Stonewall Student Artist Residency Submission Guidelines

Competition Overview

Pride Live and the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center (SNMVC) invite undergraduate and graduate students at accredited colleges and universities across the United States to participate in the Stonewall Student Artist Residency. This national competition seeks to bring fresh creative voices into the SNMVC and to reflect on the profound journey from persecution to preservation that defines the Stonewall legacy.

By engaging students with the history of the Stonewall Uprising and its lasting impact on the LGBTQ+ community, the competition encourages creative interpretations of Stonewall's legacy while fostering cultural and social engagement through design. This is an opportunity for emerging designers, artists, and scholars to contribute meaningfully to one of the nation's most significant monuments to civil rights.

Theme: Honoring the Legacy: From Uprising to Preservation

Participating teams will propose a physical design installation for the SNMVC and an accompanying event or activation that draws the community into the space. Proposals should connect historical reflection with contemporary activism and design innovation, creating an experience that resonates with diverse audiences and honors the ongoing fight for LGBTQ+ rights.

Eligibility

The competition is open to all currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students at accredited colleges and universities in the United States. The following eligibility requirements apply:

- Teams may consist of up to four (4) members. Interdisciplinary teams — drawing from fields such as architecture, interior design, graphic design, fine arts, history, and related disciplines — are strongly encouraged.
- Each team must have a designated faculty advisor from their institution. The advisor's name, title, and email address must be included with the submission.
- Team members must be available to participate in virtual design development meetings during the spring semester (February–April 2027) if selected as the winning team.
- The winning team must be available to travel to New York City to install their design at SNMVC during May 2027. Travel and lodging will be provided (see Prize and Awards below).
- Individual entries are permitted, but teams are encouraged for the breadth of perspective they bring to the design process.

Submission Guidelines

All submission materials must be combined into a single PDF file not to exceed seven (7) pages (8.5” × 11” format). The PDF must include the following sections, in order:

- **Cover Page:** Title of the proposal; full names and email addresses of all team members; name, title, and email address of the faculty advisor; and the name of the college or university.
- **Personal Statement:** A brief statement from each team member explaining why they want to participate in this project and what unique perspective they bring.
- **Concept Statement:** A concise narrative (approximately 100–150 words) describing the proposed installation concept and its connection to the Stonewall legacy.
- **Budget Proposal:** A line-item budget for the proposed installation, not to exceed the maximum project budget of **$7,500**.
- **Activation Proposal:** A description of the proposed accompanying event or activation. This may include, but is not limited to, a guest speaker, panel discussion, performance, community gathering, or interactive experience. The proposed activation should be relevant to the installation concept.
- **Visual Presentation:** Visual representations and/or detailed descriptions of the proposed design. Teams may include sketches, renderings, diagrams, mood boards, and inspirational or precedent images. All borrowed images must include proper attribution to the original creator.

Design Criteria

All submissions must satisfy the following design criteria:

- Bring a unique and present-day perspective to the Stonewall Legacy.
- Incorporate an interactive element with the intention of archiving and/or digitizing content for future reference.
- Be inclusive, accessible, and mindful of diverse audiences.
- Incorporate sustainable materials and methods.
- Remain feasible within the **$7,500** project budget and the site-specific constraints of the SNMVC gallery space, which will be detailed during the information session.

Judging Criteria

A panel of design professionals, SNMVC stakeholders, and Pride Live representatives will evaluate submissions based on the following criteria:

Relevance: Connection to the legacy of Stonewall.
Creativity: Innovation in design and event concept.
Impact: Engagement with visitors and the LGBTQ+ community.
Feasibility: Practical execution and logistical considerations.
Sustainability: Use of sustainable, non-toxic materials and thoughtful consideration of the exhibit's lifecycle.

Prize and Awards

The winning team will receive the following:

- A project budget of up to $7,500 to cover the design, fabrication, and installation of the exhibit.
- Travel and lodging accommodations (round-trip transportation to and from New York City and lodging for the installation period), enabling the winning team to travel to SNMVC, install their design on-site, and attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony and exhibition opening.
- The opportunity to build and install their design at the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center.
- The opportunity to plan and host their proposed activation or event at SNMVC in conjunction with the exhibition opening.
- Promotional exposure through SNMVC and Pride Live's media platforms, press outreach, and communication channels.

Key Dates

October 15, 2026: Competition officially announced
November 2026: Virtual information session for interested students and faculty (date and registration details TBA)
December 15, 2026: Submissions due by 11:59 PM EST
January 2027: Submission review and evaluation period
February 1, 2027: Winning team announced
February–March 2027: Design development meetings and progress reviews with the winning team
April 2027: Final material delivery and site preparation

May 2027: Installation at SNMVC
June 2027: Exhibition launch and ribbon-cutting ceremony

Final Installation: May 2027 (exact dates TBD)

Exhibition Opening: June 2027 (exact date and time TBD in consultation with SNMVC)

Intellectual Property

The winning team must, as a condition of the award, execute a written assignment of all intellectual property rights in the final design and installation to SNMVC and Pride Live, including without limitation the right to display, photograph, modify, and create derivative works of the installation.

By submitting a proposal, each submitter confirms that: (a) the submission is their own original work; (b) they have the right to grant the permissions described in this section; and (c) the submission does not violate anyone else's intellectual property rights, including copyrights, trademarks, or rights of publicity.

Submission Process

All submissions must be uploaded using the official submission form at the link below and must be received by **11:59 PM EST on December 15, 2026**. Late entries will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Contact Information

For questions about the competition, submission requirements, or eligibility, please contact the competition coordinators at: **curatorial@pridelive.org**

Links, References, and Resources

https://interiordesign.net/designwire/stonewall-national-monument-visitor-center/

Construction Documents (Linked on our Website Page)

Submission Application Form