

Psychogeography: City Practice Request for Qualifications

RFQ Released: January 19, 2026
Information Session: February 2, 2026 at 10:00 AM ET via Zoom
Applications Due: February 16, 2026 by 11:59 PM ET

Summary

Shiftworks Community + Public Arts is seeking 3 - 4 multidisciplinary artists with strong interest in participating in a pilot program that is focused on both professional development and creating artist-designed walking tours.

The total budget for each artist will be \$3,000, which includes an artist fee of \$2,500. This opportunity is open to members of the Pittsburgh Creative Corps as well as any artist living and working in southwestern Pennsylvania. Interested artists will also be considered for the Pittsburgh Creative Corps.





A. Psychogeography: City Practice Background

Shiftworks Community + Public Arts has a long-standing history of organizing and hosting dynamic public art walking tours. Over the past 5 years, Shiftworks expanded from traditional-style walking tours that included subject-matter experts speaking directly to attendees on topics such as local architecture and/or public art, to artist-designed tours that are inspired by psychogeography. Psychogeography encourages navigating public space by walking, while simultaneously incorporating creative exploration, emphasizing subjective and collective experiences, and surprising interdisciplinary approaches. Past examples of our artist-designed tours include the Sycamore Island Kayak Tour, Turtle Cove Kayak Tour, Nine Mile Run Amble, and Walk & Write programming to name a few.

Shiftworks is working with writer Sherrie Flick, an artist who has worked with Shiftworks to build the Walk & Write program, to pilot Psychogeography: City Practice. Shiftworks has commissioned Flick since 2021 to design walking tours that focus on exploring public space through writing. Flick leads tours throughout various city neighborhoods, and at times, invites local guest writers to participate. The goal of the Walk & Write program is tied to psychogeography in terms of exploring lesser-traveled routes, observation, generative writing, robust curiosity, and slow walking.

Psychogeography: City Practice will include an “on the ground” training program for selected artists on best practices for artist-designed tours that focuses on creating public art through movement, instinct, and alternative practices. Artists will develop a tour in collaboration with Shiftworks Program Manager of Education Rachel Klipa and Flick that will launch as part of Shiftworks' 2026 fall programming. Tours must take place within the city limits of Pittsburgh.



Artist-designed tours implemented through this program are funded through the American Rescue Plan Act Arts Programming. The workshop and training component of the opportunity are funded with support from the Appalachian Regional Commission as part of Shiftworks' new Developing the Creative Workforce initiative.

Applicants must demonstrate a strong collection of work and interest in innovative public engagement. Applicants cannot apply as a team. Qualifications submitted through this call will be reviewed by Rachel Klipa, Sherrie Flick, and up to 2 additional Shiftworks staff members.

The total project budget for each artist is \$3,000. This includes an Artist Fee of \$2,500 for workshop attendance, tour design, and tour implementation.

B. The Opportunity

Psychogeography: City Practice will include:

Four in-person professional development workshops in April 2026 that will include Sherrie Flick, Rachel Klipa, and selected artists for the program.

Coaching and feedback on artist-designed tour elements including but not limited to: concept origination, tour design, marketing, tour practice, and evaluation strategies.

Implement a tour that is part of Shiftworks' 2026 fall programming.

Skills that can be used after the program's end to design tours for other opportunities and/or to be continued as part of Shiftworks' programs.

C. Budget

The Artist Fee for this opportunity is \$2,500. Included in the Artist Fee are:

Mandatory participation in the four professional

development workshops.

Tour design preparation including concept, tour route, images, and other documentation to demonstrate tour concept.

Collaborate with the Project Manager to identify any necessary permissions or permits for tour access, review vendor payments, provide marketing assets, and develop a clear tour description, including accessibility description.

Consult with Sherrie Flick and Rachel Klipa during project management meetings to receive feedback to assure the artist-designed tour meets Shiftworks' standards and expectations.

Implement the tour on the scheduled date for the public.

Participate in project assessment, including entry and exit surveys and one round table conversation at the completion of the project.

The Implementation Budget for the project is \$500. The Implementation Budget will be managed by the artist. It's important to note that additional materials for the artist-designed tours should be minimal and that types of materials will be covered during the pilot program.

Artists will submit invoices, including receipts for reimbursement to Shiftworks.

D. Eligibility and Criteria

This opportunity has been released to members of the Pittsburgh Creative Corps and artists living in southwestern Pennsylvania, which includes residents of the following counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Washington, and Westmoreland.

Applicants will be reviewed based on the following



criteria:

- Prior work that shows a strong, consistent, and clear artistic voice;
- Experience working in the public realm;
- Demonstrated ability to work within a given budget and timeframe;
- Demonstrated ability to work with a diverse professional team (e.g., with engineers, construction teams, administrators, etc.);
- Understanding of the overall concept and its connection to psychogeography; and
- Completeness of application materials.

E. Selection Process

Qualifications submitted through this RFQ for the pilot program Psychogeography: City Practice will be reviewed by a selection panel consisting of Program Manager of Education Rachel Klipa, writer Sherrie Flick, and two additional Shiftworks staff members.

Artist selection will be based upon submitted materials. All applicants will be notified of final decisions in March 2026.

Shiftworks may check references to assist in the evaluation of applicants' qualifications.



F. Artwork Project Timeline

Call for Artists Released	January 19, 2026
Information Session	February 2, 2026 at 10 AM ET
Applications Due	February 16, 2026 by 11:59 PM ET
Artists Notified Week of March 16, 2026	
Artists Under Contract	March 31, 2026
Professional Development Workshops will occur on Tuesday evenings, in-person, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM on April 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2026.	
Initial Tour Concept submitted	June 1, 2026
Tour finalized	July 1, 2026
Final tour programming will occur on Saturday September 12 and 26, 2026 and October 10 and 24, 2026 between 10:00 AM and noon.	

Please note this timeline is subject to change.

G. How to Apply

Applications must be initiated through the **Psychogeography: City Practice Application Google Form**. Based on an artist's response to the form, they will be redirected to the appropriate Submittable application.

Members of the Pittsburgh Creative Corps will follow a simplified application process, while non-members will be asked to submit a full Pittsburgh Creative Corps application in addition to a Letter of Interest. Artists must supply the following information and materials in their entirety for an application to be considered complete:

ethnic identity

- Contact information: email and mailing address, phone number, and website.

Applicant Information

Please provide the following information for the lead artist:

- Name, pronouns, gender identity, and racial/

Letter of Interest

Please submit a PDF document of no more than two pages describing:

- Your experience in public programming;
- Your ability to collaborate with a diverse stakeholder group, either as part of your





artistic practice or within another professional capacity;

- Your ability to complete projects on time and within budget and
- Your interest in the topic of psychogeography.

Work Samples

Members of the Pittsburgh Creative Corps: Corps artists will be prompted to review their Pittsburgh Creative Corps Artist Directory Profile and submit requests for any updates to their work samples, if desired. An artist's Corps profile will serve as their portfolio for the selection review.

Non-Members of the Pittsburgh Creative Corps: Artists who are not currently Corps members will be required to submit a Pittsburgh Creative Corps application. The work samples included in this application will be reviewed for the Psychogeography: City Practice opportunity, with the artist's full application placing them under consideration for the Fall 2026 Corps review cycle. More information about the Pittsburgh Creative Corps may be found at pittsburghcreativecorps.org

required to pre-register for the meeting. To attend the information session visit the [Zoom registration page](#).

Artists are not required to attend the information session in order to submit an application. The session will be recorded and made available on the [Shiftworks Vimeo page](#) within 48 hours.

J. Assistance

Artists interested in assistance with or feedback on their application in advance of submission are invited to contact Shiftworks' Program Manager of Education, Rachel Klipa.

K. Questions

For questions about this opportunity or the application process, please contact Rachel Klipa at rachel@shiftworkspgh.org

H. Deadline

All submissions must be received by **Monday, February 16, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET**. Late or incomplete applications will be neither accepted nor reviewed.

Applicants will be notified the week of March 16, 2026.

I. Information Session

Shiftworks will host an information session for this opportunity via Zoom on Monday, February 2, 2026 at 10:00 AM ET to discuss the application process and respond to questions. Participants are



About Shiftworks Community + Public Arts

shiftworkspgh.org

Shiftworks Community + Public Arts envisions a region in which the creative practices of artists are fully engaged to collaboratively shape the public realm and catalyze community-led change. Shiftworks builds capacity for this work through civically engaged public art, artist resources, public programming, and technical assistance.

About Sherrie Flick

Sherrie Flick is the author of five books, most recently the short story collection *I Have Not Considered Consequences* (Autumn House Press). She is co-editor for the Norton anthology *Flash Fiction America* and Senior Editor at *SmokeLong Quarterly*. A 2023 recipient of a Creative Development grant from The Heinz Endowments, she has worked across disciplines for over 25 years, curating adult educational programming as Associate Curator of Education at the Frick, designing programming in connection with exhibitions at the Carnegie and Silver Eye, editing exhibition catalogues and educational content for *The Warhol*, and as assistant editor of *Western Pennsylvania History* magazine at The History Center. She teaches in the West Virginia Wesleyan low-residency MFA program, *Mad Women* in the Attic program at Carlow, and in the Chatham Food Studies program. She is a member of Shiftworks' Creative Corps.

About Rachel Klipa

Rachel Klipa is an arts administrator, curator, educator, and writer. She has worked in both arts administration, and public and higher education for over 15 years. Fluent in Serbian and Spanish, Rachel is a globally-minded individual who values critical thinking, interdisciplinary approaches, and DIY efforts.

Her main areas of focus include modern and contemporary art from Serbia, and public art - with an emphasis on New Deal murals and socially and civically engaged art practices in both Serbia and the United States. Her most recent curatorial projects include *Among Women: Contemporary Art from Serbia*, and *The Wind Got Up in the Night and Took Our Plans Away*. Rachel has received grants from The Heinz Endowments, the Trust for Mutual Understanding, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the American Embassy in Serbia in support of her work.

