**Open Space 2016-17**

**Your Creative Ideas Realized**

Open Space is a call for student (or team of student) artists, musicians, designers, singers, writers, spoken word artists, DJ, dancers, filmmakers, composers, theatre makers, DIY creative types, and anyone with a brave, creative spirit - to fill an empty physical space (art gallery, stage, or some totally untraditional venue including any spot outdoors) with original creative work, and **earn a $500 stipend and up to $1500 to spend on materials and production.** The space is open to you for the realization of your artistic vision based on the organizing theme of ***“We The People.”*** This theme is drawn both from the fact that this is a Presidential election year but also from the **One Book/One Campus** book for first year students -the Pulitzer Prize-winning one-act play ***Disgraced*** by Ayad Akhtar.

You do NOT have to focus specifically on its content or even to have read the book to apply. But do consider these notions taken from various reviews of the drama: “*Akhtar digs deep to confront uncomfortable truths about the ways we look at race, culture, class, religion, and sex in this bracingly adult, unflinching drama* (Backstage.com);*”* the play *“constitutes the theatrical equivalent of getting to know the new neighbors – something we had better do if we plan to survive as a civil society* (Village Voice);*”* a play *“about thorny questions of identity and religion in the contemporary world (New York Times)*;*”* and “*In the end, one can debate what the message of the play really is. Is it that we cannot escape our roots, or perhaps simply that we don’t ever really know who we are, deep down, until someone forces us to confront it?* (Associated Press).” The author, Ayad Akhtar himself suggests that *“the play is a provocation. It is not a singular point of view that one needs to acknowledge.”* That’s what your Open Space project should attain to be - a provocation inciting thought and perhaps even action. As Akhtar goes on to note, his work is meant to provide access to the present – *“to the way things are. That’s the only way we can change anything, the only way we can change ourselves. The only way we can change the world is by recognizing what it is, now.”*  All artistic visions related to this theme are relevant and all MU students are eligible. The Open Space performance, presentation or exhibition selected will take place during the second semester.

How Open Space Works

Your work should respond to our “*We The People*” theme based on your own imagination, experience, or research. The artistic work can take any shape or form – from 2 or 3-D visual art, installation, or performance in music, theatre, dance, video, design, fashion, culinary arts, or any combination of these and other artistic mediums. It must be your own work, able to be shown to the public in a space on campus, not infringe on any copyright laws, follow the student code of conduct, and show a commitment to thoughtful creative process, intellectual rigor, and artistic expression. All people involved in your project must be current MU students.

Once chosen, you will meet with the professional team including production and administrative staff to support the implementation of your vision. Expertise and equipment in lighting, sound, and video technology will be provided to you as needed. A $1500 production budget will be available to create your work to be displayed, installed, and or rehearsed and performed over the course of a two-week period. In addition, you will consult with the Art & Design and marketing department to create marketing materials and other visuals needed to promote the site-based work you create.

**To propose a project, use the simple form below. E-mail it to** **Barry.Kornhauser@Millersville.edu****, and you will be contacted. Proposals should be sent no later than October 15. Also feel free to contact Barry with any questions.**

**Open Space Proposal Form**

Lead Student Artist Name:

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mayor/Year: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Names of Other Participating Students (if any): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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MY ARTISTIC STATEMENT (Be certain to explain how the project addresses the theme of “*We The People*” and indicate what it is that the audience should take away from experiencing the work.) Your statement should be no longer than one or two pages attached to the Proposal Form.