

Call for Artists

Pushing Buttons

Montgomery County Community College

Blue Bell, PA

August 28 to October 4, 2024

Submission Deadline: April 22, 2024

2024 is already making a significant mark on our human and planetary timelines. “Polar” might mean bears and melting icecaps but “polarization” means widening fissures of all kinds. In *Pushing Buttons*, the new collaborative exhibition with Philadelphia Sculptors (PS) and Tri-State Sculptors (TSS,) we encourage artists to make your own marks and use your pent-up energy to push some buttons. Direct your deepest impulses and passions into giving tangible form to what matters to you. No one will tell you to “button it” but instead we encourage you to unfasten your imagination and breathe easier as you open yourself up to inspiration.

The exhibition will include both indoor and outdoor work and is open to members of both organizations. The Blue Bell Campus Art Gallery at Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) in Blue Bell, PA. will host artists from both northern and southern regions as they weigh in on the issues of the day.

Eligibility

All PS and TSS members in good standing are eligible to apply. New members may join to be eligible. For PS membership details go to: <https://philasculptors.org/membership>. For TSS membership details go to: <https://tristatesculptors.org/join-us>

Jurors

Submissions from PS members will be juried by a committee from TSS, and submissions from TSS members will be juried by a committee from PS.

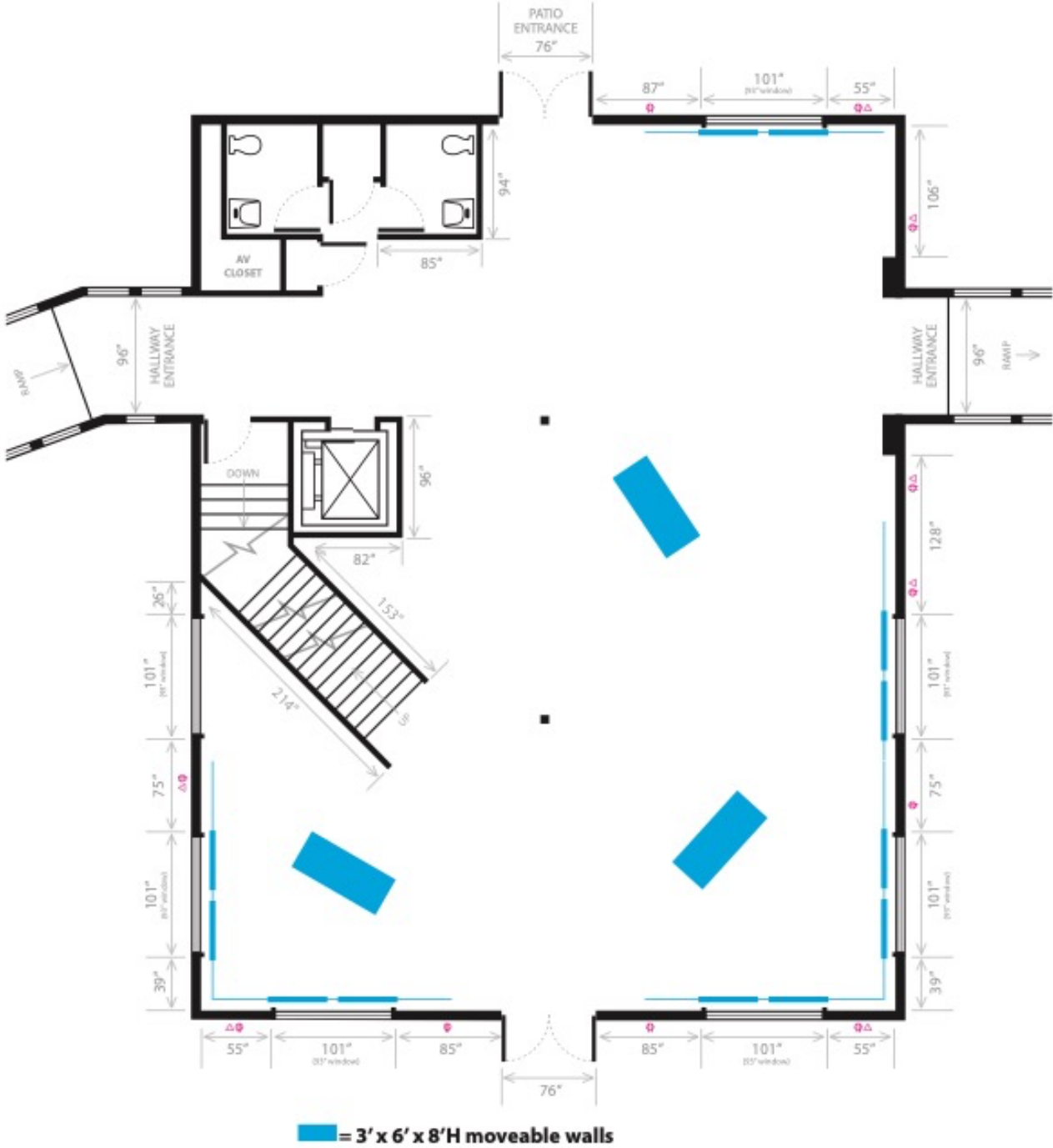
Venue

The exhibition will take place in the Blue Bell Campus Art Gallery (<https://www.mc3.edu/for-our-community/cultural-center/art-galleries/blue-bell-art-gallery>) at Montgomery County Community College at 340 DeKalb Pike in Blue Bell, PA, located about an hour north of Philadelphia. The gallery is part of the 26,000 square foot Fine Arts Center which also houses art studios, classrooms and computer labs. There is additional space available for outdoor works.

The gallery is a large flexible space. There are ground floor windows that can be blocked with sliding panels to create more wall space or left open to allow more natural light. Three rectangular moveable walls, each 3' x 6' x 8'H, are also in the space and can be used for display in any location. The floor is laminate and there are overhead wooden beams that cannot bear significant amounts of weight but can be used to suspend or anchor lighter sculptures (50 lbs. or less). From the floor to the bottom of the beams is 15' and the beams are 9" thick. Track lighting is also attached to the overhead beams—gallery staff will light all objects towards the end of installation. Stairs in the center of the gallery and a small elevator lead to a mezzanine level that overlooks the main floor of the gallery.

The gallery is the main entry point for the building and a major thoroughfare for students and staff. The Galleries Director will ensure all pieces are installed in a way that is safe for the artwork and audiences, as well as comply with ADA guidelines and other best practices. Below is a floor plan of the gallery:

Blue Bell Campus Art Gallery Floor Plan



Work Eligible

Indoor

For the indoor gallery, 3D, multimedia work and installations may be submitted. All work must be original. Floor, pedestal, hanging and wall works can be accommodated. Works requiring electricity, including videos and works with electronic components may be submitted, but all videos must be shown on self-contained monitors or other electronic devices. Work may be of any style or medium. Simple installations are preferred unless the artist can be available to assist during the installation. In some cases monitors, projectors, and other technology can be provided. Artists may contact Galleries Director Patrick Rodgers at prodgers@mc3.edu to confirm technical needs.

Outdoor

Outdoor works must be constructed of materials that can withstand outdoor conditions for the duration of the exhibition. Alternatively, they can be more temporal and site specific, if made of natural materials that would not harm the surrounding natural setting. All outdoor works should be able to be installed with the help of no more than one additional person. They must be able to be sited directly on the grass or in an adjacent natural environment. Outdoor works will be installed in and around Thompson Circle, an outdoor sculpture hub in front of the gallery entrance.

Selection Criteria

Artworks should fall within the general parameters of the title and theme. Those showing originality, technical competence, and which have the potential to elicit meaningful discussion, will be considered positively. Works in the show will also be evaluated in relation to one another and how they help to define the space within the concept. Outdoor works must be able to be installed appropriately on the campus grounds and not be safety hazards.

Dimensions

All work must be able to fit through a standard doorway, either in its entirety or as separate pieces that can be assembled. The total width of the gallery's entryway is 70" W x 92" H. A central post can be removed to accommodate works wider than 35".

Delivery Plans (TSS members only)

TSS will help with transportation/shipping for TSS members accepted into the exhibition. More details will be provided once the show is selected.

Shipping

Any works that are not delivered in person may be shipped at the artist's expense, to:

Patrick Rodgers
Galleries Director
Montgomery County Community College
340 DeKalb Pike
Blue Bell, PA 19422

Shipped work must include any relevant installation information and must arrive by Monday, August 19, 2024. Artists who plan to ship work must notify Patrick prior to shipment at prodgers@mc3.edu.

Installation: The gallery staff will install the works. Pedestals will be provided unless the work has unusual dimensions that will not allow it to be placed on an existing pedestal. In that case, the artist will be notified and will need to provide an appropriate pedestal painted white. In cases where the work is complex, multi-media, or difficult to install, the artist may be present for the installation. Please indicate on the submission form if you think your work falls into that category. If your presence is required, you are responsible for your own travel arrangements.

Fees: There is no entry fee for this show, but artists must be current with their dues in their respective organizations.

Insurance

MCCC has an umbrella policy that covers up to \$15,000 per piece. Accepted artists will fill out the loan agreement which must be submitted to the business office and insurer in order for the policy to take effect. For any artwork valued over \$15,000 Philadelphia Sculptors has its own policy, but there is a \$1,000 deductible.

Sales

MCCC will take a 20% commission on all works that are sold. Neither TSS nor PS will take a commission.

Calendar:

Submission deadline: April 22, 2024

Artist selection: May, 2024

Artwork delivery and installation : week of August 19, 2024

Exhibition: August 28 to October 4, 2024

Opening reception: Friday, September 13, 2024

Exhibition hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 6:00 pm; Saturday, noon – 5 pm

Deinstallation and pickup of work: Monday and Tuesday, October 7-8, 2024.

Submission Requirements

All artwork submissions must be received as jpgs. Artists may submit a maximum of 3 works, with no more than 2 image views per piece. Image sizes cannot exceed 5 MB. Artists may include videos if they are a part of an artwork or installation. Video files may not exceed 5 GB.

Entry Procedure

Completed entry form must be submitted by April 22, 2024.

All submissions will be accepted through Airtable. There will be separate applications for PS and TSS members. If you belong to both organizations, choose the group closest to you geographically.

PS members should submit their applications at:

<https://airtable.com/appAJfIZs6DYXALng/shrpfyhUHBSxvCFMd>

TSS members should submit their applications at:

<https://airtable.com/appAJfIZs6DYXALng/shr1CX0Gxd48XShp4>

The following attachments will be required:

1. Jpg images of artworks and accompanying text: title; dimensions; materials, description, and any additional installation requirements, such as electricity, hanging requirements, etc. (Artists are responsible for supplying **all** components of the artwork, including computers, monitors, hardware, etc.)
2. 150 - 200 word Artist Statement. Your statement must refer to the specific artwork in the show.
3. 150 - 200 word Artist Bio.

For additional information about the exhibition, contact: Leslie Kaufman, lesliekaufman@verizon.net or Andi Steele, 910-409-4560, andi@andisteele.com. For additional details about the venue, contact Patrick Rodgers at prodgers@mc3.edu.

About Tri State Sculptors

The Tri-State Sculptors Educational Association was formed in 1978 by a group of sculptors from Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina to promote public awareness and appreciation of sculpture in the region and to exchange ideas and information among its members. The organization holds annual fall conferences with concurrent exhibitions. Membership is open to anyone interested in sculpture, regardless of style, medium, education, or location. Visit <https://tristatesculptors.org> for more information.

About Philadelphia Sculptors

Philadelphia Sculptors is the only professional organization of sculptors in the Philadelphia region. Incorporated in 1997, its mission is to promote contemporary sculpture and serve as an advocate for sculptors by expanding public awareness of the role and value of sculpture within our culture. Since its inception, it has organized numerous indoor and outdoor group exhibitions at both traditional and non-traditional venues and has sponsored programs, conferences, workshops and performances. Membership is open to all. Visit <https://philasculptors.org> for more information.