

# **Call for Proposals:**

## **FIGMENT NYC 2015 Summer-Long Sculpture Program**

**We are excited to announce FIGMENT is now accepting proposals for the NYC 2015 Summer-Long Sculpture Program!**

FIGMENT is a free, annual celebration of participatory art and culture that began on Governors Island in 2007 and has since expanded to nine cities in three countries on two continents. In New York, during the FIGMENT NYC weekend event, over 400 artists transform Governors Island into a large-scale collaborative artwork (experienced by 25,000 participants in 2014!).

In New York, in addition to the FIGMENT event, FIGMENT has hosted an annual summer-long program on Governors Island since 2008 that includes an artist-designed minigolf course, a treehouse, an interactive sculpture program, and an architectural design competition to create and build a pavilion in collaboration with Emerging New York Architects (ENYA) and Structural Engineers Association of New York (SEAoNY).

The FIGMENT Summer-Long Sculpture Program has been a huge success over the last five summers, receiving substantial media attention and over 100,000 visitors a year. Subject to approvals and permitting, FIGMENT's 2015 Summer-Long Program will again be located at the beautiful south end of the Parade Ground. The FIGMENT Summer-Long Program will be free and open to the public seven days a week while the island is open from the beginning of June until the end of September.

Governors Island is located in the New York Harbor, approximately 1/2 mile from Lower Manhattan and 1/4 mile from Brooklyn. Its waterfront offers dramatic and impressive vistas of the New York skyline and New York Harbor, including the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. In 2003, the Island was opened to the public with the mission of serving as a cultural and educational location for all New Yorkers.

We intend to select three to five large-scale interactive sculptures that are daring and creative. Our team will work closely with artists to bring their ideas to life. The work must survive the elements for four months during constant interactivity with the public. Structures should have the potential to be repaired and relocated after the summer to other venues for interactive sculpture. We intend to offer each piece a \$3,000-\$5,000 budget, however, if your vision exceeds that amount and you are driven to reach your goal we can collaborate with you to help raise more money.

In 2011, FIGMENT was voted “Best Art Festival” in New York by the *Village Voice*, and in 2012 the BBC wrote, “If Figment were a country, it would be the happiest in the world – and I would apply for citizenship immediately.” FIGMENT and its projects have been profiled in The New York Times, the New Yorker, New York Magazine, Time Out New York, ABC 7, CBS Channel 2, WNBC, Thirteen, the Weather Channel, and many other publications and broadcast stations.

Please follow the instructions below to submit a proposal for the **FIGMENT NYC 2015 Summer-Long Sculpture Program!**

**To Submit a Proposal:**

**Deadline: 11:59 pm ET on January 15, 2015**

**Download the submission packet.**

Follow [this link](#) to download the full submission packet that includes these instructions, a *FIGMENT NYC Summer-Long Sculpture Program Artist Tips* Guide, and some reference images of previous projects. Proposing artists who do not consider provided guidelines may be disqualified.

**Attend an informational session** (optional but highly recommended) to meet the curators, ask questions, and learn more about past successful projects and common pitfalls.

**FIGMENT Summer-Long Sculpture Program Informational Session**

**Thursday, November 20, 2015, 7pm**

(Specifically for prospective applicants.)

Location: WeWork Lounge, 154 Grand Street (Look for signs)

[RSVP Here](#)

**You are also highly encouraged to contact the curators at the email address below to discuss your ideas or submit drafts of sketches or plans for review.**

**Submit your sculpture proposal by January 15, 2015 (11:59 ET).** Email your proposal to [summerlongsculpture@figmentproject.org](mailto:summerlongsculpture@figmentproject.org). Please make sure your proposal follows the guidelines described later in this document.

After this deadline our curators may request additional information, details on your proposal, or more materials before a final decision will be made in early February. Applicants should be prepared to be available to submit revisions and/or conduct interviews with the curators, should they be asked.

While we encourage teams of any age or experience level to submit entries, we will be looking for your ability to carry out the project based partially on past experience executing similar work. Attribution of the winner and finalists will be given based on the names of the individuals who design and build the project, rather than to any firm or organization with whom they are affiliated.

## Proposal Criteria

Projects will be selected based on creativity, interactivity, durability, feasibility, budget, and portability:

- **Creativity:** Your piece should be visually stunning and wildly innovative.
- **Interactivity:** Your sculpture must provide for ongoing interactivity from visitors throughout the season. This could be as simple as some way that visitors can move, influence, or play with the sculpture, or it could involve transforming, adding to, or fundamentally altering the sculpture over time.
- **Durability:** Your piece must be able to withstand four months of exposure to the elements and heavy weather on an island in the middle of New York Harbor, including torrential rain, heavy winds, high heat and humidity, and even tornados—as well as unsupervised interaction from visitors (children and adults) to the island and throughout the season.
- **Feasibility:** Please note that you will be responsible for the design, construction, installation, maintenance and de-installation of your piece. Installation days and times will be worked out in advance with the curatorial team.
- **Budget:** Please include a budget for your costs to build, install, and maintain your project. Take into consideration the costs associated with upkeep of the piece throughout its time on the island. While FIGMENT intends to allocate a budget of \$3,000-\$5,000 for each selected project, we may partner with you to raise additional funds to make your project successful.
- **Portability:** We are looking to select projects that can potentially travel to other venues after the summer of 2015. In the design of your project, please consider how it might move, after four months on Governors Island, to other venues. How easy it is to pack up? Is it constructed to come apart into movable pieces and then be put back together? Materials must be able to be transported on the Governors Island Ferry, which has a maximum vertical clearance of 12 feet.

## **Proposal Requirements**

Your project submission must be submitted by **11:59pm ET on January 15, 2015**. Your project submission should include a total of seven (7) 8.5"x11" pages in PDF format, as follows:

### **Name your submitted PDF file in the following manner:**

[artist or group name]\_[name of proposed sculpture].pdf

(Such as: Lastname\_Firstname\_MyAmazingSculpture.pdf)

### **Page 1: Cover Sheet (One Page)**

- Name of Artist or Collective
- Address
- Email
- Best Phone Number to Reach You
- Name of Project
- Brief (200-500 words) description of the proposed sculpture, detailing the project's interactive elements. Description of how the piece is enhanced to withstand the elements and visitor interaction.
- Construction/installation plan: Where will you build your piece? What resources do you need, or hope to share, to build and install the piece? How many people and how many days do you think you need to construct your piece?

### **Page 2-4: Project Renderings (Three Pages)**

Please include graphics that will showcase the construction and final presentation of your project. Please emphasize the structural elements that relate to the project's durability (including but not limited to: connection details, how the project is secured to the ground, weatherproofing elements, etc.) Feel free to use any graphic style that is comfortable for you: hand-drawn, 3D, Illustrator, Sketch-up, and CAD are all perfectly acceptable. Images may be initially hand drawn or computer created, but must be clear and concise and converted to digital format for inclusion in the final PDF. The most important thing is clarity. Feel free to include multiple view points so that we get a strong sense of how all the parts work together.

**Page 5: Detailed Budget (One Page)**

Include a detailed budget that shows your materials and expenses. Please remember to budget for maintenance costs throughout the season (June-September). Artists will be reimbursed for materials and expenses up to a certain amount, agreed-upon by FIGMENT and the artist (we intend to be able to allocate \$3,000 - \$5,000 per project). Any costs above the agreed-upon amount are the responsibility of the artist. If your project will cost more than this, please outline your plan to fundraise for the balance.

**Page 6-7: Artists Bio/Portfolio (Two Pages)**

Please tell us about yourself, and show us some images of other projects you've done. Reflect on how your past experiences have prepared you to carry out this project, as well as any possible risks and challenges you expect to face. How will you meet those challenges?

Please email your project submission, and any questions, to [summerlongsculpture@figmentproject.org](mailto:summerlongsculpture@figmentproject.org).

**Proposals that do not fulfill the above requirements will not be reviewed.**

### **Project Timeline for 2015 (all dates are tentative):**

- November 1, 2014: Registration and submissions open
- Wednesday November 19, 2014: Information session for prospective applicants
- Wednesday January 15, 2015 (11:59pm ET): Deadline for project submission
- Early February, 2015: Notification of finalists
- Mid-February, 2015: Requested revisions, any supplementary information and clarification of projects, potential studio visits and/or presentations by artists if needed.
- Late February, 2015: Contracts signed and begin work on projects
- Late April: Check-in meeting with artists to review progress of pieces
- June 5, 2015: Installation complete (date to be confirmed)
- June 6, 2015: Project opening, FIGMENT NYC event on Governors Island (date to be confirmed)
- June 6 – September 25 2015: Summer Season 2014 on Governors Island (dates to be confirmed)
- September 26 – 27 2015: De-installation (dates to be confirmed)
- Early October 2015: Artist closing/de-brief meeting

### **Additional Information/Requirements**

**Community Involvement:** FIGMENT is a large-scale participatory arts project that is created by a large community of volunteers. We look forward to your being a part of this community, and volunteering to help make the FIGMENT event and exhibitions happen. We require all artists to volunteer to work a minimum of two four-hour shifts in our mini-golf kiosk in our summer-long area over the summer.

**We look forward to seeing your proposal!**