BMA ISSUES RFQ FOR ARTIST PROJECT

Baltimore, MD (November 24, 2015)—The Baltimore Museum of Art has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to artists in the Greater Baltimore area interested in being considered for a collaborative project in the museum’s new Patricia and Mark Joseph Education Center. The BMA will contract with one artist or artist team, in partnership with an area non-profit, to produce a year-long project on the theme of home. The selected artist/non-profit team will activate the Center’s commons with artwork and with a series of free public programs implemented between October 2016 and August 2017. Details of the RFQ are available on the BMA’s website. Responses are due by midnight, Monday, February 1, 2016.

The Joseph Education Center is designed to fuel new ways of thinking about art, culture, and contemporary life in Baltimore and beyond. Through exhibitions, public programs, outreach, and partnerships, the Center deepens visitor understanding of human experiences and stimulates the creative thinking essential for addressing society’s challenges. The Center is comprised of five interconnected spaces adjacent to the Museum’s newly renovated Zamoiski East Entrance and East Wing Lobby. The spaces are:

- **Gallery**: Visitors encounter art works from across the collection, from different cultures and time periods, organized around the theme of home. Innovative interpretation and digital strategies engage them in close looking, inquiry, reflection, response, and sharing. *Imagining Home* is the inaugural three-year exhibition in this space.
- **Commons**: Partnering with the selected artist/community organization, the BMA will develop programs that reflect the voices and creativity of the community. This flexible space will host conversations and workshops.
- **Studio**: A lively studio space for hands-on experiences that spark invention, artistic expression, and encourage thinking through making among visitors of all ages.
- **School Entrance**: The existing school entrance is a welcoming space for school children touring the BMA and provides a direct sightline to the Asian art galleries.
- **Docent Room**: The docent room creates new opportunities for the Museum’s volunteer educators to research and learn about the collection and exhibitions, and develop learning experiences for visitors.

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The successful project will:

- Thoughtfully engage the community in the process of its making.
- Be appropriate for installation within a museum context for a period of up to one year. To that end, the project must 1) have a strong visual component, 2) be made from materials that will endure over the course of a 12-month period with little to no maintenance, and 3) be deemed safe and secure for a moderate to heavily trafficked public space.
- Set itself in innovative dialogue with the theme of home and the collection-based exhibition in the adjacent space. This includes developing an artistic project around that topic that lends itself to related public programming.
- Be appropriate and compelling to a broad segment of the museum-going public, including children and families.

Responding candidates are asked to submit a PDF portfolio, resume, references, a letter of intent, and up to five pages of supporting materials. Also required is a letter of support, mission statement, and legal proof of 501(c)(3) status from a non-profit partner organization. Interested candidates are invited to review the full details of the RFQ on the BMA’s website. The selection process includes selecting a shortlist of candidates in March, followed by presentations and interviews with candidates and the final selection announced on April 1. Please address all questions to Jessica Braiterman, Manager of Community Engagement and Learning (jbraiterman@artbma.org).

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART
The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 95,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world. Throughout the museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of American and European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; prints and drawings from the 15th century to the present; works by established and emerging contemporary artists; and exceptional objects from Africa and Asia. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city. The 210,000-square-foot museum is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope. A $28 million multi-year renovation that began in 2010 has transformed galleries for contemporary, American, African, and Asian art, added a new education center, and improved visitor amenities and infrastructure. Since 2006, the BMA has provided free general admission so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION
The Baltimore Museum of Art is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. The museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year’s Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org. Connect with us: #ARTBMA • Blog • Facebook • Twitter • Instagram • YouTube

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