



REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS: “VISUALIZ/ARTE” EXHIBIT

May 10, 2019

This June, CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio) will open a new community center and home for Latino/a/x arts and culture in St Paul, which will include a new art gallery, community art studio and classroom, teen tech center, and more.

For our first-ever art exhibit, “**Visualiz/Arte**,” we call upon MN-based Latino/a/x artists to co-engage with us in community-building, co-imagine our collective future, and co-create our new *casa* (home) for Latino/a/x arts and culture in Minnesota.

EXHIBIT THEME

“**Visualiz/Arte**” will inaugurate our new Latino/a/x-focused art gallery. We invite artists to co-imagine possibilities with us, co-create our new *casa* (home) for Latino/a/x arts and culture, and submit artwork or performances that further that process.

Through this exhibit, we want to learn:

- What are the hopes and aspirations of MN-based Latino/a/x artists?
- How can we build community through art?
- How can artists heal historical and ongoing traumas, and foster resilience?
- How do we create art spaces that are welcoming and joyful for all community members, especially the most marginalized?

We invite artists to submit original works of art in conversation with these questions.

POSSIBLE ARTIST INTERPRETATIONS

- ❖ Explorations of Latino/a/x identities in Minnesota.
- ❖ The role of artists as community visionaries/groundbreakers/leaders/experimentalists.
- ❖ The role of artists in social change around issues affecting Latino/a/x families in MN.

- ❖ Past, present, and future of Latino/a/x art and artists. Honoring the past / living fully in the present / building for the future.
- ❖ The connections between art and community wellbeing (senior care, ESL, youth leadership, food security, keeping families together, etc).

MEDIA

Proposals around any media are accepted. The exhibit will focus on visual art, including fine art and folk arts (and everything in between). Additionally, poets/writers, dancers, musicians, etc, can also propose cultural nights. Please follow the normal submissions process (below) to offer any ideas or suggestions. All work must be original art.

EXHIBIT DATES*

Jun 3	Submissions Deadline (see submissions section for details)
Jun 3-10	Installation Days
Jun 14	Art Evening during 2019 Americans for the Arts Annual Convention
Jun 26	Art Activities during CLUES Ribbon-Cutting Event
Jul 11	Panel Discussion with Artists
Aug 10	Fiesta Latina & Grand Opening of CLUES Headquarters Expansion
Sep 12	Closing Reception
Sep 23-30	Take-down

*Dates subject to change.

LOCATION

CLUES, 797 E 7th St, St Paul, MN 55106.

SUBMISSIONS

This is an open call to all Minnesota-based Latino/a/x artists. Other artists are also welcome to contact us. The “soft” submissions deadline is June 3, 2019. Please email Aaron Johnson-Ortiz (ajohnson@clues.org) by that date to set up a phone-call or in-person conversation. Please include an image and/or description of the work you’d like to submit. We also invite you to reach out even if you can’t participate in this exhibit. If the deadline has passed, you can still email to see if there is space for more art.

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1981 as a mental health clinic, today Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) is Minnesota's largest Latino-led organization, serving nearly 11,000 people annually in direct services and more than 9,000 through outreach and events. In addition to mental health, for decades we have worked on job training for immigrants, English Language Learning (ELL), youth leadership development, senior care, and other interconnected issues affecting Latino/a/x families in our state.

Our motto "**la cultura cura**" (culture heals) highlights how Arts & Culture are at the center of our work. Through our new Arts & Culture Initiatives, we will empower Latino/a/x artists and develop audiences in Minnesota by bringing forth diverse experiences, aesthetics, and history.

Our Arts & Culture Initiatives seek to:

- **Build Community:** Develop welcoming environments, foster dialogue, and strengthen relationships amongst Latino/a/x artists, and between artists and their communities.
- **Define Narratives:** Through the arts, we will define ourselves for ourselves – exploring the diversity of our community, where we came from, and where we are going. We invite Latino/a/x artists to amplify narratives that provide a sense of belonging and power for our people, and that support marginalized members of our community as we collectively overcome fear and isolation.
- **Empower for Social Change:** By bringing communities together through artist initiatives and cultural expression, we will use storytelling to build Latino/a/x leaders. Art, cultural expression, and folk traditions will help drive our efforts to promote racial equity, create welcoming communities, improve health and wellness, and increase upward socioeconomic mobility.