SHOWUP

ShowUp Curatorial Incubator Program (SCIP)
Introduction and FAQs

About SCIP:

At the intersection of ShowUp's exhibition and educational pillar, the ShowUp Curatorial Incubator Program (SCIP), offers an artist or curator the opportunity to bring an exhibition into a space, with the budget and support of ShowUp. Through a structured program, ShowUp offers a 'scaffolding' that allows the selected curator to scale to new heights, while also recognizing and honoring the value of the unique curatorial and artistic contribution.

This program is differentiated from other venues offering space to curators in that ShowUp provides both financial and intellectual resources to the production of the exhibition, and (with confidence in our own experience and ability to support and teach) is willing to take risks on untested individuals.

These individuals may have either little-to-no curatorial experience, or be identified as needing additional support beyond what would be offered to an independent curator. SCIP offers structured and scheduled guidance to curators while also setting boundaries; leaving space for curators to learn independently. Guidance is provided both through ShowUp and via external mentoring as possible.

SCIP exhibitions are considered equal to all other ShowUp exhibitions, and are scheduled without prejudice, and marketed with the care and attention every show deserves.

What's the aim of the SCIP?
SCIP focuses on developing and refining curatorial practices amongst creatives, while bringing different perspectives to ShowUp, offering the community new voices and unique perspectives.

Like for all our exhibitions, ShowUp aims to ensure that this program will act as a springboard from which curators may take their careers to new heights. SCIP will be a once-yearly program, with applications available for 2026 starting in late 2024, early 2025.

How does one apply?
While in the past individuals have been invited to this program, in the future, a call for exhibition proposals will be made public. Applications will be made available approximately 12 to 18 months in advance of possible exhibition dates. The application process will involve a written proposal, a follow-up interview, and possibly a reference check. Announcements regarding applications will be made via email and social media.

What is ShowUp looking for?

No prior experience as a curator is required. However, ideal applicants should:
- have a solid idea of what they want to exhibit and why (and it cannot include one's own art - that's a no-no).
- Fill out the exhibition proposal form as completely as possible. (e.g. follow directions)
- Respect application deadlines
- Have a solid command of the English language
- Be computer-literate
- Be comfortable with cloud computing
- Demonstrate consistent reactivity over email

How does the SCIP work once selected?

After being selected (via a written proposal and live interview) ShowUp sets an initial meeting to refine the exhibition proposal, set intentions and identify individuals who may be possible external sources of support.

In the following weeks the curator and ShowUp team work together to define the parameters of the exhibition and expectations, as well as the production schedule, and establish the cadence and content of regular meetings throughout the upcoming months prior to the exhibition.

An initial meeting or meetings with outside mentors may be arranged as ShowUp sees fit in order to connect the curator to a larger community (of curators, art administrators, public art administrators, or others as appropriate).

Check-ins, meetings, discussions and communication continues as planned and needed with the curator and artists until the installation and eventual deinstallation of the exhibition.

A final culminating deliverable due from the curator is one of two things:
- either a proposal to travel the same exhibition elsewhere, or
- a proposal for a second exhibition, to be submitted to a different venue.

Is this paid?

Yes, there is a curatorial honorarium associated with this opportunity.

In conclusion

ShowUp is focused on supporting the visual arts and creating an innovative environment for underrepresented artists' voices and visions. Our mission is to connect artists to local communities and beyond, to amplify artists and their voices, provide artists tools for self-sufficiency, and empower artists and curators to experiment, learn, and have meaningful

exchanges. We are cultivating our space to be a unique cultural institution unlike any other in Boston. We are cultivating our space to be a reference point for creatives and the public. SCIP is just one facet of how ShowUp fulfills its mission of support artists and curators.

About ShowUp:

ShowUp is a 501c3-designated nonprofit contemporary art exhibition space in Boston's South End. Founded in 2019 by Christine O'Donnell as a sister nonprofit to Beacon Gallery, it has taken over the gallery's mission and programming and continues to refine the social-impact work started in 2017. ShowUp strives to foster art, education, and empowerment through proven models for success. ShowUp supports underrpresented artists, with a focus on social impact through its "Three Es"": Exhibitions, Education, and Engagement.

Our Mission

ShowUp is a groundbreaking contemporary art exhibition, education, and community-building space, creating an innovative environment for underrepresented artists' voices and visions.

Our mission is to

CONNECT artists to local communities and beyond

AMPLIFY artists and their voices

PROVIDE artists tools for self-sufficiency

EMPOWER artists and curators to experiment, learn, and have meaningful exchanges