APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applications are due by September 30, 2015.

Submission Materials

- Ten examples of your work (images, text, video or sound files, etc)
- Caption list, which should include the title of your artwork, dimensions, medium, date and other applicable information for EACH work. This should be a separate text document.
- Resume/ CV (include email and website address, if applicable)
- A brief text addressing the following TWO questions (300 WORDS MAX.)
  1) Why would you like to work in the context of The Drawing Center?
  2) If you were to organize a public event (a panel discussion, group exhibition, performance, etc.) around this theme, who or what would it include?

This text should be in Microsoft Word or other text document. Please note that the second question is for our information only. While your answer may inform the work you do during Open Sessions, we will not require that you carry out your proposal, nor is acceptance into the program a guarantee that the proposal can be carried out.

- Title all files AND folders beginning with your last and first name (“Smith_Jane_Resume,” “Smith_Jane_Images,” etc.)

Applications should be submitted ONE of two ways:

1) Upload your materials to WWW.DROPBOX.COM, and share them with opensessions@drawingcenter.org (go to www.Dropbox.com to set up a free account)

2) Via postal mail to THE DRAWING CENTER, OPEN SESSIONS, 35 WOOSTER STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10013
   - Files on disk or USB drive ONLY. Do NOT mail books, paper, or other hard copy materials
   - Please note we cannot return materials.

Do NOT submit your application via direct email.

Instructions for Dropbox submission

- Go to www.dropbox.com
- Set up a free account with username and password
- Upload your materials
- Click the “share” link to share the materials with opensessions@drawingcenter.org
- We will email you to confirm receipt of your submission.

Please read the above information and FAQ page carefully, and feel free to submit via postal mail if you are not comfortable with Dropbox. Email opensessions@drawingcenter.org with questions that are not answered above or on the FAQ page.
About The Drawing Center

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the country to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

OPEN SESSIONS FAQ

We’ve been getting some great questions about what Open Sessions is and who can apply. Here are a few.

I am a musician/poet/dancer/scientist/etc. Can I apply to Open Sessions? How could I benefit from it?

We welcome applications from any and all disciplines. If your work would benefit from a conversation about drawing – as a practice, tool, metaphor, theme, etc. – we encourage you to apply. For further information about what kind of interdisciplinary work is possible at The Drawing Center, please look at our past exhibitions and blog at www.drawingcenter.org.

I don’t live in New York. Can I apply to Open Sessions?

We will accept artists into Open Sessions who are able to be in New York for all or part of the two years. This will be decided case by case: different artists may be in New York for a few weekends, or a few months. The program is open-ended and will include conversations, workshops, panel discussions, and exhibitions, so artists not based in NYC will have multiple options to participate. Also, no single event or program is required. If you are interested, we hope you will apply.

How do I know if my work is appropriate for Open Sessions?

Drawing is a medium that encompasses the most venerable traditions of the art studio, as well as experimental and interdisciplinary practices. We hope Open Sessions artists will work closely to bring together a range of ways of thinking about drawing, from the traditional to the eccentric, from formal to conceptual approaches. Simply put, if this exploration interests you, we hope you will apply. Open Sessions is a new program whose parameters will be defined by the participants.
Can I apply to Open Sessions with a specific project in mind?

It is best if you have some ideas about how your work engages with drawing that you would like to develop with other artists. Though it is not necessary to work in direct collaboration with other OS artists, the intention of the program is for artists to develop ideas through dialogue with others, rather than to carry out a preconceived project.

Is Open Sessions a residency program?

Open Sessions is different from a residency. We do not offer studio space, and Open Sessions events will be occasional (approximately every other month), rather than time-intensive. Rather, we open the doors of The Drawing Center as a space for participants to plan occasional conversations, public programs, and collaborative, process-oriented exhibitions of their work. We hope to provide an opportunity for artists of all backgrounds to think together, without taking away from time in the studio.

Is there a fee for Open Sessions? Is there a stipend?

There are no fees or stipend associated with Open Sessions.

Do I have to apply on Dropbox?

We strongly prefer that you apply via Dropbox, but if you are not comfortable doing so, feel free to mail your application to us. USB drives or disks only, NO hard copy materials. Unfortunately we do not have a tech support staff to help you use Dropbox.

What materials can I submit with my application?

We are interested in whatever materials best characterize your practice. Some examples include: videos of performances or lectures; musical scores; audio files; schematic drawings used in architectural or scientific contexts. We welcome a very broad range of examples of your work.

Can names or examples of other artist’s work be included in my application, for context?

You are welcome to name artists who have influenced you or with whom you have collaborated, if this gives a sense of your practice. However, we ask that your images and other application materials consist only of your own work (or work made in direct collaboration with others.)
Can artists apply together?

Applicants are welcome to apply as a collaborative team.

Can an applicant be over-qualified?

No. We welcome applications from anyone who is interested in the opportunities afforded by Open Sessions.

Is Open Sessions open to applications from students?

No. Open Sessions is an opportunity for dialogue, and we assume students receive this from their academic program.

Does Open Sessions specifically target emerging artists?

We hope Open Sessions will appeal to a wide cross-section of artists at many different stages of their careers, reflecting the range of artists working with drawing.

Can I apply to be an Open Sessions Fellow?

We are not currently accepting applications for Fellows. The current application is for participants in Open Sessions only.

What kinds of “collaborative events” will take place in Open Sessions?

Open Sessions participants will work together with Open Sessions curators to organize programming. These programs might include studio visits, organizing a seminar or a performance, or finding additional partnering groups/ institutions for added exhibition opportunities. They are not workshops or classes in the traditional sense, but rather loosely organized opportunities for deeper conversations about drawing.

Is every public program tied to an exhibition?

No. Installations of artists’ work may be presented separately OR in conjunction with other events.

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