



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

September 3, 2014

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Maria Baird, Community Resource Coordinator
Anne Mannes, FOCAS Director
Garrett Toy, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Appointment of Artist-in-Residence 2014-15

RECOMMENDATION

Select an Artist-in-Residence (AIR)

DISCUSSION

As a matter of process, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) issues the Request for Proposals (RFP) and interviews the AIR applicants. PARC then refers the top three applicants for the Artist-in-Residence position to the Council to be interviewed. There were two applicants this year for the AIR position. A Parks and Recreation Commission selection panel interviewed both candidates, Rob Nye and Sawyer Rose, on August 6, 2014.

The selection panel's comments are as follows:

Sawyer Rose provided specific and actionable ideas on how to boost the arts community in Fairfax, including, offering 5-6 sessions of art classes for kids that will be specific to each season and incorporate native plants and animals (a significant aspect of her own art work), a photo essay compilation called, "Only in Fairfax", whereby she will collect photos from residents and create a book to be sold at events and in town. She also indicated she will host Open Studio hours, host two exhibit shows, participate in the Town Picnic, and offer artist talks to seniors when needed (something she is already doing with other art-related organizations). Ms. Rose proposed building websites and creating more of a social media presence on Facebook for the AIR role. Sawyer Rose brings over a decade of experience in graphic design and marketing. She has lived in Fairfax for 5 years.

Rob Nye spoke to the Panel about his art work and his involvement with the Fairfax Theater Company (FTC). He worked closely with FTC on stage sets and played the inspector for the "Green Eyes of Kali" this past summer. He was very organized and had a multi-faceted approach to art making. He did not appear to have much experience working with the youth or community nor did he offer specific ideas on how to elevate the AIR position in Fairfax. Mr. Nye stated he would host exhibits of his artwork open to the community. Rob Nye has lived in Fairfax for 4 years.

To assist the Council in its decision-making process, attached are the RFP and list of interview questions from PARC.

FISCAL IMPACT: The AIR is reimbursed up to \$400/year for expenses.

ATTACHMENTS: RFP, PARC interview questions

AGENDA ITEM # 3

TOWN OF FAIRFAX

Artist in Residence Request for Proposals

The Town of Fairfax requests proposals to fill the position of Artist-In-Residence for a one-year term, September 1, 2014-August 31, 2015.

The position is open to artists of all types (poet, dance, sculptor, actor, musician, etc.). The purpose of the position is to bring the creative experience to youth and residents of Fairfax.

ABOUT THE POSITION

For the past several years, the Town of Fairfax has benefited from the services of Artists' working as an Artist in Residence. These artists have given of their time and creative energy to the citizens of Fairfax. Some offerings included: Open Studio times, After-school classes for youth, Creative Fairs open to all ages, working with Fairfax teens at the Youth Center, painting town murals, haunted happenings and face paintings, drum circles, pastels/drawing classes and contributing art activities and energy at the Fairfax Festival.

Our Artists in Residence receives free use of studio space (Pavilion Loft), free use of other town facilities for the purpose of artist's functions, a small annual budget (\$400) for supplies, and the title of Artist in Residence. In addition, the Artist in Residence has considerable latitude in the creation of the Artist in Residence role for the Town of Fairfax. It is expected that the artist will collaborate with the Fairfax Open Circle and Arts (FOCAS) program, provide art assistance and/or programming during the Fairfax Festival and for the annual Volunteer Town Picnic, and attend the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) meetings to report on activities.

PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL

Interested artists should submit a written proposal including the following information:

1. Name, Address, Phone and E-mail.
2. Resume of applicable experience and education
3. Three professional/personal references with phone numbers and addresses.
4. An outline of the role of the Artist in Residence and programs to be offered as proposed by the applicant.

The written materials should either be turned in or mailed to: Town of Fairfax, c/o Community Resources Coordinator, 142 Bolinas Road, Fairfax, CA 94930 Phone: 456-5652.

Proposals are due no later than July 31, 2014.

Artist in Residence – August 2014

Interview Questions

Preliminary Screening

1. What do you know about this position? Why have you chosen to apply for the AIR position?
2. Why are you interested in this position at this time?
3. What are your hopes for your professional and personal development within this position? In general?

1 hour limit- Interview with Panel

GENERAL:

1. Tell us about yourself and why you have decided to apply for this position?
2. What skills do you feel make you the best candidate for this position?
3. The AIR position requires a strong sense of initiative. We are in the process of re-defining the AIR position and want to work with the new AIR to help define it? Can you describe a project or idea (not necessarily your own) that was implemented successfully primarily because of your efforts.
4. What motivates you to do your best work?

Youth and Community Work: *Part of the AIR position is working with FOCAS to create and implement art classes and also to volunteer during the festival or town picnic to create art and craft projects?*

1. Give me an example on how you've played a role in creating community? What was required? How did you do it? How was it challenging/successful? How did it go?
2. Tell us about the experience you have had working with children and adults in a class setting? What knowledge and skills have you gained that will help you in this position?
3. An important part of the AIR role is to serve as a liaison to increase and strengthen communication between the Town of Fairfax, PARC and FOCAS and to the community at

large. Understanding that you would be the face for the Town of Fairfax, how do you foresee yourself developing relationships with all the stakeholders involved?

4. In your experience what have you found to be the characteristics of a successful Artist in Residence program? As a working artist what skills or tactics would you see yourself avoiding or emulating to make this position successful?

Conclusion to interview:

Provide hiring timeline

Ask candidate if they have any additional questions
