
THE SHED **Press Release**

THE **BLOOMBERG** BUILDING
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The Shed Seeks Proposals for the Second Edition of *Open Call*, Its Large-Scale Commissioning Program for NYC-Based Early-Career Artists

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New Works Across All Disciplines will be Presented in 2021

NEW YORK, NY, APRIL 13, 2020—The Shed announced today that it is seeking proposals for new works across all disciplines for the second edition of *Open Call*, its large-scale commissioning program for early-career artists who live and work in New York City. Proposals are currently being accepted online with a submission deadline of May 31, 2020. Commissions from selected artists will be presented in 2021.

“In a challenging and uncertain world, we remain steadfast in our commitment to local New York artists at early stages in their careers. Launched two years ago as an ongoing commissioning program with generous investment from The Shed’s supporters, *Open Call* is designed to provide the time, space, and resources that these artists need to develop their practice and contribute to our city’s cultural future,” said **Alex Poots**, Artistic Director and CEO.

“A primary driver of New York City’s economy is its cultural sector and local early-career artists and creatives are absolutely the lifeblood. Supporting and engaging underserved communities is a vital part of The Shed’s mission, and this is the moment for us to further live those values,” said **Tamara McCaw**, Chief Civic Program Officer.

The Shed’s *Open Call* program supports NYC’s diversity of early-career talent in its many forms—including artistic medium, race, ethnicity, age, identity, physical ability, and other experiences. Submissions that can be feasibly realized are encouraged, as is a commitment to inclusivity and equity. Participants for *Open Call* 2021 will be selected by leaders in their fields, including artists, cultural programmers, academics, and members of The Shed’s staff. Each artist or collective will receive a commissioning fee of up to \$15,000.

“Diversity in ideas, identities, and experiences is key to selecting our 2021 cohort. We look forward to working with these artists in developing their new commissions,” said **Emma Enderby**, Chief Curator.

“In its first edition, *Open Call* was a window into the most diverse artistic communities developing in the city, as well as what was important to and happening in them at the time. Artists help us connect to our own thoughts, especially in moments like this current, unprecedented crisis. They also help us find resilience, joy, and a deeper understanding of what we go through as individuals, as communities, and as a society,” said **Solana Chehtman**, Director of Civic Programs.

Open Call 2021 is presented throughout The Shed’s spaces—on the Plaza, in The Griffin Theater, and Level 2 Gallery—allowing for the presentation of a range of artistic experiences and perspectives in these newly commissioned works. More information about applying to *Open Call* is available at theshed.org/opencallapply.

About Open Call

Open Call is organized by Tamara McCaw, Chief Civic Program Officer; Emma Enderby, Chief Curator; and Solana Chehtman, Director of Civic Programs. The program was conceived by The Shed’s Artistic Director Alex Poots, Tamara McCaw, Emma Enderby, and Senior Program Advisor Hans Ulrich Obrist.

From May through August 2019, 42 artists and collectives in the inaugural edition of *Open Call* presented their intentional and boundary-pushing new work at The Shed. They each received heightened visibility in the community, as well as in-depth experience working with a large cultural institution and navigating the commissioning process.

More than 35,000 visitors experienced a wide range of bold works that addressed complex and deeply personal issues through a diverse range of disciplines and mediums. Commissions included **Richard Kennedy**’s three-act opera about the rise of super-intelligent queer beings, **Kelsey Pyro**’s multimedia essay on grief, **The Illustrious Blacks**’ electro-punk-funk opera about the union of two cosmic spirits, **Kiyan Williams**’s site-specific wall work using soil to paint a portrait of America and the exploitation of Black bodies and land, and an interactive installation set in the bedroom of Nena, artist **Gabriela Corretjer-Contreras**’s alter ego. Street dance company **It’s Showtime NYC** drew visitors to the Shed’s Plaza, an open-air performance space created when The Shed’s movable outer shell is nested over the base building.

A complete list of 2019 *Open Call* artists is available [here](#).

The Lead Sponsor of *Open Call* is TD Bank, with additional support generously provided by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and Howard Gilman Foundation and by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. The creation of new work at The Shed is generously supported by the Lizzie and Jonathan Tisch Commissioning Fund and the Shed Commissioners, a group of visionary philanthropists providing essential early support for The Shed’s mission of commissioning original works of art, across all disciplines, for all audiences.

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"We know that when people feel included and engaged, good things happen," said **Shelley Sylva**, Head of Social Impact at TD Bank. "That's why we are honored to partner with The Shed in making the arts accessible to all and in shining a light on emerging artists who are traditionally absent from high-profile venues."

About The Shed

Located on Manhattan's West Side, The Shed commissions original works of art, across all disciplines, for all audiences. From hip hop to classical music, painting and sculpture to literature, film to theater and dance, The Shed brings together leading and emerging artists and thinkers from all disciplines under one roof. The building—a remarkable movable structure designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Lead Architect, and Rockwell Group, Collaborating Architect—physically transforms to support artists' most ambitious ideas. Committed to nurturing artistic invention and bringing creative experiences to the broadest possible audiences, The Shed, led by Artistic Director and CEO Alex Poots, is a 21st-century space of and for New York City.