

Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (MAWA) – approved Sept. 1, 2011

Programming Policy

MAWA programming is ever-evolving to serve the ever-changing needs of our membership.

MAWA provides a wide range of programs that reflects the wide range of visual arts practitioners in the community. These programs are of different durations, of interest to artists at different stages of their careers, and applicable to those practicing in different artistic media. Although some programming decisions are made far in advance, MAWA strives to remain flexible to be responsive to opportunities that may arise spontaneously.

Programming ideas and critique are solicited from MAWA members and the community-at-large on an on-going basis. MAWA Programming Committee members and MAWA staff also contribute programming reflection and initiative.

Programming decisions at MAWA are made by the MAWA Executive Director and staff with the input of the Programming Committee. Some programming decisions, such as the launch of a large-scale new initiative, are approved by the Board of Directors. Because of the core nature of MAWA's Foundation Mentorship Program, the selection of mentors for this annual program is also brought forward to the Board of Directors for approval.

To enact programming, MAWA hires visual arts practitioners for fees at or above levels set by Canadian Artists Representation (CARFAC). MAWA prioritizes the hiring of women artists to help redress historic and present-day economic inequality. MAWA also strives to hire women artists of a variety of cultural backgrounds, particularly Aboriginal women, to redress historic and present-day racism, and to make MAWA welcoming and inclusive to all.

Professional artist fees are also paid for exhibitions and screenings, however not for uncurated showcases of members' work.

The Programming Committee meets with the staff quarterly and makes decisions by consensus. Its role is:

- to develop programming philosophy, policy and guidelines (for Board approval)
- to bring forth programming ideas and initiatives for discussion
- to set programming priorities
- to critique past programming

(See Programming Appendix for a list of sample programs.)

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Programming Appendix

In any given year, MAWA programming may include:

- Foundation Mentorship Program
- Mini-mentorships
- Curatorial Mentorship
- Rural and Remote Mentorship
- Master Classes
- First Friday Lectures
- Wendy Wersch Memorial Lecture
- International Women's Month Lecture
- Artist Bootcamp Workshops in professional practices
- Skills Based Workshops
- Visiting and Local Artist talks
- Craft Workshops
- WAM! Wall showcase
- Critical Writing in the newsletter
- Critical Reading and Discussion Groups
- Publications
- Field Trips
- Exhibitions and Screenings
- Symposia
- Artist Residencies
- Virtual Mentorships
- Self-directed support groups