

# Vagina China

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*2019 Community Project Grant - Individual Applicants*

## ***The Women's Art League***

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Ms Joy Alice Eisenhauer  
4614 16th St  
Boulder, CO 80304

O: 303-473-0844

## ***Ms Joy Alice Eisenhauer***

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4614 16th St  
Boulder, CO 80304

thewomensartleague@gmail.com  
O: 303-473-0844

# Application Form

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## ***Grant information and confirmation***

*Si prefiere leer esta información en español, por favor haga clic aquí. Se puede responder a la solicitud en español. Un miembro del personal de la Oficina de Artes y Cultura traducirá sus respuestas para que sean revisadas por el panel.*

**DESCRIPTION:** Community Project Grants encourage innovation and exploration in order to achieve progress on the Community Priorities from Boulder's Community Cultural Plan.

**PURPOSE:** The Community Cultural Plan identifies a set of "Community Priorities" derived directly from the hopes and aspirations of Boulder's residents:

- Support the resiliency and sustainability of cultural organizations to enhance their ability to benefit the community.
- Create a supportive environment for artists and creative professionals, while fostering innovative thinking and leadership among them.
- Prioritize the civic dialogue about the ability of culture to positively contribute to the economy, social offerings, the environment, and the authentic expression of diversity.
- Develop Boulder's creative identity in becoming an innovative world leader in cultural matters and projects that identity to the region and the world.
- Focus on the expression of culture and creativity in the public realm through public art, the urban landscape, culture in the neighborhoods, and serendipitous encounters with the arts.
- Amplify the vibrancy of Boulder's cultural destinations: the lively mix of museums, performance venues, events, districts, studios, maker spaces, and other facilities that make Boulder an enticing place to visit, live, play, and work. Fill in the gaps and address issues of access and affordability.

These complex issues are the most important initiatives we can work on as a cultural community in the coming years. The purpose of the Community Projects Grant is to encourage innovation and exploration in order to achieve progress on these Community Priorities.

Total funds: \$80,000

Awards: Organizations \$60,000 @ maximum \$10,000 each // Individuals \$20,000 @ maximum \$5,000 each

Details: The award amount of \$10,000 for organizations or \$5,000 for individuals is the maximum grant offered. Smaller requests will be accepted.

Cycle: Annually.

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS – INDIVIDUALS:** Friday, January 18 at 11:59 p.m.

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS – ORGANIZATIONS:** Monday, February 11 at 11:59 p.m.

Community Project Grants – Individuals

- Friday, January 18 at 11:59 p.m. – Deadline for applications
- Jan. 18 to January 23 – Review by staff for eligibility. Revision by applicants if necessary
- Jan. 23 to Feb. 8 – Preliminary review and score by panel (17 days)
- Feb. 8 to Feb. 13 – Score processing by staff
- Feb. 13 – Preliminary scores posted online
- Feb. 13 to Feb. 20 - Applicants prepare 3-minute optional presentation for the Arts Commission meeting
- Feb. 20 – Arts Commission meeting. Presentations by applicants; panel rescore; discussion and final decisions on grants

#### Community Project Grants – Organizations

- Monday, February 11 at 11:59 p.m. - Deadline for applications
- Feb. 11 to Feb. 15 - Review by staff for eligibility and revision by applicants if necessary
- Feb. 15 to March 8 - Preliminary review and score by panel (22 days)
- March 8 to March 13 - Score processing by staff
- March 13 - Preliminary scores posted online
- March 13 to March 20 - Applicants prepare 3-minute optional presentation for the Arts Commission meeting
- March 20 - Arts Commission meeting. Presentations by applicants; panel rescore; discussion and final decisions on grants

#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- General eligibility. Meets all general eligibility requirements.
- Open to all. Anyone may apply once the General Eligibility Guidelines are met, including individuals, artists, non-profit organizations, organizations with pending non-profit status, fiscally sponsored organizations and for-profit organizations with a community focus. Organizations not headquartered in Boulder may be considered (refer to Panel Evaluation question entitled *Boulder Focus*).
- Service area and programming. Projects must have a significant component of public programming that takes place within the city limits of Boulder. This programming must meet the criteria described in the Chapter 14-1-2 of the City of Boulder Revised Code.
- Projects must take place after the grant funding decision and be completed by June 30, 2020.

#### REVIEW PROCESS

- Deliberation. Grant proposals are reviewed by the Boulder Arts Commission grants panel, which is composed of the five Boulder Arts Commissioners and four members of the arts community. Final granting decisions are made at Boulder Arts Commission meetings. See schedule.
- Evaluation criteria.
  - Community priorities (Maximum 8 points)
  - Cultural offerings (Maximum 8 points)
  - Full access (Maximum 8 points)
  - Proposed outcomes and evaluation strategy (Maximum 8 points)
  - Boulder focus (Maximum 4 points)

- Encouragement points (Maximum 4 points)
- Cultural equity (Maximum 4 points)
- The complete scoring system and rubric for the Community Project Grant can be found here.

## GRANT AWARDS

- Notifications and dispersal of funds. Staff notifies all applicants if their proposals have been accepted or declined. If accepted, grantees must contact the grant coordinator to arrange for payment. Checks are sent by mail or electronically to bank accounts designated by the recipients.
- Communications. All official communications and notifications will be made to the named individual applicant or person designated as the organization contact. It is this person's responsibility to communicate Boulder Arts Commission requirements of the grant award to any collaborators or other participants. This includes, but is not limited to, such things as compliance with grant agreements, identifying Boulder Arts Commission sponsorship on publicity materials, and reporting issues.
- Implementation. Grantees shall implement programs / projects as outlined in the grant application. Any changes to the project, venue, grantee address, schedule, or staff / team members must be reported to [culturegrants@boulderlibrary.org](mailto:culturegrants@boulderlibrary.org).
- Award amount. The Boulder Arts Commission reserves the right to adjust the amount of a grant award offered to an applicant. There are no restrictions as to the minimum amount that may be requested.
- PERA impacts. Retirees affiliated with the Colorado Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) will be impacted by a withholding requirement enacted by the Colorado State Legislature, if awarded a City of Boulder arts grant. Details are available on the [PERA website](#). See "Disclosure of Compensation."
- IRS taxation. Grant awards are non-transferable. Grant awards are taxable and are reported to the federal government. Upon award, a current IRS form W-9 must be submitted for the City of Boulder Finance Department records for each grant recipient, whether the recipient is an individual or an organization/business. The W-9 must be in the same name as the grant recipient named on the grant application. Failure to supply the corresponding W-9 number will invalidate the grant award.
- Agreement. When a funding award is made by the Boulder Arts Commission, the recipient will be contacted by staff to sign a grant project agreement with the City of Boulder. In the agreement, the recipient will indicate the completion date of the project and the date a grant report will be submitted to the Boulder Arts Commission. Reports are required one month after the project is completed, unless the agreement states otherwise. The report must be completed through the online system found at [boulderarts.org](http://boulderarts.org).
- Vendor forms. All grantees must submit a City of Boulder vendor form and current IRS W-9 form so that they may be added to the City's vendor list. Individuals must also submit an Immigration Status Affidavit and Determination of Independent Contractor / Employee Status for Payment document. The State of Colorado law requires proof of legal residency at the time of payment. The W-9 must be in the same name as the grant recipient named on the grant application. The Grants Coordinator will send the appropriate forms to grant recipients.
- Issuance of funding checks. Once the agreement is signed, staff of the Office of Arts and Culture will submit it to City Finance along with the invoice. Funds are delivered within the next 3 weeks. Grants are initially funded at 80 percent of the grant amount awarded. The remaining 20 percent of the grant awarded is paid out upon receipt and Boulder Arts Commission approval of the grant report which is

required one month after the project is completed. Failure to submit a final grant report will result in ineligibility to apply for future grants.

- Acknowledgment of Boulder Arts Commission funding. All publicity for Boulder Arts Commission-funded projects must include the following credit line: *This project is funded (or funded in part) by a grant from the Boulder Arts Commission, an agency of the Boulder City Council.* In lieu of the credit line, the Boulder Arts Commission Logo may be used. The grantee will also be asked to sign a release form and to submit photographs and/or videos of the project that the Office and Arts and Culture will be able to use on their website, social media, printed materials or any other publicity.
- Release form. The grantee will be asked to sign a release form and to submit photographs and / or videos of the project that the Office and Arts and Culture will be able to use on their website, social media, printed materials or any other publicity.
- Thanking City Council. It is suggested that all grant recipients write the Boulder City Council members to thank them for supporting the Boulder Arts Commission and the Office of Arts and Culture. Please let them know how this grant will be used, and the difference it will make to your organization. Please also invite them to attend your events and programs. Visit the City Council website page to find out more about contacting City Council members.

#### REQUIRED REPORTING

- Timeframe for reporting. The grant report is due one month after the project is completed.
- Method. Submit the report through the online system access through the [boulderarts.org](http://boulderarts.org) website. Log in with the same user name and password utilized to submit the application for funds. After logging in, go to the 'Dashboard', then you'll see a 'Follow Up' section for the grant. On the far right is the 'Edit' button. That will take you to complete the final report.
- Extension requests for reporting. If circumstances delay the grant recipient's ability to complete the project and/or the report, the recipient must notify the Commission before the original report deadline. The recipient must submit an email addressed to the Boulder Arts Commission at [culturegrants@boulderlibrary.org](mailto:culturegrants@boulderlibrary.org) that includes each of the following items:
  - an update on the project status,
  - a request to change the project completion date,
  - a new report due date.
- Responsibility. The grant recipient is responsible for submitting a report by the due date. The Commission recommends reviewing the online report form well in advance. There is no grace period for the report.
- Consequence of Delinquent Report. Unless an extension request is approved by the Boulder Arts Commission in advance of the due date, any individuals or organizations / businesses attached as collaborators on the project will no longer be eligible to apply for Boulder Arts Commission grant funds until the report has been received.

#### Certification\*

I certify that I have read the above information and that this project meets the Boulder Arts Commission's eligibility requirements and, if a funding award is made, will continue to comply with the Boulder Arts Commission's requirements and meet with guidelines for high artistic quality, community impact, inclusiveness, funding acknowledgment and reporting.

I certify

## ***Applicant information***

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### **Discipline\***

Select your discipline. If multi-discipline, please check all that apply.

Visual arts and crafts

### **Tax status\***

Cultural organizations/businesses are eligible. Nonprofit status is not required for this category.

Individual

### **Date established\***

Add the date your organization was established. If not applicable write N/A.

10/1/2016

### **Mission statement\***

If not applicable write N/A.

“Vagina China” is a large-scale community art project presented by The Women's Art League (TWAL). Our mission is to utilize art as a tool to engage community and viewers in deeper conversations by demystifying the female body and promoting body positivity. We make art that celebrates women and raises awareness to societal issues that impact women today.

### **Annual budget**

If applying as an organization.

### **Geographic area served\***

If not applicable write N/A.

Boulder and beyond

### **For individuals: organizational affiliation**

Even if an organizational affiliation is stated, awards will be made to the individual whose account is associated with this application. If no organization affiliated, please state 'none'.

none

**Number of full time employees\***

If not applicable write 0.

0

**Number of part time employees\***

If not applicable write 0.

0

**Number of volunteers\***

If not applicable write 0.

150 and growing

***Project information***

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**Project title\***

Vagina China

**Amount requested\***

The maximum award amount offered is \$10,000 for organizations or \$5,000 for individuals. Smaller requests will be accepted.

\$5,000.00

**Project summary\***

Provide a brief overview of the project.

“Vagina China” is both an art making process and a large-scale ceramic exhibition. We are creating multiple collections of handmade ceramic plates. Each set references classical ceramic styles and addresses current societal issues. The plates are works of art and entry points into larger cultural conversations. Thus far, we have explored issues concerning activism, self care, the gender pay gap and the complexity of issues surrounding menstruation. Our next set is intended to raise awareness about sex trafficking, an ever-growing industry affecting every city in America, including Colorado. TWAL is a collaboration between Julie Maren and Joy Alice Eisenhauer.

Our project references the landmark Feminist installation, “The Dinner Party,” by Judy Chicago. Chicago pioneered the Feminist Art movement in the early 70s and was named one of Time Magazine’s “Most Influential People of 2018”.

While the imagery of this project focuses on the female body, this work can be engaging for any person who has felt shame or questioning about their own body. Men and women alike will benefit from the exhibition, where conventional dialogues around gender equity, activism, inclusivity, feminism and body positivity can be explored and transformed.

### **Project calendar\***

Projects must take place after the grant deadline and be completed by June 30, 2020.

We are ready to begin this project immediately. We are planning on holding two "casting ceremonies" in February and March to promote the exhibition and to continue the conversation and awareness that is the very essence of the work. These workshops will also help to raise funds for the materials needed to make of the work. We estimate that we will be able to complete production by the end of June and will begin promoting the exhibition that will be held in August.

### **Project location\***

Where do your projects take place?

Boulder and beyond

### **Collaboration\***

Describe your and/or your organization's most significant interactions with other organizations and efforts. If this is a solo project with no partners beyond the applicant, respond with "None."

Judy Chicago invited us to participate in the making of a film, by Yale University's British Art Studies Program that traces the lineage and evolution of feminist ceramic art from Vanessa Bell's "Famous Women Dinner Service" (1930), Judy Chicago's, "The Dinner Party" (1979), and "Vagina China" by The Women's Art League. To quote her email regarding Vagina China: "it's the very necessity for women to repeatedly assert the dignity of our bodies that makes your project potentially important."

### **Project completion date\***

This is the last day of any public event related to the project. Project must be completed by June 30, 2020.

01/30/2020

### **Date grant report is due\***

One month after the project completion date.

02/29/2020



## Panel evaluation

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**Community Priorities.** The City of Boulder's Community Cultural Plan is a visioning and strategic document that describes how the people of Boulder will align efforts, with the support of the municipal government, to achieve our collective vision: *Together, we will craft Boulder's social, physical, and cultural environment to include creativity as an essential ingredient for the wellbeing, prosperity, and joy of everyone in the community.* The Community Priorities are six points that summarize the community's most common responses in answer to the question, "What is your vision for Boulder's culture and creative economy?" Reference: Cultural Plan and Community Priorities.

### Community Priorities\*

Examples of ways to demonstrate impact on the Community Priorities may include descriptions of how your project or organization:

- Supports artists and creative professionals by providing professional development programming.
- Contributes to Boulder's creative identity and creates a vibrant cultural destination through high artistic merit and excellence in the practice of a medium or discipline.
- Engages the community in civic dialogue about the arts through interactive outreach in the neighborhoods.
- Adds creativity in the public realm by engaging underserved populations in art making for their community.

In what way will this project contribute to one or several of the Community Priorities described in the Community Cultural Plan? Does the project contribute to one priority thoroughly?

Vagina China prioritizes civic dialogue and the authentic expression of diversity by delving deeper into questions beyond gender through an intersectional approach, utilizing the vital role that art plays in shaping thought, shifting conventional thinking, and engaging in deeper questions that ignite conversation around taboo subjects.

Additionally, this project embodies a new approach to collaboration and collective artistic exploration by inviting all women in the community to small-group studio workshops, called "Casting Ceremonies."

We have also received press which demonstrates high artistic merit and excellence from Elle Magazine (Brazil), Cultura Colectiva, Elephant Journal, Huffington Post, the Longmont Times Call, and Judy Chicago has discussed our project in W Magazine, and on stage at the JCCSF and the Brooklyn Museum. See attachments for links.

Lastly, to help develop Boulder's creative identity in becoming a cultural destination, we will hold the initial exhibition in Boulder. Having this work originate in Boulder will bring recognition to our community as a leader in the art world and a "cultural destination." Likewise, Judy Chicago's involvement will bring national attention to the exhibition and Boulder.

### Cultural offerings\*

In what way does your project fill a gap in the variety of cultural offerings in Boulder? What is exciting or new about your project?

Besides offering a new and innovative model for the art making process, The Women's Art League is all about community, collaboration, connectivity, and collectivism. Every woman who participates is considered a part of TWAL. This is intentional. This project is larger than the individual, as it is about the authentic connection created in a council of women.

The success of this project can be measured by the overwhelming response and support by the women involved, and the diversity of the women that are drawn to this project. We feel we have tapped into a collective need for women to be seen and heard in community with other women, in a powerfully raw and open way.

We are beginning our fifth set, the "Silk Road." This set references the long and beautiful history of blue and white china designs traded along the historic Silk Road between Asia, the Middle East and Europe, as well as today's modern use of the route, which is heavily used for sex trafficking. This project raises awareness to the reality that more people are enslaved today than ever before in history—predominantly women and children. This crime affects every part of the globe, including Colorado.

### Cultural equity\*

Among the goals of the Boulder Arts Commission is to encourage the equitable, fair, and just distribution of funds in support of the community. This includes providing support to applicants whose organizational leadership or audience represent groups who are typically underrepresented, i.e. culturally diverse groups, organizations focused on age diversity, etc.) Describe how your project does or does not fulfill one or several of these categories. Describe how your project will address affordability, availability, accessibility, accommodation, and acceptability to diverse groups. For reference, please review the Boulder Arts Commission and Americans for the Arts Statements on Cultural Equity.

#### References:

Boulder Arts Commission Statement on Cultural Equity

Americans for the Arts Statement on Cultural Equity

This project has not been funded by the Boulder Arts Commission. Neither Julie Maren nor Joy Alice Eisenhauer have received a BAC grant in the last 5 years.

The Vagina China project fulfills several of the BAC's equity goals by reaching out to all people in the Boulder community. It provides a catalyst for our community to engage in discussions around issues of body positivity, gender equity, activism, inclusivity, and feminism.

This exhibition focuses on raising awareness on societal issues that impact women today—women, who have historically been marginalized in the discussion of art and art history:

Of 590 major exhibitions by nearly 70 institutions in the U.S. from 2007–2013, only 27% were devoted to women artists.

Only 30% of artists represented by commercial galleries are women.

Only five women made the list of the top 100 artists by cumulative auction value between 2011-2016.

There are no women in the top 0.03% of the auction market, where 41% of the profit is concentrated. Overall, 96.1% of artworks sold at auction are by male artists.

While this project is for and by women, it offers a sense of connection and inclusivity for any person who has felt shame or questioning about their own body.

## Proposed outcomes and evaluation strategy\*

Describe your evaluation strategy for this project and how you will collect data. Please also include your goals for this project and how the benefit to the community will be measured.

Our goal for this project is to engage the women in our community in the process of making art, in connecting with one another, and to help them to connect with a deeper appreciation for their body. Additionally, through the experience of participating in this project, we hope that the women will be more likely to participate in other community projects.

A happy, healthy and vital community begins with healthy and content individuals. This project betters our community on many levels by engaging, educating, and connecting with women in our community. The Nurses' Health Study from Harvard Medical School showed that the more friends women have, the less likely they are to develop physical impairments as they age, and the more likely they are to lead a contented life. To that end, the research shows that the strongest predictor for creating a fulfilled life is building healthy relationships with others—at home, at work and in the community.

Our strategy for evaluating these presumed outcomes, is by surveying all the women that participate in our casting ceremonies. The survey form and evaluations are included in the support materials.

## Additional Questions

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### Boulder focus\*

Are you a Boulder organization/individual serving Boulder or are you an organization/individual outside of Boulder and to what degree do you focus on Boulder programming?

Ultimately, the focus of this project is Boulder.

Both artists received their Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees from the University of Colorado in the 1990's, and have lived and worked in Boulder ever since. Each has participated in the community, and played roles in different arts organizations, including the Open Studios tour. Both artists have shown their work extensively in Boulder; taught art to Boulder residences; and donated their work to various non-profit organizations for fundraising purposes.

The Vagina China project is being created at our studio in Boulder, where the casting ceremonies also take place. Most of the participants, volunteers and collaborators are based in Boulder.

The exhibition unveiling will be held in Boulder at Seidel City. We are confident that the press we have received so far will continue and extend far beyond Boulder, and reflect well upon Boulder as a hub for creativity and support of the arts—the place that fostered this project and helped it grow to what we hope to be an international sensation!!

### Encouragement points\*

Among the goals of the Boulder Arts Commission is to encourage the equitable, fair, and just distribution of funds in support of the community. This includes providing support to applicants who have not yet received a grant in this cycle. Confirm if your organization has been funded in the current cycle.

No

## Attachments

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### ATTACHMENTS

The following attachments are required. Please title your attachments according to the headings listed below.

#### **Budget summary\***

Provide a brief budget summary for this project including all revenue (monetary and in-kind contributions, including this grant) and expenses. Please title the attachment "Budget summary". Permitted file types: xl, xlsx, pdf.

Vagina China Budget summary.pdf

#### **Partner/Collaborator List**

Provide a list of each individual / organization that has a significant coordinating role in this project. Please title the attachment, "Collaborator list". Include their name, contact information, and role. Permitted file types: doc, docx, pdf.

#### **Venue confirmation letter\***

Attach confirmation from the hosting venue that the project is approved and scheduled. Please title the attachment "Venue confirmation letter". Permitted file types: doc, docx, pdf

Seidel City venue confirmation letter.pdf

#### **Letters of support**

Attach any letters of support that will be useful in understanding community involvement and enthusiasm for the project. This is optional. Please title the file, "Letters of support". Permitted file types: doc, docx, pdf

Letter from Judy Chicago.pdf

#### **Other support materials**

Attach any documents that will help the jury fully understand the project, including videos and other materials that may help the commission evaluate artistic quality. This is optional. Please title the file, "Support materials". Permitted file types: doc, docx, xl, xlsx, pdf

Support Materials.docx

## ***Submission and signature***

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### **Application on the website (optional)**

I certify that, if funding is awarded, my application may be presented on the boulderarts.org website. The Office of Arts and Culture staff will send a copy of the document to the applicant listed for approval in advance of posting on the website.

Yes

### **Certification\***

I certify that all information contained in this application and attachments is true and accurate. All funded activities must provide equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and may not discriminate on the basis of disability, color, creed or religion.

I certify

### **Full name\***

Joy Alice Eisenhauer

### **Submission date\***

01/18/2019

#### **TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION**

All required fields must be filled in with the appropriate information and/or attachments. Click on the "Submit Application" button and an email notification that your application has been received will be sent. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please notify staff immediately. Note that once the application is submitted, it cannot be revised or added to. Please make certain that you have included all information and attachments prior to submitting.

## File Attachment Summary

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### ***Applicant File Uploads***

- Vagina China Budget summary.pdf
- Seidel City venue confirmation letter.pdf
- Letter from Judy Chicago.pdf
- Support Materials.docx

**Vagina China, presented by "The Women's Art League"**  
**BAC Budget Narrative**

***INCOME***

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Notes</b>
BCAA Project Grant	\$ 3,500		
Casting ceremonies	\$ 750	2 ceremonies x 15 attendees x \$25	
BAC Rental Assistance Grant	\$ 300	We will applying for a Rental Assistance grant to help offset the rental fees	
BAC Community Project Grant	\$ 5,000	These moneys will be allocated to pay a percentage of the artist's fees, materials, and the exhibition.	
In Kind	\$ 6,300	50% of Artist hourly fees	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 15,850</b>		

***EXPENSES***

<b>Expense</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Artist fees	\$ 12,600	2 artists @ \$35/hour x 20 hours/week x 2 months in the studio	50% of these hours will be donated in kind support
Studio Space	\$ 600	\$300 a month x 2 months	
"Casting Ceremony" materials	\$ 160	Art supplies, gloves, plastic covering, towels, and cleaning suplies	
<b><u>Materials</u></b>			
Clay	\$ 250	500 pounds x .50	This is the amount of clay estimated to make all plates
Glazes	\$ 173	5 pints of clear glaze @ \$16.50 + 5 pints of Blue Underglaze @ \$18	This is the amount estimated to cover the cost of glazing and detail work
Firing costs	\$ 580	4 bisque firing @ \$35+ 4 Glaze firing @ \$75 + 4 Detail Firing @ 35	This covers all the fire kiln firings we will need to finish all of the plates
Alja Safe Lifecasting Alginate (20lb)	\$ 276		
Plaster 25lb	\$ 31		
<b><u>Exhibition</u></b>			
Rental Facilities	\$ 300		
Posters	\$ 150		
Printing & Postage	\$ 200		
Installation	\$ 530	paint, hanging materials, and signage	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 15,850</b>		

August 6, 2019

To whom it may concern,

The Women's Art League (Julie Maren and Joy Alice Eisenhower) are invited to show *Vagina China* at Seidel City in 2019. We are still working out our exhibition schedule for the year and do not have an exact date but this letter confirms our intention to show *Vagina China* in 2019. **We have agreed that the space rental is \$300** and the artists will cover the cost related to the opening including food, drink and invitations.

Sincerely

Terry Seidel



January 3, 2017

Dear Julie;

Thank you for reaching out to me for your “Vagina China” project. I am pleased that my work has been meaningful to you and your colleagues. Curiously, over the last year, I have been contacted or read about a number of vagina/vulva projects including a “Vagina Room” established by a Swedish designer in her showroom; a Japanese artist whose vagina-shaped canoe caused considerable controversy; and an undertaking by the *Guardian* in England inviting vulva drawings which produced a wide range of creations along with an unanticipated (and amusing) submission of “Volvo drawings”. And some years earlier, the British artist Jamie McCarney cast 400 vaginas in plaster and exhibited them in Berlin as “The Great Wall of Vaginas” to counter what he called ‘body fascism’, i.e. telling women what to do with their bodies.

In thinking about this worldwide phenomena, I cannot help but remember my own experiences as a young artist in southern California in the 1960s’ when the art scene was extremely inhospitable to women. In an effort to make a place for myself, I used to hang out at Barney’s Beanery with the “Ferus boys”, a group of prominent young male artists (I was the only woman). They fostered a highly competitive atmosphere in which they put each other down, notably by calling each other ‘cunts’ which was (to them) an extremely degrading term. My problem was what to do with the ‘cunt’ I had as it clearly made both me and my work unacceptable. For almost a decade, I tried to distance myself from my female identity but it caught up with me. Although I liked to think that art has no gender, clearly that was not the world’s view.

Finally, I decided to face my circumstances as a woman and try to make art out of my experiences - and to encourage other women to do the same. I wish I could say that my efforts changed the world; with the hubris of youth, that was my dream. But - as our recent election made all too clear - fear and hatred of women is alive and well. This situation prompts others, as it prompted me, to try and counter the negative

attitudes towards the female body that confront women all over the world (manifested in everything from genital mutilation to internet body shaming). No surprise that this effort focuses on the vagina/vulva. In my own work, I struggled to create images of female agency. Even when these images were visually transformed (as in *The Dinner Party*), they produced shrieks of critical

outrage. It would take several decades before artists gained the freedom to openly create vaginas/vulvas as the organizers of the “Vagina China” project are doing. It is not a surprise that they have received so much response from other women nor - I suppose - that this same impulse is happening around the Western world. Until women and women’s bodies are accorded respect and honor, there will a necessity for such projects, particularly this one which clearly provides a shared divesting of shame, a celebration of what it means to be a woman and a deep expression of self-worth through art. I hope that “Vagina China” will receive the support it needs and deserves. And I also hope that I will be able to visit the project and share my work and perspective in a public lecture at a date to be arranged sometime in 2017/2018.

Judy Chicago

## Support Materials:

### Film:

The reach of this project has gone far beyond Boulder. Last January, Ms. Chicago invited us to participate in the making of a [film](#) at the [Brooklyn Museum](#), where *The Dinner Party* is permanently on display. The film, by [Yale University's British Art Studies Program](#) traces the [lineage and evolution of feminist ceramic art](#) from Vanessa Bell's "Famous Women Dinner Service" (1930), Judy Chicago's monumental work, "The Dinner Party" (1979), and "Vagina China" by The Women's Art League. **Make sure to watch the first 12 (Minutes 9 through 12 are the most import. Minute 16 is also highlights the power of this work)** minutes of the film to hear Ms. Chicago speak about Vagina China.

### Press:

In addition to participating in the film, we have also received press from [Elle Magazine \(Brazil\)](#), [Cultura Colectiva](#), a popular online media platform in Latin America. [Elephant Journal](#), [Huffington Post](#), the [Longmont Times Call](#), and Judy Chicago has discussed our project in [W Magazine](#), and on stage at the [JCCSF](#) and the [Brooklyn Museum](#), both in conversation with arts journalist, Sarah Thornton.

### Exhibitions:

*Vagina China* has exhibited at Louisville's [Dona Laurita Gallery](#), [RedLine Art](#) in Denver, [The Eldorado Springs Arts Center](#), [The Boulder Creative Collective](#), and [Skye Gallery](#) in Aspen, Colorado.

### Workshops:

Workshops have been hosted throughout the Boulder community, [The Eldorado Springs Art Center](#), [Seidel City](#), [Longmont Firehouse Art Center](#), [The RedLine Art Center in Denver](#), [The Brooklyn Museum](#) in New York City, and [The Women's Building](#) in San Francisco. As well as presentations made at the Community College of Aurora's "[Safe is Sexy](#)" outreach program and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

### Judy Chicago:

Powerful art can sometimes push boundaries and make people uncomfortable by bringing taboo subjects to the forefront—but that is what makes it effective, potentially transformational, and worthy of funding. Judy Chicago initially received negative [reviews for \*The Dinner Party\*](#) however that work is now viewed as iconic and Judy Chicago was named one of Time Magazine's "[Most Influential People of 2018](#)"

### Women in the art world:

This exhibition focuses on raising awareness on societal issues that impact women today—women, who have historically been marginalized in [the discussion of art and art history](#):

- Women working across arts professions make almost \$20,000 less per year than men.
- Of 590 major exhibitions by nearly 70 institutions in the U.S. from 2007–2013, only 27% were devoted to women artists.
- Only 30% of artists represented by commercial galleries are women.

- Only 27 women (out of 318 artists) are represented in the 9th edition of H.W. Janson’s survey, *Basic History of Western Art*—up from zero in the 1980s. (Judy Chicago is one of them!)
- There are no women in the top 0.03% of the auction market, where 41% of the profit is concentrated. Overall, 96.1% of artworks sold at auction are by male artists.

## Vagina China Evaluation Survey:

1. My appreciation for the art making process has grown:

Not at all                  quite a bit                  greatly

1. My connection with other women has opened:

Not at all                  quite a bit                  greatly

1. My comfort and appreciation of my own body has deepened:

Not at all                  quite a bit                  greatly

1. My willingness to participate in other community arts projects has evolved:

Not at all                  quite a bit                  greatly

Of the participants polled, 100% responded “quite a bit” or “greatly” to every question.

- 75% of participants polled reported that their appreciation for the art making process has grown greatly.
- 69% of the participants polled reported that their connection with other women has opened greatly
- 50% of the participants polled reported that their comfort and appreciation of my own body has deepened greatly.
- 81% of the participants polled reported that their willingness to participate in other community arts projects has evolved greatly

**Additionally, the women are asked if they have any other comments that they would like to share. Here are a few of their responses:**

*“This project opened my heart and my mind. I felt held, empowered and sensual.”*

*“I appreciate the care that the artists took in making the experience respectful, reverent, yet tender.”*

*“It is high time we celebrate the feminine and this large literal and beautiful representation of female will symbolize our strength, elegance and magnificence.”*

*“I felt nurtured and cared for greatly. I am proud to be part of this project that is so needed at this time of opposing energies in our world.”*

*“A beautiful experience that deepened my connection to womanhood.”*

*“This was the most interesting outcome. I have felt (after having 3 children and one child loss) that my own body had flaws. But now I feel a greater appreciation for the gifts my body has offered me. I find more beauty and less flaw!”*

*“To have an opportunity like this is not common and to be treasured. To be involved with and artist, their vision and their passion allows the participant a view into another world and an opportunity for self growth and connection”*

## Resume:

**The Women’s Art League** is a collective led by Julie Maren & Joy Alice Eisenhauer

[TheWomensArtLeague@gmail.com](mailto:TheWomensArtLeague@gmail.com)

### SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2017 RedLine 4th Annual Juried Exhibition

### PRESS AND FEATURES

**Longmont Times Call**, Karen Antonacci, "[Women in Longmont contribute to Vagina China art project meant to demystify their bodies](#)” Article, April 1, 2018

**Longmont Times Call**, Karen Antonacci, "[Vagina China casting ceremony set for Saturday in Longmont](#)” Article, March 28, 2018

**ELLE Magazine (Brazil)**, Julia Valentini Storch, "[Fale Con Ela](#)” (“Talk to Her”), Feature, March, 2018

**Elephant Journal**, Rachel Znerold, "[I Cast my Lady Parts with the Vagina China Project.](#)” Article, February 9, 2018

**British Art Studies**, Hana Leaper, "[The Famous Women Dinner Service: In Conversation with Contemporary Art.](#)” Film, This conversation between Judy Chicago, The Women’s Art League, and D. Hana Leaper, filmed by Jonathan Law at the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, Brooklyn Museum, will be published in early 2018. *British Art Studies* is jointly published by the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, London, UK, and the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, CT.

**British Art Studies**, Dr Hana Leaper, "[The Famous Women Dinner Service: A Critical Introduction and Catalogue.](#)” November 30, 2017, Article about the recent rediscovery of Bloomsbury Artists, Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant’s “Famous Women” Dinner Service and “The Dinner Party,” which places Vagina China into a larger continuum of feminist art using ceramics and the plate form..

**Cultura Colectiva**, "[Vagina China Is The Art Project That Was Created To Erase Your Outdated Vagina Taboos.](#)” Maria Suarez, December 21, 2017, Article, Cultural Colectiva is a South American Media Platform.

**W Magazine** "[Why Judy Chicago, 78-Year Old Feminist Godmother of Vagina Art, Is Having a Revival.](#)” Stephanie Eckardt, Vagina China discussed with Judy Chicago, October 23, 2017

**JCCSF** “Pussy Power: A conversation between Sarah Thornton and Judy Chicago” 2017-2018 Season, Vagina China is discussed.

**Huffington Post** "[Finding My Pussy Power.](#)” Kiri Westby, September 27, 2017

### ARTIST TALKS

2018 **The “Vagina China” Project.** For this project, we host workshops which have taken place in various art spaces including The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY; The Women’s Building, San Francisco, CA; Redline Arts, Denver; Dona Laurita Gallery, Louisville, CO; Firehouse Art Center, Longmont, CO; The Eldorado Spring Art Center, Eldorado Springs, CO; The Birds Nest Gallery, Aspen, CO.

**University of Colorado at Boulder**, “Feminism in Art,” presentation for U.S. Resistance Movements.

**Brooklyn Museum of Art, Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art** “*The Famous Women Dinner Service: In Conversation with Contemporary Art,*” a filmed conversation between artists Julie Maren, Joy Alice Eisenhauer, Judy Chicago and Dr. Hana Leaper about the relationship between “Vagina China,” “The Dinner Party” and Vanessa Bell’s “Famous Women” dinner service, Fellow at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art

2017 “Safe is SEXY” Community College of Aurora

## **AWARDS**

2018 Boulder County Arts Alliance Project Grant

2017 Awesome Grant, The Awesome Foundation, "Vagina China" project funding