About the Program

Now Showing is a program designed to foster partnerships between individual artists and businesses by providing opportunities for metro-area artists to display their work in the conference rooms, lobbies, and office spaces of local companies. The partnership benefits the artist who is exposed to a potential new audience, as well as the company who is exposed to new elements of creativity and inspiration.

Company spaces such as conference rooms, desk areas, cafeterias, and lobbies are common Now Showing exhibition areas. Because these spaces are not necessarily designed for art, you may encounter some unique challenges with lighting, wall color, hanging restrictions, and location. The ArtsKC program team conducts a site visit prior to the company using the space(s) for exhibition areas, to mitigate some of these unique challenges.

Each exhibition period lasts 3-months, unless otherwise shortened or extended. Artists will receive a notification via email from ArtsKC program staff with proposed dates when a company seeks to display their work. The company coordinator will then schedule a time for the artist to visit the space and discuss exhibition details. An Exhibition Agreement form is sent electronically to both the business coordinator and the artist no later than 5 days after the installation takes place.

In order to ensure the safety of the artwork, each artist is responsible for the installation and de-installation of his or her own exhibition. Participating companies have a gallery-style hanging system and often do not allow artists to use nails or other hardware. Artists provide the participating company with a price sheet of available work and exhibition labels that includes the
artist name, the title of the piece, and the artist’s contact information. All sales inquiries are
made directly to the artist; neither the participating company nor ArtsKC receives a commission
for the sale of artwork.

At the end of the exhibition period, ArtsKC issues each artist an honorarium of $300 as
appreciation for their participation.

There are currently 50+ companies in the program that are actively rotating artists on a quarterly
basis.

Qualifications
ArtsKC has an open call for artists; we are always looking for new work to add to our Now
Showing portfolio. Any visual artist who resides in the Kansas City metropolitan area is invited to
submit an application to participate. To be eligible,
● You are a visual artist who resides in the Kansas City metro area.
● All artwork is mounted and/or framed and ready for installation.
● Artists must have 10-15 objects that exhibit well together.
● All artwork submitted must be original, owned by, and created by the artist submitting the
  proposal.
● All work must be “business appropriate” in nature. ArtsKC and Now Showing business
  participants reserve the right to exclude works containing offensive depictions, nudity,
  profanity or negative depictions of social, ethnic, or political groups or individuals.
● Artists must be able to commit to a three-month exhibition period.

Getting Involved/ Applying
If you are a regional Kansas City artist that is interested in applying for the program or referring
an individual to apply, please fill out the application on ArtsKC.org.

Once ArtsKC reviews and accepts your application, you will receive a confirmation email from
the ArtsKC staff.

Your next step would be to create a free artist profile on ArtsKCGo.com. ArtsKCGo is an online
guide to arts and culture in Kansas City. The Artist Directory is a free resource for highly skilled
creatives to promote their work to the public and connect with fellow artists. Potential buyers
and collaborators can search for work by discipline, genre, professional services, etc. Artists in
the Now Showing program create a profile on ArtsKCGo.com and are automatically filtered into
the Now Showing artist directory, all with one profile submission.

Creating an ArtsKC artist profile
To create your profile:
● Create a login for ArtsKCGo.com
● Select MY ACCOUNT on the top right side of the page
Select ARTIST in the red column on the left side of the page
From the drop down menu, select ADD NEW
Complete all the required fields
  ○ Now Showing artists must upload a primary image. The primary image should be a photo of your work, not a headshot. Remember, this is the first image companies will see of your work.
  ○ Artists must also have at least six photos of work and one photo of their work on display. These photos should be relatively representative of the work you intend to showcase in an exhibition for the program.
  ■ Scroll down to ARTIST IMAGES
  ■ Click on UPLOAD GALLERY IMAGES
  ■ The text will become bold and you can then proceed to add multiple images. ArtsKC required 6, but more images are welcome and encouraged.
  ■ For each image, please edit the caption to include the name of the piece, the size and the medium.
Submit your profile by clicking UPDATE PROFILE.

ArtsKC must review and approve your profile before publishing it on the artist directory. Please allow 4-7 business days for review. ArtsKC will contact you if your profile is missing any required information.

Once your profile is published, you will automatically be entered into the Now Showing artist directory where companies can see your work as they browse for an upcoming exhibition.

New artists in the program will have a “new artist” tag on their profile for the first year of their participation in the program so companies seeking new artists can find you easily.

Expectations

As mentioned, exhibitions in the program last for 3-month time periods. Artists will be informed by ArtsKC when they are being requested to showcase their work for a company. Most companies will decide on their next artist at least a month in advance before the first month of the exhibition. Sometimes companies will know a few months in advance which artists they would like to bring into their space.

ArtsKC will inform you of an opportunity via email. Thus it is important to be monitoring the email address you provide and make sure you update ArtsKC if your email address changes.

You are allowed to decline a showing if you have other commitments or exhibitions planned. However, ArtsKC will make note of each time an artist fails to respond to an email with a response. We wish to be respectful of your time and schedule and ask for clear and timely communication.
Updating your availability.
If you know you will be traveling or needing to take a prolonged break from exhibitions, please inform ArtsKC of your availability changes. You can email Anna Fiorella at AFiorella@artskc.org or you can also update your availability on your artist profile by logging in and editing your profile.

Editing your profile
Your ArtsKCGo profile can be updated or edited at any time! We encourage you to update your profile at least twice a year and more frequently as needed.

In order to ensure companies have an accurate idea of what kind of work you intend to display, please update your profile with current images.

To add new images to your profile:
- Login to ArtsKCGo.com
- Select MY ACCOUNT on the top right side of the page
- Select ARTIST in the red column on the left side of the page
- From the dropdown menu, select MANAGE ARTIST
- Click on the grey pencil icon under your name to enter the editing mode (do not click your name).
- Scroll down to ARTIST IMAGES and select UPLOAD GALLERY IMAGES
- For each image, please edit the caption to include the name of the piece, the size and the medium.

Preparing for a showing
Nearly all ArtsKC Now Showing companies have installed in their offices the traditional gallery rail system. Please be sure you have at least 12-15 pieces mounted and/or framed, wired and ready to go for an installation before applying to the program. The artist is responsible for the full installation and take down of each showing opportunity.

Recommended Installation Supplies
- Dolly for transporting the Artwork (Dolly)
- Small toolkit that includes paint-safe mounting putty, hammer, nails, hooks and a tape measure (Keep in your car trunk so you have it at all times)
- Paint-safe mounting putty for tags & signage for walls (putty)
- A Level (Level)
- Step Stool Ladder (Step Stool)

Pricing Labels
ArtsKC asks that artists supply each showing with a pricing sheet of the works displayed along with work price labels. Artists are encouraged to use ArtsKC’s Price label template for their
showings. However, each artist is allowed to supply their own labels, as long as they are printed and meet exhibition requirements.

If you are in need of printing support, please contact Leslie Escareno, Lescareno@artskc.org to inquire about printing assistance.

**Hanging Systems**
Many companies have gallery hanging systems for their artwork which make installation fairly quick and easy. You will be able to move cables along a track and hang work on hooks like those shown below. ArtsKC requires that you fit artwork with wire hangers for ease of use.

**Wall Color and Surface**
Generally speaking, corporate walls are neutral in color however you may be surprised by a few accent walls. These walls give you a unique opportunity to see your work against new backgrounds.

When meeting with your coordinator, be sure to ask if labels can be adhered directly to the walls. Some companies have wallpaper, fabric, or specially treated surfaces and will not tape or putty. In that case, you can attach the label to the front or back edge of your frame.

You will not have much control over the fluorescent or track lights installed in the corporate spaces. Be mindful of location when selecting artwork for darker areas.

**Promoting your exhibitions**

**Promoting your work at an exhibition**
There are a few ways to promote your exhibition. There are some required methods such as price labels, pricing sheets, and an artist profile. However we also encourage you to ask a business to share your artist bio and photo in common places such as a break room or kitchen space where employees frequently pass through. Alternatively, you can request that the business share your artist bio and photo publicly and/or internally to their team via digital channels such as newsletters, emails, and social media channels. This will help people get to know you and your work throughout the duration of your showing.

If space and budget are available, the hosting company may want to hold a reception. This event is optional and is subject to the specifications of the company. ArtsKC program staff often promote this type of activity to participating businesses, and may reach out on behalf of the business to check your availability and interest in participating.

**Social Media**
ArtsKC will run monthly social media posts about current exhibitions. We encourage you to also take photos and share your exhibition on social media or on your website.
Please tag ArtsKC in any posts you make so we can also reshare them on our channels as well.

- Facebook: @artskc
- Instagram: @artskc
- Twitter: @artskc
- Hashtags: #NowShowing #ArtsKCGo

We also encourage you to tag the business you are working with for that showcase.

FAQ

Q. How long will it take to secure my first showing in the program?
A. Companies select the artists they wish to have in their spaces. On average it will take about a year for artists to secure their first showing. This timeline can vary from artist to artist.

Q. Do I have to accept a showing? Will I be penalized for declining a showing?
A. ArtsKC does not penalize artists for declining shows. We encourage you to take other opportunities to grow your network and career as you see fit. If you have other commitments, please let us know so we can make sure we can communicate your availability to interested companies.

Q. How often should I update my Artist Profile?
A. As often as needed! We want to make sure your profile is an accurate representation of you, so if your work is changing rather quickly, it might be best to update your profile 2-4x a year. However, we strongly encourage you to check your profile for updates at least once a year.

Q. What happens if one of my pieces gets lost, damaged, or stolen.
A. This is unlikely given that all Now Showing companies have staff and some form of security during business hours, complimented by security measures when the office is closed. Companies are also instructed to not touch or move your work without your permission first. Cases of damage are handled on a case-by-case basis depending on the situation and level of damage. ArtsKC works to ensure the artist and their work are actively valued and compensated in any instance of damage or loss.

Q. Are all opportunities for solo exhibitions?
A. Yes, for the most part. Some companies with larger spaces will bring in two artists to make sure they can showcase art on multiple floors, rooms, or offices. However, most of the time artists will showcase in two separate areas of an office space.