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MARN Partners With Chicago Artist Coalition in Midwest Artist Exchange

MILWAUKEE, WI. July 22, 2014—The Milwaukee Artist Resource Network (MARN), AYZHA Fine Arts Gallery, and MKE<->LAX are excited to announce a pilot exchange program with the Chicago Artist Coalition (CAC) and its BOLT residency. The program, *Midwestern Artists Exchange: Chicago-Milwaukee*, was organized by MARN advisors Cynthia Henry and Sara Daleiden in collaboration with MARN Board President Pamela Anderson. CAC is a professional development organization, similar to MARN, whose mission is to build a sustainable marketplace for entrepreneurial artists and creatives. CAC has run this exchange program previously with Detroit and Minneapolis with great success.

The Milwaukee artists traveled to Chicago on July 12-13, 2014 and the CAC contingent traveled to Milwaukee on August 2-3, 2014. The program's intention is to nurture connections and collaborations among residents and artists/artistic communities in neighboring Midwest cities. Core aspects of the program included the weekend-long tours in which participants engage in an exchange of ideas, trends, and knowledge that taps each group into the creative scenes within the other community. The Chicago sites visited were Dorchester Projects and Rebuild Foundation, Threewalls, The Franklin, 6018 North, and Comfort Station. Milwaukee sites included AYZHA Fine Arts Gallery, Milwaukee Art Museum, INOVA - Institute of Visual Arts, Plaid Tuba, Lynden Sculpture Garden, Terry McCormick Contemporary Fine and Folk Art Gallery, Portrait Society Gallery and Green Gallery. The tours include back-to-back visits to artist-run spaces, studios, galleries/museums and more, as well as presentations, potlucks, and facilitated discussions among the artists.

All participants have the opportunity to experience an intimate view of each space, share each others' visions and ideas. Participating Milwaukee artists include Cynthia Henry, Sara Daleiden, Brad Fiore, Monica Miller, Pamela Anderson, Ronnie Crutchfield, Marlon Banks, Darlene LaMar, Francis Affotey Annan, Kevin Boatwright, Asieh Amiri, Khine Hline (May), Evelyn Patricia Terry and Miguel Ramirez. Chicago artists Oliverio Rodriguez, Rashayla Marie Brown, Phil Peters, Myra Greene, Alejandro Figueredo-Diaz, Marissa Lee Benedict, Aram Han, Sabba Elahi, Sanaz Sohrabi, and Spencer Stucky participated in the exchange as well.

WEBSITES

Chicago Artist Coalition at <http://chicagoartistscoalition.org>
Milwaukee Artist Resource Network at <http://artsinmilwaukee.org>
MKE<->LAX at <http://www.mke-lax.org>
AYZHA Fine Arts Gallery at <http://www.ayzhafinearts.com>

The Milwaukee Artist Resource Network (MARN) is a non-profit, Milwaukee-based organization that contributes to a thriving arts community by responding to the range of arts-related talent in the Southeastern Wisconsin region. Through offering professional tools and resources for sustainable market cultivation, we support local talent in identifying their level of development and we encourage innovative production.