

2d. Artistic Development

How will the proposed activities result in your development as a feminist social change artist? Please list or describe specific goals.

This is your opportunity to think about how the artistic enrichment activities will move you forward as a feminist social change artist.

What will be the result, in concrete terms, of your development as an artist and of the activities described. What kinds of “end product(s)” might you have at the end: a rough draft? Creative nonfiction research completed? Five songs written? A script or a production? New visual images to add to your portfolio?

How will you benefit artistically? What transformation might you undergo? What relationships will be developed? How will the activities improve your artwork, and provide a potential for greater social change impact?

Here are some examples of questions an applicant might ask herself when thinking about artistic development as it relates to her proposed activities:

Example 1) Performing arts

Summary: to transcribe and analyze jazz solos created by five women musicians between 1910 and 1955 and place the solos within the musical and social contexts of the day. Transcribing the solos will influence my own work as a jazz musician, and increase awareness about women jazz musicians in the early 20th century.

Artistic Development:

How will studying these women musicians help me develop my own skills and understanding as a musician? How will I look differently at genres within jazz? Will I learn new techniques or new ways of using instruments by analyzing these solos? How will these activities develop my transcription abilities? How will analyzing these solos help me develop my understanding of music theory? How will my own improvisation improve by studying these solos? How will understanding more about the contributions women have made in jazz music influence my identity and practice as a current feminist jazz musician?

Example 2) Visual arts

Summary: to develop the power of my portraiture by creating a visual installation incorporating individual portraits of disappeared and murdered women of Juarez, Mexico. The completed installation will raise awareness in KY and beyond about violence against women and explore the intersections between sexism, classism, violence, poverty and immigration.

Artistic Development:

How will learning about these disappeared and murdered women influence my understanding of feminist issues, and my identity as a feminist artist and as an activist? How will painting 50 small-scale portraits of these women develop both my skill as a painter, and my ability to portray emotion through portraiture? What will I experiment with in this exhibit that will stretch me as an artist? How do I want to grow as an artist and as a person as I work on this installation? What will I do if photographs from which to paint are not available, and how and how might that influence my vision as a feminist social change artist?

Example 3) Media arts

Summary: to create a photographic body of work, informed by feminist ethics, about the continuing impact of foreclosures in Kentucky and its disproportionate impact on women, minorities and low-income families. The project will develop my skills as a photographer, and give a human face to families in foreclosure by exhibiting this work to the community.

Artistic Development:

What are the feminist ethics that will inform my artwork, and what do I base them on? How will researching this subject help me grow my social justice understanding, especially in how feminism relates to economic oppression? How will the idea of “home” be expressed in my photographs, and how will exploring that help me develop my ability to convey a sense of place? How will these activities help me develop my eye for composition? How will researching other similar types of projects help me expand my vision for the activities I want to accomplish? What processes will I use to study photographs I’ve taken to learn how to continue to improve? How will I convey humanness in these photographs without including a person in them, and how will attempting this make me a better photographer? How will these activities push me forward in my photographic developing techniques? How will these activities help me establish myself as an artist in my city or town? How will I learn to communicate with the media and the public about this work, and how will I learn to present my work in local galleries? How will exhibiting this work in galleries and alternative spaces help me move forward as a feminist artist at this point in my career?

Example 4) Literary arts

Summary: for one week of research in a library archives on pre-Judaic culture for a novel based on the apocryphal Book of Judith. The research and revisions will enrich my capacities as a writer, and the novel will raise awareness of the important role of women in religion, and the universal vitality of women's courage and friendships.

Artistic Development:

What will I learn about conducting research for fiction writing? What are my goals for using this research to bring the character to life? How will incorporating historical research into my writing help me develop my craft as a fiction writer? What do I hope to learn about women in antiquity, and how will this help me develop as a feminist? How will learning to conduct research and incorporate it into my writing enhance my character development? How will this research help me understand cultures different from my own, and how will that affect my worldview, and my sense of purpose as a social change artist? What will I learn about the writing process by incorporating this research, then going back to revise and be sure the historical facts are blended well into the narrative? How will I develop as a writer by preparing a final draft of the novel for publication?