

# Curatorial Fellow

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rear 2016: We Are Here

**Deadline to apply: 11:59 PM, CST on Sunday, November 22**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rear** is an annual, multidisciplinary arts festival that celebrates Chicago's vibrant community of alternative art spaces and DIY creative practices. Each February, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rear connects artists with new audiences, helps underfunded and under-appreciated alternative spaces get some exposure, and enlivens a dreary winter weekend at the peak of Chicago's bleakest season.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rear 2016: We Are Here** is a meditation and open-ended discourse on the meaning(s) of being somewhere. This year, we're interested in the socio-cultural politics of being and acting in a specific space. How do spatial relations and social relations arise together? How might places be binding and normative or potentially liberating? How are they shaped by the bodies they contain or exclude? How can a place be at once material and ideological, natural and fabricated, public and private, static and in flight? How can various socio-spatial forms and practices define or defy the way we relate to a particular place in time, as well as to each other, our outlooks, and ourselves? [Read the full curatorial statement here.](#)

**We are currently seeking** a cultural producer who lives, works, or is otherwise intimately familiar with Chicago's Lower West Side neighborhoods to curate and administer South Side programming for 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rear 2016.

- The ideal candidate will be able to engage creatively and intellectually with this year's curatorial premise, and will also demonstrate the organizational skills and strategic thinking necessary to coordinate multiple site-specific events. The ideal candidate will also be reliable and committed, enthusiastic, and able to learn and adapt to change quickly.
- The Curatorial Fellow must commit an average of 10 hours of work per week from early December to late March, and will receive a \$1,500 honorarium upon completion.
- Emerging curators/creative organizers, advanced post-secondary and graduate students, and small curatorial teams of three people or less are welcome to apply.

### Essential duties:

#### Event curation:

- Under the direction of the Executive Director, the 2016 Curatorial Fellow will conduct outreach to and select participants for 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rear 2016.
  - "Participants" act as independent event producers and are responsible for the successful execution of their respective events. The events produced by participants may be any discipline or genre, and can be ongoing or time-specific.

- Locations for events under the Curatorial Fellow's purview will be restricted to lower west side neighborhoods of Chicago (Pilsen, Little Village), OR locations a 15-minute walk or less from any pink line train station.
- The Curatorial Fellow may select participants from our open call for proposals, and may also invite specific artists, spaces, or organizations to pitch a proposal.

### **Event planning, coordination, and administration:**

- Under the direction of the Executive Director, the Curatorial Fellow will schedule all events taking place on Sunday, February 7th.
  - The Curatorial Fellow will work closely with participants to advise them of and ultimately determine the order and duration of events.
  - The Curatorial Fellow will strive to maximize accessibility and minimize gaps in programming, direct conflicts, or excessive overlap.
  - Whenever possible, the Curatorial Fellow will conduct site visits to anticipate audience experience and potential needs.
- The Curatorial Fellow will act as the first point of contact for all South Side participants, and will communicate clearly and effectively with participants, the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Rear board, staff, and volunteers.
  - With guidance from the Executive Director, the Curatorial Fellow will conduct studio visits and/or in-person meetings with participants to facilitate paperwork completion and inform them of festival procedures and policies.
  - While not required to attend all South Side events, the Curatorial Fellow will remain on-call for the duration of February 7th festivities.

### **Other duties:**

- The Curatorial Fellow will contribute to all outreach, promotion, and development efforts.
  - This may include media outreach, event and crowdfunding promotion on social media, requesting in-kind donations, assisting with and attending auxiliary events related to fundraising, community outreach, and participant hospitality.
- The Curatorial Fellow will release a curatorial statement about the South Side events before the first week of February, and may opt to contribute additional texts to the 2nd Floor Rear 2016 blog.

## Qualifications:

- Demonstrated experience producing and/or coordinating complex cultural or community events such as exhibitions, theatrical productions, festivals, block parties, fundraising events, or community organizing
- Strong curatorial sensibilities, creative voice, and/or intellectual standpoint
- Familiarity with arts, culture, and other neighborhood features specific to the festival's South Side geographical footprint
- Demonstrated interest in and aptitude for the ideas and themes surrounding this year's curatorial premise
- Cultural sensitivity and desire to work with diverse populations
- Strong sense of initiative
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Excellent planning and creative problem-solving skills
- Flexibility and grace under pressure
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and collaboratively
- Computer and social media literacy
- Special consideration will be given to candidates with Spanish language skills and fundraising/outreach experience.

## To apply:

Please send the following to **info@2ndfloorrear.org** by **11:59 PM** on **Sunday, November 22:**

- Letter of interest addressing the following: *What excites you about this fellowship? What is your connection to the Pilsen/Little Village area and its respective communities? What experiences have prepared you for this role? What unique qualities or qualifications will you bring to our team?*
- Resume or CV
- Links to professional or project website, OR work samples (five images or five minutes of a sound recording or video, and/or no more than 500 words of text)