

# Center for Art and Social Engagement

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### About The Center

The Center for Art and Social Engagement will serve as a venue for investigating social issues through arts-based methods. Anchored by a permanent display of *The Sister Chapel*, a historic collaborative feminist installation, the Center draws inspiration from the cooperative spirit of the women's art movement. Programming at the Center will encourage interdisciplinary programs that explore diverse and timely social issues through multidisciplinary practices, broadly conceived to include a variety of mediums such as: photojournalism, films and video, historical ephemera, faculty and student research presentations, info-graphic presentations, STEM/STEAM installations, and public programming. This program is an initiative of Rowan University Art Gallery (RUAG).

### About The Sister Chapel

*The Sister Chapel* was conceived in 1974 by Ilise Greenstein, who envisioned a monumental "hall of fame" in which women's achievements would be presented from a female perspective. Using a nominal pun on the *Sistine Chapel*, she proposed a secular, nonhierarchical alternative to the patriarchal system embodied in Michelangelo's renowned ceiling fresco. Eleven other women artists collectively established uniform dimensions for the figure paintings and agreed that each canvas would depict a standing female "role model." As a result, the canvases form a visually cohesive group without diminishing the individuality of any artist. Diverse contemporary and historical women, deities, and conceptual figures populate the all-female pantheon of *The Sister Chapel*. Above them, Greenstein's enormous abstract ceiling features a mirrored center to remind visitors that there is no limit to women's potential.

The conceptual figures featured include: ***Bella Abzug - the Candidate***, a portrait of the American Congresswoman and social reformer, painted by Alice Neel; ***Betty Friedan as the Prophet***, a portrayal of the influential author of *The Feminine Mystique*, by June Blum; ***Marianne Moore***, the American poet, by Betty Holliday; ***Frida Kahlo***, the celebrated Mexican artist, by Shirley Gorelick; ***Artemisia Gentileschi***, the seventeenth-century Italian Baroque artist, by May Stevens; ***Joan of Arc***, the sainted fifteenth-century French military heroine, by Elsa M. Goldsmith; ***Lilith***, the rebellious first wife of Adam, by Sylvia Sleight; ***God***, a female manifestation of the creator of the universe, by Cynthia Mailman; ***Durga***, the powerful Hindu goddess, by Diana Kurz; ***Womanhero***, a conceptual embodiment of female strength and power, by Martha Edelheit; and ***Self-Portrait as Superwoman*** (Woman as Culture Hero) by Sharon Wybrants.

## Eligible Projects

The themes embodied in *The Sister Chapel* paintings provide a broad range of topics in which to explore programming. They are diverse and expansive from women's issues to investigations of mythology, science, world religions, LGBTQ, literature, politics, and more. Visit this site to learn more about the installation and to view the paintings.

<https://sites.rowan.edu/artgallery/center-for-art/about.html>

## Space Specifications

See attached floor plan. All programming must be developed with-in the available space indicated on the floor plan. All program signage must be mounted on rigid board and must be removable.

## Responsibilities of Producing Organization/Individuals

- Provide any equipment and hardware needed to present the program.
- Installation, production and dissemination of outreach materials, and management of any events.
- All costs associated with producing the program and events.
- Present a program that is open to the public.

## Responsibilities of RUAG

- RUAG will provide gallery sitters during posted hours.
- RUAG will refresh the walls and space after displays are removed.

## Other Terms and Requirements

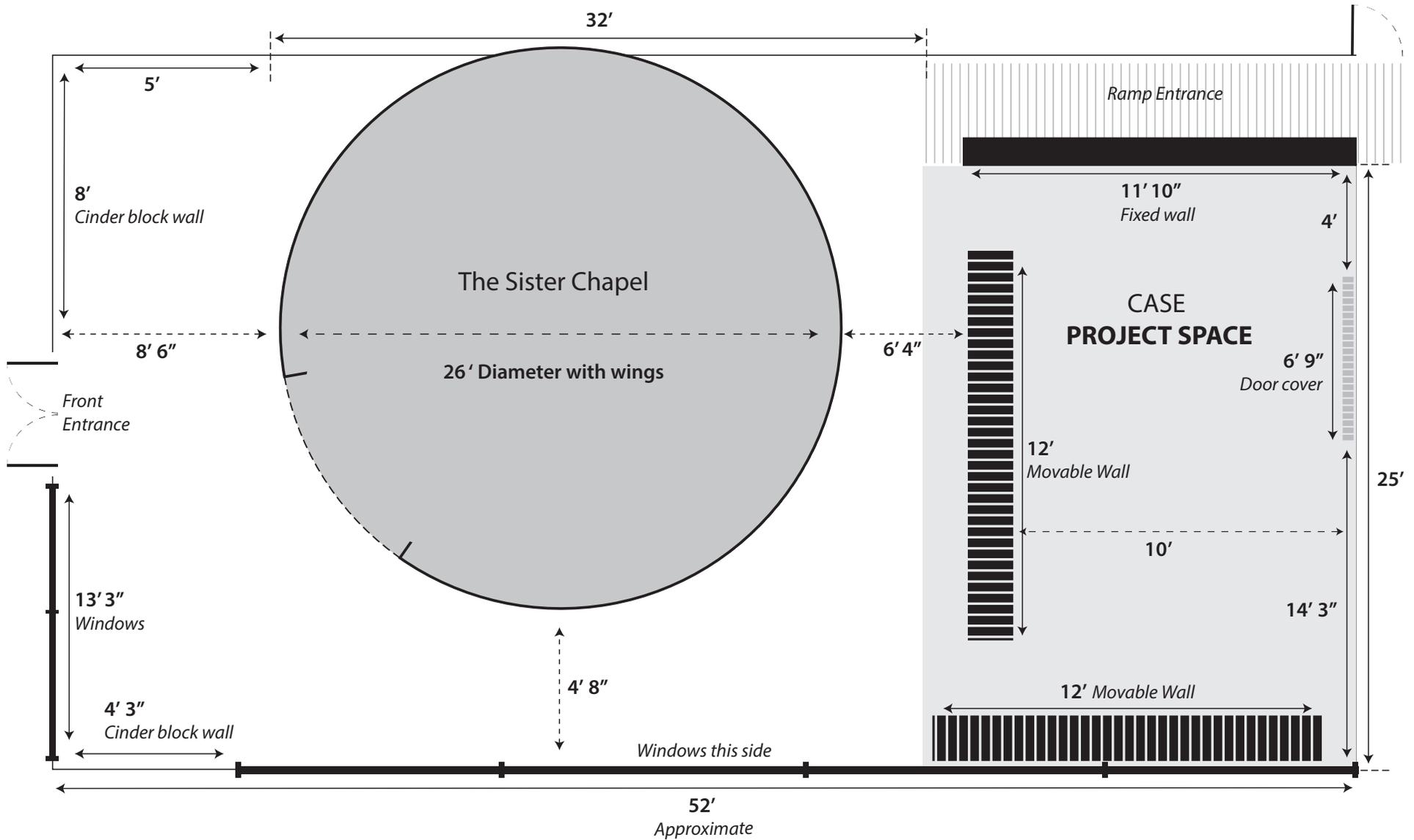
- Access to the gallery is only during posted hours. Access to the gallery after hours is by permission only and requests must be made in advance to RUAG.
- All promotion and outreach materials must credit the Center and the gallery as follows:

This program is developed in collaboration with The Center for Art and Social and Engagement, a program of Rowan University Art Gallery.

## How to Apply

There is no deadline to apply. Proposals will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Provide a one to two-page PDF document that describes the program you wish to develop. Include in the narrative the following:

1. A description of the program you wish to produce.
2. A brief statement on how the program relates to the themes embodied in *The Sister Chapel*.
3. Indicate desired dates for the program and time length desired.
4. Indicate any events you hope to plan during the timeline of the program.
5. Include within the PDF (not a separate attachment) any visuals that will be included in the display.
6. Email the PDF to Mary Salvante at [salvante@rowan.edu](mailto:salvante@rowan.edu) and use this subject line:  
CASE proposal



### SPECIFICATIONS

- Ceiling height: 13'
- Two rolling walls are each 12' L x 10' H x 2' W
- Front entrance doors are 82.5" H x 58.5" W
- Door cover to HVAC room is sheetrock and can be used for a display wall
- Carpeted floor
- Adjustable track lighting
- CASE Project Space is drywall

The Center for Art & Social Engagement  
**PROJECT SPACE**