

SPECTROPOLIS

March 19, 2004

Dear

On behalf of NYCwireless, the Downtown Alliance, and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), please accept our invitation to propose a wireless art work to be considered as part of **Spectropolis**, a 3-day event in Lower Manhattan that examines the expanding use of wireless technologies in urban environments and underscores their implications for art, aesthetic play, community, and shared space. The event/exhibition takes place in City Hall Park October 1 – 3 2004 with off-site panels and workshops scheduled for other times yet to be determined.

This is an invitation to apply only. Artists may submit a proposal for a project that has already been produced elsewhere.

Spectropolis is part of LMCC's larger program titled *The New Lower Manhattan and Its Digital Futures*, a year-long effort that brings together arts and music events, conferences, a think tank and web portal, to explore, demonstrate, and celebrate the role of information technology and interactive media in re-imagining the future of Lower Manhattan.

LMCC's Wayne Ashley, Curator of New Media and Public Programs and Erin Donnelly, Associate Director of Programs, artists Yury Gitman and Brooke Singer, as well as other professionals from the field, will choose eight to ten artists whose work depends upon the creative use of the electromagnetic spectrum (including long-range licensed and short-range unlicensed or Wi-Fi technology). These could include, but are not limited to, works for mobile phones, Personal Digital Assistants (PDA), laptops, radio, wireless video, and other devices. In concert with older technologies and traditional media, these are the new interfaces through which many urban residents are beginning to experience and shape city life. Their increasing presence is transforming the ways we live in, construct, and consume city spaces.

In thinking about your projects we offer the following broad questions that may help you shape the contours of the proposal:

- Does the proposed project form a relationship with, or have a dialogue with the peculiar features of the urban setting—e.g. density, heterogeneity, anonymity, spatial complexity and movement?
- Does the project assist individuals and/or groups to personalize and humanize the urban environment in some way?
- Does the project enable individuals to insert themselves into the larger power structure, or find ways in which to exercise choice and control?
- Does the project reveal aspects of the urban environment that are invisible or simply unknowable?
- Does the project enable individuals to navigate through urban space in ways that are non-goal oriented, idiosyncratic and playful, or alternatively help mobilize the concerted action of massive assemblies of people with common interests.
- Most important, what possibilities do wireless technologies hold for aesthetic play and cultural production in the urban environment?

Because the central event will take place in City Hall Park, it is crucial that you think carefully about the project's presentation and how you will situate

the work within this physical space. Of course, the work may move and/or link to other spaces, but the public will initially encounter and interact with it in City Hall Park. City Hall Park is a free public wireless hotspot maintained by the Downtown Alliance. To see a map of other Wi-Fi hotspots in the Lower Manhattan vicinity, visit www.downtownny.com/wireless.asp and <http://maps.nycwireless.net>.

Concurrent with **Spectropolis**, Cleveland Public Art and ClevelandOne are co-sponsoring a technology-based public art event in Cleveland, Ohio. Artists may propose work that spans Manhattan and Cleveland and experiments with connecting separate urban locations through technological interactions. The site for the Cleveland event will be Euclid Avenue, a corridor that dissects the downtown district and includes the theater district, commercial plazas and a public square. (Information about both organizations is at the end of this document).

In addition, the event will include several workshops that will offer participants an up-close look at wireless technologies and opportunities for hands-on play. The workshops aim to educate a non-technical public and demystify wireless technologies through engaging presentations. If you would be interested in hosting a workshop in addition to your project, please indicate on your proposal with a short description of what the workshop would cover.

Project Benefits

- Fundraising efforts are underway to cover commission fees and production costs for selected artists, however this support is not guaranteed. The commission fee will be determined based on project needs and available funding. We will let you know about the funding status as soon as possible. Artists are encouraged to apply for additional funds through other granting organizations.
- In addition to project managing the actual event and its planning, NYCwireless will provide you with technical support and education about the use and implementation of various wireless technologies.
- NYCwireless will also provide operational organization and primary staffing for the event.
- Wayne Ashley, Erin Donnelly, Yury Gitman, Brooke Singer and NYCwireless will provide a curatorial framework for the event and LMCC will host two panels in conjunction with **Spectropolis**.
- All three organizations will co-market the event through a variety of online and print vehicles, as well as reach out to the local and regional arts communities.

Application and Selection Process

LMCC must receive applications by April 26th and sent to the following address:

LMCC
Spectropolis
One Wall Street Court
Second Floor
New York, NY 10005

Please also send an electronic version of your application and supporting documents to: washley@lmcc.net

All documents must be on an 8-1/2" x 11" paper. **Please provide 6 copies.** Each set should be collated in the below order and paper-clipped.

DO NOT STAPLE, PACKAGE, OR BIND ANY MATERIALS.

1. Resume
2. General artist statement
3. Biography (personal information in narrative form: education, awards, exhibitions, projects, other professional activities, description of work; 100-200 words ONLY).
4. Visual materials including 35mm slides, video (VHS NTSC format), cassette audiotapes, CD-ROMs, URLs (please specify browser version and plug-ins), color copies and/or other printed materials.
5. List of submitted visual materials and technical requirements for viewing.
6. A one-page description of a potential project, including how your project proposes to answer some of the previous questions. Working with the schedule we have provided below, include a timeline and work plan with milestones to be accomplished. Artists may submit proposals for projects that have already been produced elsewhere.
7. Please clarify the project's technical needs and if you possess or have access to the required equipment.
8. A self-addressed stamped envelope with adequate postage for the return of materials.

APPLICATION DISCLAIMER: While all applications will be handled with care, LMCC is not responsible for damage or loss of submitted materials. If you do not enclose a self-addressed stamped-envelope with your application, we will assume you do not want your materials returned.

Project Partners



The Alliance for Downtown New York, Inc. is a not-for-profit that has managed the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Business Improvement District ("BID") since 1995. The mission of the Downtown Alliance is to create a safe, vibrant, and prosperous neighborhood for businesses and residents. In addition to sponsoring economic development programs, business services, and market research, the Downtown Alliance provides supplemental sanitation and security, marketing, enhanced tourist services, and cultural events. The Downtown Alliance serves the area from City Hall to the Battery, from the East River to West Street. In the spring of 2003, the Downtown Alliance launched the Lower Manhattan Wi-Fi Network, which is the leading public Wi-Fi network in the nation. The network provides free wireless internet access in seven different Downtown open spaces as well as dynamic information about neighborhood retailers and cultural attractions.



Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) is an essential part of Downtown's cultural landscape and principal player in its redevelopment – as it has been since 1973. Through progressive cultural planning, innovative artist workspace programs, essential art services, a multitude of funding opportunities and rich calendar of free events in the performance, visual and new media arts, LMCC takes a holistic approach to enriching New York City's creative capital. Its reach extends to artists, educators and cultural groups throughout Manhattan's neighborhoods and creative communities through a range of grants and services that further the exploration of New York's unique urban environment and celebrate its diverse global cultures. Following the loss of their office, studio and programming venues at the World Trade Center, LMCC has relocated to the landmark Cocoa Exchange building in the financial district where it has proudly re-emerged as a new and improved cultural force. Its new space offers a diverse

array of gallery exhibitions, public programs and events, and resources for artists. LMCC receives funding for its new media initiatives from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts. Find out more about LMCC at www.lmcc.net.



NYCwireless is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides education about emerging wireless technologies and advocates the development of unlicensed wireless infrastructure in the New York metropolitan area. Founded in 2001, NYCwireless has helped individuals and non-profit organizations deploy open public Wi-Fi networks throughout the five boroughs of New York City, and in surrounding counties in New York and New Jersey. NYCwireless is a volunteer-run organization, drawing upon the energy and spirit of New Yorkers seeking to create a better environment by helping their neighbors. Find out more about NYCwireless at www.nycwireless.net.

About the Cleveland Partnership:

Cleveland Public Art (CPA) is a private nonprofit public art organization committed to connecting citizens, artists, architects, designers and creative individuals to shape all aspects of Cleveland's public realm. Whether large or small, CPA's projects strive to be catalytic; to leverage additional investments; to create new partnerships; and to engage people with our city in new ways. For more information on Cleveland Public Art visit www.clevelandpublicart.org.

OneCleveland is a new, innovative nonprofit organization whose mission is to bring the most up-to-date technology infrastructure to Greater Cleveland's nonprofit, government, and service sectors. For more information on OneCleveland visit: www.onecleveland.org.

Timeline and Application Schedule

April 26	LMCC must receive artists' proposals with accompanying biography, resume, artist statement, and materials, etc. (6 copies). Send an electronic version of application as well.
May 14	Selected artists notified
June 15	Artists attend individual meetings at LMCC or, if not NYC-based, conference calls. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Artists give updates on work in progress (how project has changed) and receive feedback.• Also at this point a list of artist needs for installation set up and technical requirements (power, special equipment, staffing etc) are required.
July 15	Send documentation or diagrams of work, project description and artist bio/statement for printed press materials and event web site.
August 1	Artists to send a revised list of needs for installation set up and technical requirements if it has changed from June 15.
September 20	Receive work to install
October 1, 2, 3	Presentation