired professional artists are eligible to apply if they have continued to be actively engaged in creative work).

- Availability for Weekly Scheduled Service: must be available and able to commit to a weekly schedule (i.e. one day or more per week – Monday-Friday) for a minimum four-hour period beginning March 2019 and provide own transportation to the Inova Schar Cancer Institute located at 3225 Gallows Road, Fairfax, VA 22031.
- Availability for Training and Supervision: must be available and commit to participate in orientation, training and supervisory sessions prior to and during the contracted period of AIR service. 60-90 minute training sessions will be scheduled periodically beginning November 2018 through February 2019.
- Personal and Professional Qualities: Not every artist is suited to working with individuals with life-threatening illness or working in a health-care setting. The above sometimes becomes evident during the orientation and/or training process. Prospective applicants should consider the extent to which they meet the following qualities of an effective Artist in Residence.
 - Passion for sharing and engaging others in art making or creative expression
 - Openness, flexibility, resourcefulness, and well-developed sense of humor
 - Capacity to listen and be supportive that includes sensitivity to and respect for diverse cultures, physical and mental conditions
 - Well-defined personal and professional boundaries including ability to stay in the process and within defined healthcare protocols

How to Apply: Prospective applicants who feel they meet the above eligibility requirements should submit the following application information.

1. Artist Name, Address and Contact Information: Including phone and email address
2. Artist Resume or Overview (maximum of three pages please): Include training, key career highlights, and recent/current exhibitions or performances – also list web site URL's if applicable)
3. Statement of Interest: Tell us why you are interested in becoming a member of the Smith Farm Artist in Residence team for the Inova Schar Cancer Institute. Indicate your capacity to meet the eligibility requirements listed above, relevant experience and how you perceive yourself with regard to the above personal and professional qualities.

Submit the above, preferably via e-mail to scott@smithcenter.org or postal service to Artist in Residence Program, Attn: Scott Stoner, Smith Center for Healing and the Arts, 1632 U Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009 (202) 483-8600