

Creative City Challenge

Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy,
City of Minneapolis
Northern Lights.mn
The Commons

Creative City Challenge

The annual City of Minneapolis Creative City Challenge competition will be sited at **The Commons**, the new 4.2 acre public green space and an anchor in the Downtown East area transformation for the second year. The **Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy Program** of the City of Minneapolis in collaboration with The Commons and **Northern Lights.mn** and the **Northern Spark** festival, announce the sixth annual Creative City Challenge based on the theme of **commonality**.



Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy

- Leverages the Creative Sector towards social and economic growth in the City of Minneapolis.
- Coordinates arts and creative economy activities.
- Works with the Minneapolis Arts Commission
- Develops arts, culture and creative industry policies around economic development and programs for the City of Minneapolis.

Northern Lights.mn / Northern Spark

- Northern Lights.mn is a non-profit arts organization dedicated to artists working innovatively in the public sphere, exploring expanded possibilities for civic engagement.
- Northern Spark is a one-night, all-night participatory arts festival taking place on Saturday, June 16th, 2018 from 8:59 pm – 5:26 am. During Northern Spark, tens of thousands of people gather throughout the city to explore giant video projections, play in temporary installations in the streets, and enjoy experimental performances in green spaces and under bridges.

The Commons

- The Commons is a 4.2 acre public green space in the heart of downtown Minneapolis. Spanning two city blocks, the beautifully landscaped and actively programmed park offers experiences to welcome and engage the community at large.
- The Commons is located at 425 Portland Avenue S in Minneapolis, across from U.S. Bank Stadium and steps from the Light Rail Train station.

Past Creative City Challenge Winners

- 2017, [Orbacles](#) by MINN_LAB
- 2016, [Wolf and Moose](#) by Christopher Lutter, Heid E. Erdrich, Coal Dorius, Kim Ford, Paul Tinetti, Karl Stoerzinger, and Ian Knodel
- 2015, [mini polis](#) by Niko Kubota, Jon Reynolds, and Micah Roth
- 2014, [Balancing Ground](#) by Amanda Lovelee, Kyle Waites, Sara West and Christopher Fields
- 2013, [MIMMI](#) by Urbain DRC

CCC Program Vision

To celebrate the character + creativity of the City of Minneapolis

To explore the role of design, creativity and place in creating sustainable, healthy urban environments

To engage as broad a community as possible in the discussion, experience, celebration and exploration of this outdoor space

CCC Program Goals

- To add character to the city through a site-specific commission, which enhances the health and enriches the lives of Minneapolis residents;
- To recognize Minneapolis as a regional center for excellence in architecture, urban design and the arts;
- To enhance community identity and a sense of place in The Commons;
- To contribute to community vitality;
- To deliver a consistently excellent pedestrian experience that inspires people to explore Downtown block after block;
- To position Minneapolis as a national and international center for creativity and design;
- To identify Minneapolis as an internationally recognized leader for a healthy environment and sustainable future

CCC Program Objectives

- To celebrate the local creative community
- Celebrate through creative expression, the multiple identities that make up Minneapolis' urban environment
- To animate urban spaces
- Facilitate the activation, exploration and discovery of the urban environment

2018 CCC Theme: Commonality

In 2018, the Creative City Challenge takes its cue from the site of installation: The Commons. What is a 21st century commons? What do we share when we gather together in outdoor, physical space? Is it possible to share common ideals and goals while acknowledging significant differences in heritage, lifestyle, income and interest?

What do we have in common in a city with significant racial disparities in employment, education and other markers of well-being? Is “common humanity” a hollow phrase or something worth fighting for? Is commonality uncommon? Can there ever be common ground on land that was colonized? What does Downtown Minneapolis have in common with other parts of the city? The suburbs? Saint Paul? Greater Minnesota? What are dreams for the future that we can have in common?

- The Creative City Challenge challenges applicants to create an installation that explores the idea of commonality for Minneapolis, its residents and visitors.
- The Commons is actively used by the general public as a place for respite and activity, as well as a location for large special events, such as Northern Spark on June 16, when the Creative City Challenge will be launched, and the X Games July 19-22. The Commons also hosts a range of other events including community gatherings, company picnics, weddings, and events related to U.S. Bank Stadium.

The Basics

- The Commons
- \$50,000 award
- Deadline: **11:59 p.m. CST, Friday, November 17, 2017**
- Minnesota-resident creatives (lead and 50% of team)
- June 16 (Northern Spark) - October 15 duration
- Outdoors
- Day and (some) night
- Innovative use of site
- Other programming
- Responsible for all permitting, installation, maintenance, and deinstallation

Eligibility

- The Creative City Challenge is open to any artist living in Minnesota. For teams, the lead artist and at least 50% of the team must live in Minnesota.
- By “artist” we mean: artists, architects, landscape architects, designers, planners, engineers, scientists, students, creative teams + individuals of all kinds....
- A team is not a requirement but advised

THE COMMONS



The Site

- **Site 1** – Part of granite “mitten”, Area 1 on attached map. Available site size approx. 40’ x 40’. We strongly encourage that at least the majority of the installation should be sited in this area.
- **Site 2** – Ellipse lawn, close to the corner of 4th Street and Portland Avenue. Area 2 on attached map. Lawn size 92’ x 60’, 4,192 sf. Available site size approx. 75’ x 45’.
 - Note: All site conditions, including the lawn must be returned to the original state, and the grass is a special variety, which is expensive to replace.

Site Parameters + Requirements

- No footings allowed
- No penetrations of granite gravel and/or porous paved surfaces; any penetration of the lawn must be minimal and completely repaired
- Able to withstand any weather
- Fully engineered for climbing, wind loads, etc.
- Able to be cleaned with a hose
- No obstruction to any pedestrian passage
- Awareness of nearby residents and their sightlines, park use and noise restrictions
- No directional or overly bright illumination
- Sound must be at ambient levels, silent from 10 pm to 7 am, and able to be “turned off” for special events
- Able to withstand daily water spray from irrigation system.
- Available power – Dedicated 20 amp circuit power outlet located +/- 30’ away. Line to be cable ramped for installation term.

Process / Timeline

- Friday, November 17, 11:59 pm CST – Proposals due
- Wednesday, November 29 – Finalists notified
- Monday, January 22 – Finalists' proposals due
- Tuesday, February 6 – Finalists' presentations to jury
- Thursday, February 8 – Winner announced
- Saturday, June 16 – Project launches at Northern Spark

Proposal

Statement of Interest

Describe your interest in the Creative City Challenge, your artistic vision, and how you would approach the ideas of the competition, particularly in relation to public participation

Project Proposal

Describe your vision of your Creative City Challenge project. It can be precise, pragmatic, poetic, visionary, but it should be realistic and convincing. Be sure to be explicit about the public's participation in the design, creation, and/or use of the project.

Project illustration(s)

Provide at least one and no more than 6 images of your proposed project. These do not need to be detailed plans, but should give some sense of the envisioned result. It can be based on a sketch, a CAD drawing, an altered image, or a construction, but the file itself must be in jpg, gif or png format. If you are providing a movie, it should be no longer than 2 min. and must be accessible online on Vimeo or YouTube.

Names, Roles, and Residency of Team Members

Primary contact. Short description of team members. Note any previous collaborations with team members.

Relevant previous experience

List no more than 3 projects with no more than 2 pages of materials for each. You may include a link to further information about each project, but this information will not necessarily be reviewed by the panel.

Budget

Make your budget reasonable, but it doesn't have to be super detailed. It must add up to no more than \$50,000

- Artist/team fees
- Contractor/vendor support
- Equipment and materials
- Permits, **engineers, insurance**, etc.
- Installation, maintenance, and deinstallation
- Contingency

Evaluation Criteria (Required)

- **Artistic Quality:** The proposed work must be an original piece by the artist in any medium or multidisciplinary. It can be serious or funny, spectacular or intimate, or any combination thereof. Works that are commercialized or are intended to sell a product will be not be considered.
- **Theme:** How does the proposal satisfy the theme of the 2018 competition?
- **Innovation:** Does the proposal represent innovative ideas? An innovative way to engage the community in creating the work? An innovative use of the space? Innovative use of materials?
- **Feasibility:** Your project must be feasible to run over the course of 4 months, and installation and de-installation on The Commons must be efficient. Describe how your project is feasible to set up and take down within a reasonable timeframe.
- **Durability.** The piece must be durable, able to withstand wind, rain, sun, and active animal and human engagement. The Project must be easily maintained and able to endure the whole 4 month term. You must include a thorough maintenance plan and adequate maintenance budget, for stakeholder approval.
- **Safety.** This piece will remain in place for 4 months, during the opening festival and other large events. Please consider the safety of yourself, your audience and the artwork.
- **Sound.** City ordinances prohibit most amplified sound in outdoor spaces after 10 pm.
- **ADA compliant**
- **Legal.** Projects must meet all necessary city laws, ordinances, and codes. Extensive research about city codes is not necessary for the application. Staff will help with these questions after projects are selected.

Evaluation Criteria (Desirable)

- **24x7 (till 10 pm):** How does it work during the day? How does it work during the night?
- **Destination:** Is it likely to be a destination for visitors to MCC and residents of the City?
- **Platform:** How does it accommodate and encourage other social interactions and participatory activities, both planned and informal?
- **Participatory.** How will people interact with your project? Participation can be passive such as following dancers moving through space or participatory data visualization.
- **Crowded.** Thousands of people attend Northern Spark in 8+ hours, and X Games and U.S. Bank Stadium events draw huge crowds as well. Depending on the location of your project, there will likely be very large crowds to appreciate it. How does your proposal account for this?
- **Accessible.** As a work of public art, there will be a broad audience experiencing your project who have a range of arts knowledge from novice to seasoned practitioner. At Northern Spark the audience moves from project to project frequently. How will your project be understood by the casual observer?

Advice

Collaboration

- Setting roles

Budget

- Contingency
- Liability Insurance + engineer stamp
- Build project to fit budget
- Make sure you remember to pay yourself

Working with the City

- Permitting Office
- Signed Drawings
- Arts Office

Working with The Commons

- Meeting Expectations
- Maintenance Team

Working with Northern Lights.mn

- Keeping Informed
- Collaboration

Building

- Everyone on same page
- ADA, Building Regulations
- Quick turn Around
- Permitting Office Visit
- Structural Engineer Visit

Maintenance

- Weekly check in
- Water runs to lowest point
- Lock it down

Strike

- Plan where things will go
- Celebrate the summer

Recovery

- Document
- Write thank yous

Team roles to consider

- **Team Leader** - This not just a title it is a job. The team leader needs to be the face of the project. The person who can both talk about the project but can also explain ideas, keep all the lines of communication updated and defend the teams choices. This person should be local and prepared to be attending meetings throughout the process and even after the project is finished.
- **Project Manager/Producer** - This may or may not be the same person as the Team Leader. Who will be responsible for the production of the project, including timelines.
- **Design** - There is the design of the project itself as well as the design of how it will be presented in marketing and other materials. If there is disagreement among your team about either aspect, how will it be resolved?
- **Technical Director/Engineering** - Who will be responsible for ensuring that all the technical details of the project are accurate and fulfilled? This is the person who is onsite for the build to work with the contractors.
- **Finances** - Who will manage the budget, insurance, who will deal all the money that comes through? Are you going to set up an LLC?
- **Outreach** - The CCC team will have lead responsibility for public outreach, but you will want to have your own outreach coordinator as well.

Links

Sample Proposal

- http://northern.lights.mn/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CCC_BalancingGround_Sample_Proposal.pdf

2018 CCC

- Call: <http://northern.lights.mn/2017/09/creative-city-challenge-2018-call-for-proposals/>

2017, Oracles

- Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/northernspark/albums/72157683787134474>
- Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/233226499>
- NL website: <http://northern.lights.mn/projects/creative-city-challenge-2017/>
- Call: <http://northern.lights.mn/platform/ccc-2017/>

2016, Wolf and Moose

- Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/northernspark/albums/72157670240600492>
- Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/191211663>
- NL website: <http://northern.lights.mn/projects/creative-city-challenge-2016/>
- MCC: <https://www.minneapolis.org/minneapolis-convention-center/on-the-plaza/creative-city-challenge/ccc-past-winners/>

2015, mini polis

- Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/northernspark/albums/72157655331394915>
- Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/141093646>
- NL website: http://northern.lights.mn/projects/mini_polis/
- MCC: <https://www.minneapolis.org/minneapolis-convention-center/on-the-plaza/creative-city-challenge/ccc-past-winners/>

2014, Balancing Ground

- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/northernspark/albums/72157645102647490>
- Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/120169490>
- NL website: <http://northern.lights.mn/projects/lovelee-field-waites-west/>
- MCC: <https://www.minneapolis.org/minneapolis-convention-center/on-the-plaza/creative-city-challenge/ccc-past-winners/>

2013, MIMMI

- NL website: <http://northern.lights.mn/projects/creative-city-challenge-2013/>
- MCC: <https://www.minneapolis.org/minneapolis-convention-center/on-the-plaza/creative-city-challenge/ccc-past-winners/>

Questions?

- Next Info Session: Wednesday, November 8, 5-7 pm. Sign up for a 15 min time slot, email creativecitychallenge@northern.lights.mn
- Creative City Challenge information online and downloadable info session slides at <http://northern.lights.mn/2017/09/creative-city-challenge-2018-call-for-proposals/>
- Email questions: creativecitychallenge@northern.lights.mn

Other Opportunities

- Art(ists) On the Verge – due January 16, 2018
- Northern Spark – call in November