

Howdy!

I am Brian Ellis, a composer, technologist, and ally born and raised in Austin, Texas. I created *asking for it* in May of 2019 as a reaction to the seeming ever-present haze of sexual assault and harassment on college campuses. The installation aims to explore the curiosity-driven, exploratory actions many of us take without thinking about the consequences they have on others. Physically, the work consists of a snare drum, transducer, and contact microphone driven by a nearby computer. Pragmatically, when someone hits the drum, it plays back somebody's reactions to getting hit on.

I am seeking curators. If you would be interested, I would like your help spreading the conversations this work helps incite. Conversations about consent, acceptance, relationship violence, and sexual harassment all happened around this drum during the hours it was displayed on the campus of UT Austin. If you are interested, please read on and reach out to me. I'd be happy to chat further.

*What would need to be done, and who might do it:*

Prep work:

- **Interviews:** I think it would be meaningful if, at each campus, the audio clips may come directly from students on campus, making the piece a site-specific installation. If you as a curator feel comfortable finding and interviewing people on your campus, we would be able to make the work site specific and more powerful in this way.
- **Editing Audio:** If we do the interviews, I'll happily edit them and extract the sound bites to use in the installation.
- **Getting a drum:** If you're a new music specialist and already have a snare drum with transducer attached, great! If not, no problem. I can come out to you and we can use my drum, or I can pass you detailed directions on how to buy and build it yourself for under \$150. I can, of course, also provide the software Max/MSP patch.
- **Advertising:** Making a Facebook event and inviting your friends always helps! I've got a cover photo we can use and other media to post to promote the event ahead of time.

Day-of:

- **Location:** As the local, we'll rely on your knowledge of the campus to identify a good spot where we can set up. A good location is one that will get a lot of foot traffic, but also not disturb classes or other university functions nearby with the noise we will make. Having a rain-plan is also A+.
- **Duration:** The first time I presented this work, I was outside with it for five hours. That seemed to work well, but of course we will plan around your and your school's schedules.
- **Conversation:** Chatting with people and helping them see and understand some of the art was a big part of presenting this piece for me, and I imagine you are reading this because you want to be a part of these conversations.

Looking forward to chatting with you,

Brian Ellis

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