

Vancouver Biennale 2014 – 2016
International Artist Residency Program
Proposal prepared by Shweta Bhattad

OPEN CALL TO PARTICIPATE in “I HAVE A DREAM” PROJECT

Dear,

Hope you are good...

I have been invited for Vancouver Biennale 2014-2016.

The broader theme of this Biennale is Martin Luther’s King’s speech “I have a dream”. For this Biennale program, I decided to stay and work in rural Canada, as I am working with rural women and farmers in India too and want to collaborate with women artists and farmers around the world...

Project Proposal for **Vancouver Biennale International Artist Residency Program**

I have a Dream

We all know about Martin Luther King and his contribution for Americas future. His revolutionary speech “I have a dream” made a deep impact on people and resulted as the pillars to build Modern America. When in this time I sit and look back, in whole world I see some influential people like Martin Luther King in some or other attire, who made this world the better place to live in. Such as Mahatma Gandhi for India, Nelson Mandela for Africa and so on and now at this time it is more important to talk about all these important influential people on one stage. When I talk about bringing these influential people on same stage, I think about the work they did and then want to talk on it in a totally different perspective, uniting the contribution of different communities from different countries. The one thread which connects mother earth is food, and food is also our primary need.

Women and food are always amongst the main concerns I am working on, and that is why I chose to live in rural area during Vancouver Biennale International Artist Residency Program, as farming is done more in rural areas. Food is very integral part of our day to day lives and I think farming is more connected to women and her role in society. In this globally growing world, the area of farms is reducing very fast... For the project “I Have a Dream”, I am inviting artists around the globe to collaborate who can further collaborate with farmers of their respective countries to grow some grains or vegetables in fields or gardens in form of the sentence which means “I have a dream” in their own language and font when seen from bird eye view, which can be captured by Google earth.

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During this project of sowing seeds there should be community discussion between artists and farmers about the social heroes of their own countries, local problems and global peace. Project can be done during the sowing seasons of respective collaborating countries, so it will be like all over the world in different countries artists will initiate the project with farmers and will sow the seeds singing their own traditional farming songs, take community meetings and discussions (at least 6 meetings throughout the project), this all will be documented, uploaded and shown on the different video screens which will be displayed during Biennale. These all collaboratively grown crops will be cultivated during the project will be used as the community lunch.

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Technically this all process from cultivation to harvest may take 90 days (can be different in different countries), artist can choose their own harvesting seasons as the biennale project is of two years which will connect and unite people and communities all around the world on one stage of biennale through the very basic necessity of a human to survive that is food, also to make relationship with land, ecology & food, to think about women and their role in society, in relation to fertility of land and growth or on whatever subject the collaborating artists and farmers want to talk on.

During this project, while harvesting, cultivating and during the process of collaborating people will learn more about the reformers and their works, someone in India will talk about Mahatma Gandhi and other on Martin Luther King and the exchanges will go on, in this exchange they will come to know about the important people and their history and their contribution towards the different part of the world.

Realization of this project and collaboration of artists and farmers from different regions, disciplines, and background will open ground for cross cultural exchanges.

Timeline of the project and its presentation.

The final display will be in the form of videos and images which artists will upload from all over the globe. These images and videos will be installed in a wooden structure which I will fabricated in form of “I Have a Dream”, during my stay at Squamish biennale residency, where different video screens, one for each country will be displayed in Biennale, where the videos will keep running showing the process of the project. Each screen will be titled by the name of collaborating artists and farmers and the viewer can hear the videos through head phones. Also biennale will mention the names of participating artists, groups and farmers on their website, giving them the credit of collaboration in this global project.



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Above is the image of final installation which I will make during my stay at Squamish.

The land required for the project can also be a small garden space, but the words grown should be clearly visible.

At present the countries interested in collaboration are Taiwan, Srilanka, Huwain, Sweden, Holland, Canada, Italy and different states of India...

Regards,
Shweta

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Some FAQ’S

This project is a global project and belongs to everyone who is collaborating and who is following...

Made some questions and answers following the questions which I got from some artists, if you have any doubts please let me know...

Is there any participation fee for Artists and farmers in this global project?

No participation fees required.

What artist, farmer and participating country will get?

As it is a Global project talking about world peace, which will involve the countries around the globe, it will share the huge platform, where there will be important community discussions taking place via skype and other social media. Farmers and Artists can share stories about them and their countries on one platform. This project will have a greater public attention and visibility around the globe. Project from each country will be well labeled with Artist and Farmers names and will be the part of open museum display at Canada. Also the project will be the part of online display. Skype and other social networking will help for sharing and making network with collaborating artists and farmers.

What to talk to Farmers?

You need to collaborate with farmers explaining them about the importance of project for them, for you, for your country. Explaining them about how all the farmers and artists from around the globe are uniting for this project and how they can keep their views and issues related to farming, land issues, farmers stories, your national social heroes and talking about the world peace in such way (you are free to choose the subject you need to take to world which you feel is very important for your country to be the part of community discussions the decision should be collaborative)... Farmers need to unite together to use their skill to make the plantation happen, they are our feeders, and have a special place in human world, this project is in a way tribute to their contribution to our lives too...

You need to find farmers who would love to collaborate voluntarily.

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Land size?

You need to find a land or garden where you can sow the seeds and have a clear areal view of the words “I Have a Dream” grown.(2000 sq ft land area, but if you have another option we can discuss on it)

When to plant?

You can plant during the sowing season of your country (taking farmer assistance)

What to plant?

You can choose to plant anything crop or vegetable, cultivating which you need to do community lunch with farmers. Also you can choose the crop which has the relation to your country history (Talking farmer assistance)

How to plant?

Artist need to help the farmers understanding and marking the sentence on land which means “I Have a Dream” in their own country language and font (showing them the images)._Farmers need to use their skills for sowing, harvesting and cultivating.

How and what to document?

You need to document the process of marking the space, sowing seeds, discussions videos and every 10 days the images of growth (if you want make frequent images will also be good) and uploading it on the address or site we will figure it out soon and let you know about. Will also let you know about the video quality and from what height it should be shoot. You can do discussions in your own language, but while documenting you need to add English subtitles in video, so it can reach larger audience. (Will give more details about it once the things will be finalized)

If possible if there is any costume, culture, songs of farming, sowing seeds, harvesting or cultivating, you can make it a part of project performing it with farmers and recording it. In this way we can also exchange each other’s farming culture.

How many community discussions and meets should be done during the entire project and when?

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Artist need to plan meetings discussions with farmers. You need to plan at least 4 meetings with farmers for community discussions (on subject of collaborative choices), time and dates will be your choice, we will make an online chart for all collaborating artists and farmers where everyone can fill, the dates and time of discussions which will be publically available so that people around the globe can keep track of the project and we all will know where, when, what and how the things will happen.

Artists and farmers can choose their own dates and time for discussions according to their own comfort but it should be filled by the artist in online schedule chart (we will soon provide its link)

Skype Meet?

Once we decide on participating countries and artists we will make a common skype meet.

If you have any more questions in mind please let me know...

Thank you