



## **SPARC 2015 SENIOR CENTER APPLICATION**

*Seniors Partnering with Artists Citywide (SPARC) is a program that places artists-in-residence at senior centers to provide arts activities. The purpose of this application is to identify senior centers for inclusion in the 2015 program.*

### **ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

SPARC is a community arts engagement program that places artists-in-residence at senior centers across the five boroughs of New York City to provide arts programming for seniors. Each SPARC artist will engage participating seniors in an art project or series of cultural programs over the course of a six-month residency. Each residency will also include a public program component at the center, such as exhibits, readings, performances, open houses or other cultural interactions open to the surrounding community.

This initiative seeks to connect artists with seniors in senior centers and aims to positively impact the well-being of seniors through arts-based activities. Each senior center is unique and offers access to different types of spaces, resources and communities. Likewise, each artist is unique and will engage seniors in an arts project or art class developed specifically for SPARC. Artists work in a wide variety of artistic disciplines (e.g., music, theater, poetry, ceramics, photography, writing, and many more). Interested senior centers should be open to hosting an artist working in any artistic field. Selected senior centers will work collaboratively with their artist to further refine project goals, encourage member participation and coordinate a schedule for residency activities and use of facilities.

SPARC is a collaboration among the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA), the Department for the Aging (DFTA) and five of the City's local arts councils situated in each borough. The 2015 SPARC program is supported, in part, by public funds from the Department for the Aging.

### **HOW SPARC WORKS**

Selected senior centers will each receive a \$1,000 stipend to support the SPARC program (\$750 for senior center administrative use, \$250 for program materials). Each artist will provide between 40-60 contact hours with senior participants at the center over the course of six months. Selected centers partner with their artist to promote the program, engage senior participants and host at least one exhibition, performance, open house or other public program that is free and open to the general public by June 30, 2015.

Senior centers will be selected for SPARC based on review criteria including submission of a timely and complete application; time, space, and facilities available at the center; and organizational capacity to facilitate the program. SPARC artists will be selected competitively and placed according to their preferred center choices and a final interview conducted by the senior center. SPARC expects to fund 50 artist residencies at senior centers across the five boroughs of New York City.

Senior centers that participated in SPARC in the past are welcome to apply again! However, if you are looking to collaborate with the same artist you will be asked to provide a letter of interest to the artist for their application. Please note, each center is limited to 2 consecutive years with the same SPARC artist.

To learn more about SPARC, go to <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcla/html/sparc/sparc.shtml>

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE: JULY 25, 2014**

Your senior center application must be received by DFTA no later than **5PM on Friday, July 25, 2014**. Senior centers will be notified of their application status in August 2014. Selected senior centers will interview artist finalists in November 2014. Residencies will take place from January to June 30, 2015.

### **SENIOR CENTER ELIGIBILITY**

Senior centers must be DFTA-funded centers located and operating in the five boroughs of New York City.



Please complete and return this application to the Department for the Aging no later than July 25, 2014.  
 Email completed application to [kzak@aging.nyc.gov](mailto:kzak@aging.nyc.gov)

**Senior Center Contact Information**

Name of Senior Center: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Center Director: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Delegated SPARC Contact and Title (if different):**

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Senior Center General Information**

Hours open daily, Monday – Friday: \_\_\_\_\_

Is it possible to offer programming on weekends or evenings?  Y  N If yes, please describe \_

Days/hours when arts programming *cannot* take place or is inadvisable (e.g., conflicts with lunch or other popular programming): \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of participants/center members: \_\_\_\_\_ Average daily # of participants/members: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a large number of non-English speaking senior members?  Y  N

If yes, are you interested in artists who speak a second language, if available?  Y  N

If yes, please specify your language needs \_\_\_\_\_

**Arts Programming**

Briefly describe any arts/cultural programming that *currently* takes place at the senior center: \_\_\_\_\_

**Space Available for Arts Programming**

Briefly describe the space(s) where SPARC arts programming for seniors would take place: \_\_\_\_\_

What other activities take place there now, if any? \_\_\_\_\_

Can the available space be made private and/or for exclusive use for SPARC?:  Y  N

If the space is shared, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Days/hours when the space is available: \_\_\_\_\_

The space is locked/secure when not in use:  Y  N

Size of the space:  Small  Medium  Large Dimensions/measurements: \_\_\_\_\_

Water/sink is accessible in the space or near the space:  Y  N

There are windows in the space:  Y  N

There is storage space (e.g. a locked cabinet or closet) available for SPARC:  Y  N

The space has electrical outlets:  Y  N



Additional comments regarding the available space: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The senior center can currently provide the following (check all that apply):

- Access to a working kiln
- Access to a working piano
- Access to a "stage" (briefly describe):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Gallery/exhibition space (briefly describe):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Practice/performance space (is it a wood floor?  
 Y  N) (briefly describe):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Space for a public event (briefly describe):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Access to computers for senior participants
- Access to wireless or computer internet
- Storage space for the artist's own work – e.g. a locked cabinet or closet

Is there a space available in which the artist can do his/her own personal art work\*?  Y  N If yes, briefly describe: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please note, not all artists will request space at the senior center to do their own art work. This will not affect the eligibility of your center.*

**Senior Center Narrative**

Please describe the culture and activity of your center. What is it like on a daily basis? How would you characterize your senior members' level of energy and engagement?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do you believe the SPARC program would benefit your members and your center? What do you hope to gain?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Supplemental Materials**

***If your center has a program calendar, please submit a copy of the most recent month with this application or provide a website link. Please also include any photographs of the classroom, the exhibition/performance space, or other facilities that would be used for SPARC.***