Working Proposal

**mushmaus**

2700 Cherokee St

Saint Louis, MO 63118

Contact:

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MISSION: To offer time, space, and a stipend for DIY conceptual visual communicators to realize big ideas. To encourage an elevated dialogue about work completed at **mushmaus** between Saint Louis artists and resident artists from abroad, as well as within the local community. To promote and facilitate exploration and cultivation of cross-media and new-media endeavors though collaborations, interactions, performances, meetings, exhibitions, lectures, publications, and more.

*This program provides a unique intimate experience for established and up and coming artists to explore their ideas. It embraces the DIY sentiment of the Saint Louis creative community, and encourages residents to network to find what they need to complete their projects.*

*By inviting one artist from Saint Louis to explore their ideas with an artist from abroad,* ***mushmaus*** *simultaneously focuses on the particularities of this city while engaging in an international art dialogue and enriching our community with the infusion of new ideas. (revise)*

LOCATION: (~6000?) square foot warehouse (formerly artist live-work space, Pig Slop) on Cherokee Street in Saint Louis, MO. The street is home to a vibrant art community, which is built up of independent print shops, a film production company, a handmade jewelry store, bakeries, community spaces, studio spaces, art galleries, music venues, and more.

ELIGIBILITY: Conceptual artists, scholars, writers, musicians, designers who communicate visually or can utilize the vast space to its full capacity.

STUDIOS AND SPECIAL EQUIPTMENT AVAILABLE: Mamiya medium format camera, (~6000?) square foot studio/exhibition/live space.

HOUSING, MEALS, OTHER FACILITIES, AND SERVICES:

Housing: Shared communal housing in room behind exhibition space, two shared bathrooms, some furnishings and linens provided.

Meals: Full kitchen available (oven, dishwasher?)

Laundry: Walking distance free laundry facility.

ARTISTS RESPONSIBLE FOR: Food, travel, materials. These costs may be offset by stipend if specified in resident’s budget.

[Note: Any reusable materials bought with the stipend must stay at mushmaus for use by future residents. These items will also be available for checkout by artists in the community].

BUDGET

Annual Rent: 1500/mo – 18,000

Annual Bills: ~ 400/mo – 4,800

Money for Artists: Local – 600/session, not-Local – 1000/session – 3200

Total Annually: 26,000

SCHEDULE:

Two eight week sessions with the last week dedicated to finalizing work and writing an assessment of the experience and critique of the finished product.

Tentative Schedule:

2012

Fall: September 14- November 9

2013

Spring: March 29- May 24

Fall: September 6- October 25

Because of the extreme temperatures in the building in the summer and winter, we will not hold residencies during those months. Instead, we will invite guest curators from the community to host group events and exhibitions. There will be four exhibitions in the winter, changing approximately every 30 days. There will be three in the summer, changing approximately every 30 days.

Keeping in the spirit of Pig Slop, mushmaus will host shows throughout the year by experimental bands who have no other venue in Saint Louis to support them.

**mushmaus**: Art problems & Solutions:

After speaking with local artists, I solidified my conclusion that outside of the universities, there is no academic dialogue placing emerging conceptual Saint Louis artists working in any media in a national and international context. Though there are other residency programs (one for printmaking at Washington University) and one at the Luminary Center for the Arts) neither embraces the do-it-yourself nature of the art community in Saint Louis while pairing a Saint Louis resident with an artist in-residence.

**mushmaus**, on the other hand, offers a huge space and thus unlimited options for it to be manipulated or performed in, and personally connects the artists to local resources that Saint Louis has to offer through numerous, highly encouraged meetings, social gatherings, and exhibitions [need list] so that artists are forced to utilize their full creative potential to complete their projects. And by pairing a Saint Louis resident with an artist from out of town, mushmaus intends to foster an environment of cultural exchange allowing both parties to take what they have learned to enrich their communities and enhance the visibility and cultural impact of Saint Louis.

Specific Solutions:  
  
Space:

The 7000? Sq ft space allows visual communicators to realize their big ideas. The warehouse space allows for wear and tear, so the artist need not worry about many restrictions (TBD). It is an ideal space to put on performances or productions, or bang out large sculptures and installations. The space is lit with fluorescent lights, and has a wonderful window light in the day. Unfortunately, the temperature of this building is not regulated, so the artists must be able to handle fluctuating temperatures.   
  
Writings, Starting Dialogues:

It is the goal of mushmaus to invite at least one artist, one writer, one art historian, and anyone else in the community who shows interest to write about the residents’ final works (in any capacity, whether it be a description of how a memory is conjured by the work, a poem, a critique, a vivid description, anything as long as it connecting on some deeper level with the projects) during the last week of the residency to be published and distributed with the artists’ initial proposal and final assessment and photographs of the work at the viewing reception. The purpose of this is to maintain a serious dialogue about art within the community, without relying on universities.   
  
Music Events/Performances

Throughout the residency, there may be music events and performances hosted in the unused main space. They are often times artists whose unconventional music, unorthodox performances or lack of connections prevents them from playing in a conventional venue. **mushmaus** will carry on the philosophy and spirit of Pig Slop Studios and continue to support these artists with the additional purpose of maintaining unique cultural exchanges between the touring artists the artists in-residence.

Meetings:

Kevin Harris: Floating Labs

Jenn Carter: Aisle 1

Fort Gondo Galen Gondolfi

Jessica Baron

2720 Art Dimensions

White Flag

Phantom?

William Sherburn Gallery

Art Saint Louis

Kaveh

Local artists Zak, Chloe, Emily, Emanuel, Dave, Wonder, Ben, Melanympha, Ricks

..Jonathan…

Other artists residencies.

And more.

Art Library:

All reusable supplies (fabrics, media equipment, tools, etc) bought with money from MUSHMAUS will stay in the facility to be available for future residents and for checkout by artists in the community (with a deposit depending on the item). This growing community library will act as a marker of the success and growth of the facility.  
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**Still need:   
1) Artist applications for residence  
2) Selection Process for applications**

**INITIAL FUNDING**:   
  
August 2012 through January 2013 (rent and utilities based on 2011-2012 figures from Pig Slop):

Needed: 9000 for rent, 2400 for utilities, 1600 for 2 artists = 13,000

Krutie’s contribution: 600/mo for rent – 3600/six mo

Total personal contribution: 3600  
  
 Still needed: 9,400

**Proposal**:

Using the Crowdfunding Platform, Indiegogo, I will set up a campaign to raise 9400 between September and December 2012 for 6 months worth of rent and utilities (August 2012-January 2013).

This will offer me a chance to complete my research finding sustainable annual funding for the program through organizations such as the Missouri Arts Council and the Regional Arts Committee, and others, and possibly gain non-profit status. If the goal is not reached, and I have not secured other funding, I will give all the funds earned so far to the Leaser and leave the property at the end of the campaign December 31st.   
  
What the Leaser gains from this:   
I understand the landscape of Cherokee Street might be changing. I hope that this neighborhood remains the focus of arts and culture in Saint Louis. I do believe that once Pig Slop leaves and 2700 Cherokee falls empty, the former abandoned feel of the neighborhood may return. **mushmaus** vows to maintain the energy of Pig Slop to keep artists, academics, and young entrepreneurs in the area. In addition, even if the goal is not reached, any return will be more than if the building remains empty. If the venture is successful, the potential is higher to complete renovations through grant money instead of the Leaser’s money.

Starting the Indiegogo platform:  
Incentives:   
$ 1 Email thank you card and If we meet our goal get in to the success bash FREEE. (this for all pledges)  
$ 5 Hand drawn postcard thank you’s drawn by artists in the community?  
$10 Cherokee St. Coupon book? ChStBikes/Mexican restaurants/Black Bear/Salon Gallery/Mud House/Foam/others…  
$15 cd from local bands/compilation of artists who have played at Pig Slop?  
$25 Fresh Pasta from Midwest Pasta on Illinois and Cherokee (Andrei)?  
$50 Photo/Art prints donated from local artist (Stan?) (STLStyleHouse?)  
$100 Photo/Art Prints…  
$500 ~15-30” original painting of any choice of your photograph by Krutie eg: [www.saatchionline.com/krutie](http://www.saatchionline.com/krutie)  
$1000  
$5000  
(find donations from other Cherokee

ETC  
DIYers benefit from this residency in particular because it allows them to test their DIY skills outside of their comfort zone. In addition, despite the current meager means of **mushmaus, $**600 to $1000 can go a very long way for a DIYer; they may be able to realize certain aspects of their ideas with that amount of money, space, and new connections that they couldn't before. Pairing the in-residence artist with an artist from Saint Louis will offer both artists a chance to exchange ideas and commentary about art from their respective cities, and these kinds of exchanges are always beneficial to the growth of a professional artist.

There are a couple of reasons I am doing this proposal.  (I need to work on the wording and flow, so here are bullets).

1) I am frustrated with all the art parties and no art talk. I know it happens everywhere, but I think St Louis is particularly lax.. am I missing something?

2) Is there a local art blog or magazine in STL? cause I think this could be the impetus for one, with the bi-annual write-ups for the residencies. I know the parties will continue, but a regular magazine will put more weight on what artists are doing here. I don't know whether or not St Louis cares, but it might be why so many artists keep leaving the city?

3) I think there is something cool happening in St Louis and I want to inspire people to check it out and spread the word. I never had any desire to visit St Louis until Catherine was checking it out for grad-school and invited Andrei and I to check it out and stay with her where she was staying last spring at Pig Slop. Zak and Rebecca showed us the changes the buildings and neighborhoods were going through. They introduced us to Kevin and Tom, to Mike and Maggie, to the other Sloppers, and I thought, hey! what and awesome and inspired community of unpretentious artists and people. How can we keep it unpretentious, but also not just a brain-mush of alcohol and ideas. Why not try to pin some weight to it? Is that something the community would want or look down on?