

BCA

CALL FOR CURATORIAL CONCEPTS

May 26, 2026

DEADLINE: July 15, 2026

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND:

Burlington City Arts (BCA) is a contemporary, multidisciplinary public arts organization and the City of Burlington's cultural office, serving more than 170,000 people annually through exhibitions, events, arts education, artist support and community programming.

The BCA Center is at the heart of BCA's 45-year commitment to art as a community builder and central civic space. At a moment of accelerating social and cultural change, we believe more than ever that artists are essential contributors to community and economic well-being, and that art is an invaluable platform for reflection, imagination, and collective dialogue.

With this in mind, BCA is launching a new initiative that invites artists, curators, cultural organizers, and community-based thinkers to propose exhibition concepts that push the BCA Center into its next era of experimentation and celebration of the multidisciplinary nature of art-making in Vermont.

We are excited to consider a range of proposals that:

- Activate the gallery as a dynamic public space
- Invite meaningful audience participation, interaction, or contribution
- Create opportunities for dialogue, exchange, and collaborations with diverse institutions and community groups
- Connect Vermont experiences to issues of national or global relevance
- Engage multiple disciplines, e.g. performance, sound, writing, movement, technology, craft, ecology, engineering, design, social practice, among others
- Foreground underrepresented voices, histories, and cultural perspectives
- Thoughtfully engage traditionally underrepresented groups and identities in the arts field

With existing plans for future exhibitions already in motion, BCA expects to initially select 2-3 curators through this limited call. We welcome proposals that require further research, collaboration, or refinement. We recognize that projects may shift over time and with artist engagement, and selected curators will work collaboratively with BCA staff to shape proposals into realizable exhibitions in our space.

II. WHO SHOULD APPLY

BCA encourages submissions from emerging and established curators, artists, artist-curators, collaborative groups, educators, writers, and interdisciplinary practitioners. Applicants do not need traditional museum experience to apply.

III. PROJECT BUDGET

Selected curators may receive up to a \$5000 honorarium. Suggested project budgets for artist fees, art shipping, transportation and supplies may range between \$10,000 and \$20,000. Final budgets will be determined based on scope and available funding.

IV. SCOPE OF WORK

Selected curators will shape the conceptual framework of the exhibition and guide its development from early research and artist selection through installation and public engagement.

Specifically, curators will:

- Identify and collaborate with participating artists and contributors
- Develop the exhibition's conceptual and spatial framework
- Work with BCA staff on production and work planning, scheduling, and installation
- Contribute interpretive materials and public-facing texts
- Help shape audience engagement opportunities such as talks, workshops, performances, discussions, screenings, community collaborations, etc.
- Support outreach and communication efforts related to the project in collaboration with BCA's communication team

BCA encourages submissions that think expansively about how audiences encounter and experience exhibitions, e.g. recurring activations, participatory components, or programs that transform the space or evolve over the course of the exhibition period.

V. PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Currently scheduled exhibition timeframes for consideration are:

- February 5- May 8, 2027 (firm)
- May 21 - Sept 11, 2027 (semi-firm)
- September 24, 2027- January 22, 2028 (semi-firm)
- February 4, 2028 - May 13, 2028 (semi-firm)
- May 26, 2028 - September 9, 2028 (semi-firm)

VI. SELECTION PROCESS

Deadline for submissions is July 15, 2026. Selections will be made by July 30, 2026, and all applicants will be notified shortly after that date.

Please direct questions related to this Open Call by email to cstorrs@burlingtoncityarts.org.

Selection Criteria:

- Strength, originality, and clarity of curatorial vision
- Potential to create meaningful public engagement and dialogue
- Willingness to experiment with format, process, or audience experience
- Artistic and conceptual quality and ambition
- Feasibility within the proposed timeline and budget
- Potential to expand and diversify BCA's exhibitions program
- Engagement with Vermont artists, communities, or regional cultural contexts

Submission Format:

A PDF document uploaded at BCA's [submission link](#) to include:

1. Letter of Interest up to 750 words addressing:
 - The central concept or inquiry guiding the proposal
 - How artists and audiences will experience or interact with the project
 - Any intended community collaborations or interdisciplinary partnerships
 - Why this project feels relevant to this moment and to audiences in Vermont
 - Preferred exhibition dates based on currently scheduled exhibition timeframes.
2. An estimated project budget for artist stipends and supplies including proposed honorarium request
3. Professional background (CV or narrative, max 1 page).
4. Portfolio of past curatorial or organizational work (link to website or up to 8 sample images).

VII. OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS

Any materials submitted to BCA in response to this Open Call or subsequent process shall become the property of BCA unless another arrangement is made by written agreement between BCA and the responding party. The responding party may retain copies of the original documents.

VIII. PUBLIC RECORDS

Any and all records submitted to BCA, whether electronic, paper, or otherwise recorded, are subject to the Vermont Public Records Act. The determination of how those records must be handled is solely within the purview of the City of Burlington. All records the responding party considers to be trade secrets, as that term is defined by subsection 317(c)(9) of the Vermont Public Records Act, or that the responding party otherwise seeks to have BCA consider as exempt must be

identified clearly and specifically at the time of submission. It is not sufficient to merely state generally that a proposal is proprietary, contains a trade secret, or is otherwise exempt. Particular records, pages, and sections which are believed to be exempt must be specifically identified as such and must be separated from other records with a convincing explanation and rationale sufficient to justify each exemption from release consistent with Section 317 of Title 1 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

IX. ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment A: Guest Curator Services Agreement