

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

ARTS MSU AND UNIVERSITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

APPLY BY SEPT. 1, 2024

**Arts
MSU**

Position: Artist-in-residence for on-site community engagement and mural creation at Michigan State University

Deadline to apply: September 1, 2024

Residency Timeline: October 2024 through June 2025

Summary

Arts MSU, in partnership with University Health and Wellbeing, is excited to announce the inaugural call for an Artist-in-Residence at Olin Health Center. This initiative promotes a sense of belonging, wellness, and inclusivity among the MSU community through art. We are seeking an artist with experience in community-engaged mural projects to work in a university health setting. The project will culminate in a new mural installation within the Olin Health Center building on the Michigan State University Campus. The selected artist will work closely with a diverse array of students and staff from the counseling and psychiatric services at Olin Health Center over the course of the 8-month residency. The goal is to collaboratively design and execute a mural within the student health clinic that embodies a sense of belonging, well-being, and inclusivity.

The Artist-in-Residence project embeds arts in the clinical setting through a new collaboration dedicated to integrating the arts into student wellbeing. By including arts practice into the clinical setting, we aim to improve student health outcomes, specifically within therapeutic groups, and to upgrade the infrastructure of the clinical building by creating a large mural that speaks to students' experiences and makes the setting more welcoming and trauma-informed. By incorporating arts practice within therapeutic groups free to students, we reduce barriers to participation.

The Artist-in-Residence project aligns with the Michigan State University 2030 strategic plan pillar of "sustainable health." Arts MSU, the campus wide arts framework, addresses that strategic plan pillar through the creation of a broader Arts and Wellness program in partnership between University Arts and Collections (UAC), University Health and Wellbeing (UHW), and academic units with expertise in health research.

Project Goals

The primary principle of this project is that the culminating mural will represent the values and identity of the MSU community. The community-engaged residency project will facilitate community members' connection to each other, their recognition of the importance of mental health, and their sense of belonging on campus. It aims to inspire shared responsibility for the wellbeing of the campus community, empower individuals to make positive changes in their environment, and envision a future where every member feels supported and valued. The residency will allow students to engage with art and creativity as an integral part of healthcare.

Through this project, we aim to:

- Build awareness of MSU's commitment to mental health and wellbeing. The mural should raise awareness about wellbeing and encourage open dialog.
- Provide a space for students to connect and engage with each other. The artist should collaborate with students throughout the design and executive phases.
- Invoke hope and energy in participants to foster a supportive and inclusive campus environment. The mural should be a source of inspiration and empowerment.
- Celebrate the diversity of the MSU community and create a welcoming environment for all. The mural and the process of its creation should reflect the values of unity and togetherness.

Project Overview

The selected artist-in-residence will interact with MSU students and facilitators in designated therapeutic group settings. The community-engaged process will be integrated into their therapeutic activities under the guidance of group leaders to ensure meaningful and supportive interaction. The artist will meet with up to 4 therapeutic groups at least 3 times per semester (a total of 6 meetings in the academic year), and work together toward the creation of mural that integrates group narratives or stories into a mural, to be installed on the first floor of the Olin Health Center. The final mural will be installed within an 8' high and 25' wide space, final size to be determined.

In fall semester 2024, the artist will work with student therapeutic group facilitators and directly with the group participants. The therapy groups will work during the semester to decide how they would like to represent their stories/experiences within a larger mural; thus, the mural creation becomes a tool within their processing and healing. During the winter/spring semester 2025, the artist will incorporate the various group themes into a proposed mural, which will be workshopped with the students. During the final creation of the mural in Olin Health Center, students and facilitators will have additional opportunities to interact with the artist. The mural and the group stories will become part of Olin's environment, creating a more community-centered, welcoming, and trauma-informed space. An MSU researcher will provide pre- and post-assessments of the outcomes of the therapeutic groups engaging in this art-making process, as well as outcomes on the clinical group facilitators' practice and well-being. Those assessments will also help us shape and refine the project in its second year.

Core to the mission of MSU, Arts MSU, and University Health and Wellbeing is fostering an open, inclusive, and diverse environment. We are committed to fostering sustainability, wellness, and a culture of continuous growth. Candidates must demonstrate a commitment to these values and be eager to engage with the diverse community at MSU.

Project Schedule

- Sept. 1 2024: Submission deadline
- Sept 20, 2024: Artist notification
- Oct. 2024: Artist conducts required training, meets with student facilitators, and students
- Oct - Dec. 2024: Artist works with student groups in the conceptualization of the mural
- Dec 2024-Jan 2025: Artist develops sketches
- Feb-March 2025: Community feedback and revisions
- April 2025: Execution of mural

Eligibility

The Artist-in-Residence program is open to:

- Visual artists 18 years and older at any stage of their career
- Artists with prior experience in community-engaged art projects

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for participation in this residency without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability or protected veteran status.

Conditions of the Residency

The residency offers the selected artist the following financial support and conditions:

- Total stipend of \$20,000 (before taxes), payable in 4 installments
- Production costs of up to \$2000 (reimbursement for project materials)

The selected artist must commit to:

- Submitting required background check
- Completing required training prior to meeting with students
- Coming to Olin Health Center for all meetings with facilitators and groups
- Carrying out all meetings with facilitators and students, as described in the overview above
- Developing sketches for feedback
- Providing all necessary materials, within the allotted budget
- Overseeing project milestones, manage the budget, and ensure timely completion.

Build awareness of MSU's commitment to mental health and wellbeing. The mural should raise awareness about wellbeing and encourage open dialog.

Application Process

- A CV or Resume outlining your artistic background, education, and experience
- A portfolio showcasing previous work you consider relevant to this project (provided by attachment or link)
- A 2–3-page proposal describing your interest in this project, your relevant experience, and description of how you would create the community-engaged process within the health setting.

Application should be submitted by **September 1** to arts@msu.edu, with the subject line “Artist-in-Residence Application.”

For questions, please contact Judith Stoddart at stoddart@msu.edu.

Selection Process

A panel of MSU community members from the arts and from University health and wellbeing will review the applications and select the artist-in-residence based on the quality of their past work; their experience in creating community-engaged projects of a similar complexity within budget, timelines and scope; and the fit of their proposal to the specifics of this artist-in-residence project. Shortlisted applicants may be invited for an interview or asked to provide additional materials. One artist will be selected for the residency.

Because of the nature of the residency in a health setting, the selected artist-in-residence will be required to have a background check. They will also be required to complete online training to prepare for interaction within the Student Health Center environment (HIPAA, and MSU RVSM and DEI modules).

About Michigan State University

As an institution of higher learning, Michigan State University is committed to the highest ethical and academic standards. As a public institution we are committed to transparent decision making and accountable governance. As a community, we commit to live these values. Our mission is to advance knowledge and transform lives by providing outstanding undergraduate, graduate and professional education; conducting research of the highest caliber; and advancing outreach, engagement and economic activities.

About Arts MSU

Guided by the belief that the arts are essential to a vibrant university community that is resilient, inclusive, collaborative, and globally minded, Arts MSU advances the impact and amplifies the presence of the arts on campus and beyond. Integrating the arts across MSU's mission will lead to innovative practices of discovering, connecting, exploring, and remembering. Arts MSU foregrounds creativity and exploration, igniting innovation and connecting campus and communities through the arts.

About University Health and Wellbeing

At University Health and Wellbeing (UHW), we believe in the collective responsibility to advocate for the wellbeing of both students and employees, aiming to create an environment where Spartans can thrive and flourish in all aspects of their lives. We aim to support the university community with health and wellbeing equitably woven throughout all aspects of Spartan life, enhancing accessibility and safety through a culturally sensitive and holistic lens.

About Olin Health Center

The Olin Health Center, located on the north edge of campus, supports the mission of Michigan State University and the success of its students by enhancing personal health, removing barriers to academic achievement, and promoting a health learning environment. Olin is the primary Student Health Services Location, housing Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS), Health Promotion services, primary care, and other medical services.