

UVA Community Zine Series and Public Video-Zine Screening

I am requesting funds to create and distribute a series of short zines that will be based on community submissions of all forms of art and later converted into a video zine, where the submissions will be incorporated into a video presentation to be screened at a public community event at which the paper zines will also be distributed. With this funding, I will be able to 1) travel to New York City for two days and attend the East Village Zine Fair, where I can learn about and engage with a well-established zine-making community and further develop my project ideas before bringing them to Grounds, 2) afford the materials to physically produce the paper copies of the zines, and 3) have access to video programs and production equipment that will allow me to create a cohesive, stylized, and high-quality presentation of a video version of that zine, which will be screened at a public event for the contributing artists and community members to enjoy and find pride and appreciation for the culmination of their work.

Objectives

I. Learn about communities surrounding zines and the engage with artists face-to-face

Since a young age, I have always been fascinated by the idea of zines—small and locally distributed, self-published mini magazines. They have historically been made surrounding niche interests in music and pop culture, instructional guides, underrepresented histories, or political movements, but the word “zine” has developed into a huge umbrella term encompassing a vast variety of similar projects. I have been able to create and pick up some zines of my own in isolated contexts such as book or comic stores, but I have never been able to engage directly with members of the zine-making community on a larger scale. The East Village Zine Fair is co-presented by the 8-Ball Community, which has a history of supporting small artists, arts in community, and self-published media, and they have an extensive history with underground media production. By going to this event, I would be able to learn more about the communities in which zines and other similar forms of media are created, obtain some zines from these knowledgeable artists, and ask for input and advice concerning my project moving forward.

II. Create and facilitate a community that feels welcomed, supported, and included in contributing to a multidisciplinary collaborative artistic project

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III. Create a series of physical zines compiling the artwork of that community and include them in the process of the zines' creation

After learning more about the culture and communities surrounding zine-making, I would then begin the production of a zine in the UVA and Charlottesville communities, starting with gauging what many members of the community are passionate about, either through an open-response form, or through a brief community interest meeting. These interests would form the themes and prompts for 3 to 5 short (6-12 page) zines to be created based off response and engagement. As one of the core values of zines is their free-range and universal accessibility, I would make it clear that anyone is welcome to contribute and submit their artwork for inclusion in the final product. There would also be at least one community event where artists and community members would be invited to engage in the assembly of the zine after submissions have been

digitally compiled and printed. I have spoken with my mentor, Mona Kasra, about this, and there is the potential to host a workshop at Visible Records, but any reservable student space (ex. the 1515, meeting rooms in UVA's Libraries, etc.) could be used as well. Zines are notoriously supposed to be easy and stress-free to make, so I would opt for a simple assembly method—having an even number of pages that could be stacked, folded, and stapled down the middle.

IV. Adapt the zine into a form that incorporates other mediums not fully able to be represented on paper (ex. music, performance, or dance) through the Video Zine

Equal to my passion for zines is my passion for video production and filmmaking. As much as I adore forms of art that can be captured in a 2D plane, I also want to be able to represent as many artworks across different mediums as possible and combine them into one cohesive video space to fully represent the power of community and the cohesion of the artworks surrounding each theme. I already envision using many video assets and templates to create a visual video collage that will incorporate many different submissions at once, combining them into one art piece. For example, imagine a collage template that has 5-8 open spaces for different submissions to be displayed simultaneously—for instance: a poem, a drawing, a photograph, a snippet of a short film, and a dance piece. I would use video assets and editing software (e.g. Motion Array and Adobe After Effects) to visually unite these submissions and add moving elements to them all, forming one cohesive idea around the theme at hand. This could mean that the text of the poem moves line by line along to a spoken performance, or a doodle of a stickman dances along to a piece of music. The final product will ultimately depend on the submissions themselves, but I know for certain that I would 1) gain personal fulfillment and new knowledge in experimenting with multidisciplinary art and media and 2) visually represent community engagement and the intersection and complementation of different artforms.

V. Host a public screening of that video, emphasizing appreciation of artwork and the community in which it was derived from

The final step in this project would be a public screening of the video, where the paper zines would also be distributed. This would be an opportunity for the community of artists to reunite and be able to appreciate the work they have done in a variety of forms.

Concerns and Potential Limitations

It is important to note that the content of the paper zine and video zine are inherently open-ended, as themes and prompts for submissions will be decided based upon community interests and engagement. Therefore, the specific materials that will contribute to the creation and stylization of both projects will depend upon those submissions. I have opted to request materials and softwares that give me as much room as possible to adapt later on in the process.

Mentorship

I am extremely lucky to be working with Mona Kasra, who is very experienced in video editing and projection as well as working in multidisciplinary arts contexts. She has also served as a mentor for multiple other Miller Arts projects in the past, and I am confident that she will be able to guide me through the process as a whole, with a specific emphasis on creating the video zine.

Project Timeline

Summer

- June 15th – East Village Zine Fest: Attend zine fest, get to know artists, ask for input and ideas concerning their own process as well as questions about my own project
- Form ideas about potential themes, create promotional material to get the word out about a community meeting to develop theme ideas

Early Fall

- Host community interest meeting and open online form to gauge areas of interest that will inform the themes of the zines
- Promote zine through chalking, flyering, and community events to get as many submissions as possible
- Collect responses until Mid Fall

Mid Fall

- Compile responses and draft zines on digital software (ex. Adobe Photoshop and InDesign)
- Print Zines
- Host community workshop to assemble copies of the Zines

Late Fall

- Finish assembly of the zines (~150-250 copies total depending on number of zines and number of pages) in own time

Early Spring

- Compile elements of the zine for video presentation
- Create any video elements that need to be produced on Grounds
- Book screening venue
- Create flyers, chalk, and inform artists and community of the event
- *Assemble projection surfaces if time
 - The video presentation alone will still be a worthwhile endeavor, however, if there is time left, it could be an interesting additional element to include multiple projection spaces as a more immersive way of presenting

Late Spring

- Test video screening before screening event
- Put out final promotional materials
- Host video screening event

Miller Arts Scholars Budget

East Village Zine Fest		
<i>A brief two-day trip (mostly travel) to be able to visit and source zines + artwork at the East Village Zine Fest (Saturday, June 15th, 2024)</i>		
Round Trip Amtrack Tickets	Train tickets to and from NYC through Amtrack (prices vary depending on how close to the day you purchase them--this is an estimated average of the prices I have seen so far.)	\$200.00
One night's stay in a hotel	The average hotel room in the East Village ranged from \$180-250 based on my research	\$210.00
Printed Zine		
<i>Physical materials, community workshops for zine assembly, promotional materials</i>		
Printing Costs & Materials	Access to a high-quality color printer and high-quality paper, multiple staplers and staples, collaging materials, drawing utensils, and any other materials that might be requested by the artists	\$900.00
Adobe Creative Cloud Subscription	Adobe Creative Cloud Year-long Subscription: I will need access to Premiere Pro, After Effects, Audition, InDesign, and Photoshop at the very least	\$240.00
Refreshments/Groceries	Refreshments for Community Workshop attendees	\$200.00
Production and Screening for Video Zine		
<i>Video editing/stylization programs, video production equipment</i>		
Video Production Equipment	Video equipment to be used for stylization --> Could vary depending on submissions, but this budget would allow for freedom in choosing 1-2 pieces of equipment such as lenses, lens filters, lights, backdrops, etc. to purchase	\$500.00
Expenditure item:	3-Month subscription to Motion Array for Video Assets	\$250.00
Expenditure item:	Personal subscription to Qlab for video projection	\$500.00
Total		\$3,000.00
Budget Income, Funding, or Other Awards		
<i>Include income from private sources, the funding you're asking from Miller Arts Scholars, and income from other awards.</i>		
Income item:	MAS Third Year Award	\$3,000.00
Total		\$3,000.00