

# Hoop House Public Art Microgrants

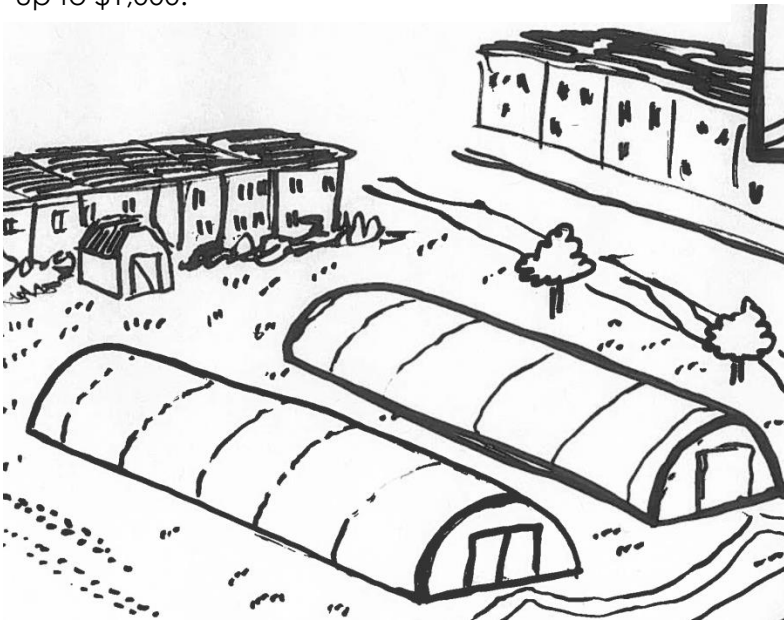
## Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts and the Baltimore Office of Sustainability welcome proposals from artists, communities, and farmers for the creation of **temporary public art projects** on and around pre-existing hoop houses within the Baltimore City limits. This program is in partnership with Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake's Growing Green Initiative, a City-led effort to use sustainable, innovative, and cost-effective practices for stabilizing and holding land for redevelopment, and reusing vacant land to green neighborhoods, reduce stormwater runoff, grow food, and create community spaces.

The Hoop House Public Art Microgrants are designed to:

- Enhance the visual impact of existing hoop house structures
- Draw attention to affordable urban agriculture practices in Baltimore
- Serve as a springboard for dialogue between community residents hosting hoop houses in their neighborhoods and the urban farmers who harvest from them.

Winning proposals will be eligible for microgrants of up to \$1,000.



**DEADLINE TO APPLY**  
**June 1, 2015**

## Eligibility

This RFP is open to artists, designers, landscape architects, farmers, community residents and architects, over 18 years of age and living in Baltimore City.

Only pre-existing hoop houses on City owned vacant lots are eligible sites.

Employees of the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts are not eligible to apply.

## Timeline

**Submission Deadline: June 1, 2015**

Award Notification: July 1, 2015

Project Completion Deadline:

December 15, 2015

Installations can be focused on winter, summer or year round activation.

## Application Checklist:

- Project Description
- Project Drawings
- Project Budget
- Project Timeline
- Letter of Support from local Community Organization
- Letter of Support from proposed Hoop House site
- Artist Resume
- Artist Work Samples

# Hoop House Public Art Microgrants

## Background & Considerations

Urban farmers are using simple, affordable hoop houses to spearhead Baltimore's locally grown movement, transforming vacant underutilized land into year-round local foodhubs. ***What if this popular form of DIY agricultural infrastructure became a canvas for public art?***

### Hoop House Materials

Hoop houses are generally made using Greenhouse Poly film 6mm plastic, which is used to enclose the hoop house, enabling the greenhouse effect. Bent steel frames, and sometimes PVC, are used to create the framing structure, giving the structures their hoop shape.

Shade cloths are often used to cover the hoop houses during hot summer months to reduce temperatures. Hoop houses often have sprinklers and watering systems built in. Some hoop houses also use heating systems in conjunction with fans. Liquid Greenhouse Shadepaint is sometimes used over the poly film for its cooling effect.

### Farming Season

We urge applicants to consider the farming seasons and how their proposed work would affect the work of the farmers who actively utilize the hoop houses. Farmers tend to be busiest from March-mid-November. Farmers are less active between mid-November-February.

### Hoop House Public Art Charette Outcomes

In February of 2015, the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts and the Baltimore Office of Sustainability conducted a charrette to gauge interest from artists, farmers, and community residents in this public art initiative. Participants offered feedback and ideas for potential designs and design constraints. Highlights of the conversation included: a desire for spaces for farmers and community residents to interface, the desire to activate hoop houses visually during the off-season, artist-designed functional features such as bird houses, and more. To read the full summary of the feedback collected, visit: <http://www.baltimorearts.org/hoop-dreams/>

## Contents:

- 1) Overview
- 2) Eligibility
- 3) Timeline
- 4) Background & Considerations
- 5) Selection Criteria
- 6) Budget
- 7) Application Requirements
- 8) Contact
- 9) Hoop House Templates

### Selection Criteria

Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- 1) Artistic Merit
- 2) Appropriateness of Budget
- 3) Visual Impact/Visibility

### Budget

Project budgets showing both income and expenses must be submitted as part of your application. Budgets should realistically reflect the costs of executing the project. Matching funds are not required for this grant, however, if the project budget exceeds the total award amount (\$1,000), the source of additional funding must be made clear in the proposed project budget.

### Application

Applications are available online at: <https://boparegistrations.wufoo.com/forms/hoop-house-public-art-microgrant-application/>

Required application materials are as follows:

1. Project Description (500 words or less)
2. Project Drawings – drawings must clearly illustrate the proposed work
3. Project Budget
4. Project Timeline – note that all projects must be completed by December 15, 2015
5. Letter of Support from the local community organization which hosts the proposed hoop house site
6. Letter of Support from the entity which operates the proposed Hoop House site
7. Artist Resume/CV – artists working in teams may submit one resume for work completed as a team
8. Artist Work Samples (5 images)

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

### Contact

Hoop House Public Art Microgrants are a program of the [Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts](#) and the [Baltimore Office of Sustainability](#).

For more information on this project please contact:

Maggie Villegas  
Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts  
410.752.8632  
[mvillegas@promotionandarts.org](mailto:mvillegas@promotionandarts.org)

Jenny Guillaume  
Baltimore Office of Sustainability  
410.396.5902  
[jenny.guillaume@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:jenny.guillaume@baltimorecity.gov)

