Artist As Resident Initiative: The Neighborhood Project
Request for Proposals - Consultancy for Community Engagement Specialist (CES)

651 ARTS is inviting proposals from consultants with community engagement and organizing experience with and for neighborhoods in Brooklyn, NY. The consultant will serve as the Community Engagement Specialist (CES) for The Neighborhood Project. The CES works to build social capital by fostering person-to-person and people-to-place relationships and is eager to invest their time and resources to transform their communities. The CES will work in close collaboration with the Project’s Lead Artist and Curator, and will coach, design, and facilitate engagement with the Project’s cohort of emerging creatives (Resident Artists).

About The Neighborhood Project: The Neighborhood Project is a new program, and part of 651’s Artist As Resident Initiative. Under the mentorship of curator Najee Omar, 651 ARTS staff, and special guests, three selected artists will create a live performance at a public space or small business near their respective homes. The Project will culminate in performances that will investigate what it means to live in Brooklyn today and contemplate issues of importance within their neighborhood. The Neighborhood Project is designed to foster community connections and to propel emerging Diasporic artists further in their careers with the support of their neighbors.

About 651 ARTS: 651 ARTS’s mission is to deepen awareness of and appreciation for contemporary performing arts and culture of the African Diaspora, and to provide professional and creative opportunities for artists of African descent. Through developing and presenting culturally resonant dance, theater, music, and humanities programs in Brooklyn over the past three decades 651 ARTS has worked with over 800 artists and ensembles of the Diaspora. We seek to be a leading institution in the performing arts ecology that illuminates the evolving stories and varied cultural experiences of the African Diaspora, an institution whose impact and influence transforms individual lives, neighborhoods, and global communities.

The Community Engagement Specialist will have the experience and capacity to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of and relationship to Brooklyn neighborhoods.
- Create relationships with small businesses and community partners.
- Serve as a liaison between 651 ARTS, Curator, Resident Artists, and Community Partners.
- Survey and track needs of neighbors and community partners.
- Support Resident Artists and Curator in developing individualized engagement plans that are directly responsive and culturally relevant to the needs of select neighborhoods, and Resident Artists’ presentations.
- Develop a post-performance action plan to help 651 ARTS maintain an active presence/relationship with Community Partners and neighborhoods.
- Participate in check-ins with Curator and Program Management Consultant as necessary.
- Participate in direct community outreach on behalf of the Project, by building connections with community boards, block associations, neighborhood bids, and more.
Consultancy Details:

- September 2020 through March 2021
- Compensation will be a flat project fee of $10,000

To submit a Proposal for this opportunity, please email the following to neighborhood@651arts.org:

- A one-page cover letter, outlining your interest and experience
- A resume
- A proposal outlining your approach, deliverables, and timeline
- Optional: client list (relevant to arts or community engagement); writing sample or presentation sample.