



Worcester on the Couch

Call for Submissions

In celebration of the Worcester Cultural Coalition's 10 years of creative city-making and to mark the 100th anniversary of the visit by Sigmund Freud to Worcester (his only speaking engagement in the US), area artists are invited to help us "put Worcester on the couch." This interactive public art project intends to allow people to take to the couch – to express their visions and concerns about the City and region. The couch implies different things to each of us: potato couch, seeking therapy, a tryst, or place of respite. It's up to you to decide.

The Couch will make its first appearance on Sunday, September 20th 2009, during the stART on the Street art festival and also will be displayed at various events and locations (indoors and out) around Worcester County in the months to come. Visitors to The Couch will be invited to write out their complaints and concerns on slips of paper and to deposit them in a box provided as part of The Couch display. These slips will subsequently be given to other artists and performers to create original music, poetry and artistic expressions that will help us let go of our negativity and look to a forward thinking creative identity.

COMPETITION: Artists are invited to submit their ideas for The Couch to a jury composed of Coalition members, who will award a \$1,000 commission for execution of The Couch in time for the September 20th unveiling. Judges will be looking for a design that is creative, engaging, and in its own way undeniably about Worcester. Proposals may be submitted by groups and organizations, as well as individual artists.

REQUIREMENTS: The Couch must not be larger than 33" high, 40" wide, or 60" long, nor weigh more than 150 lbs. It should be fabricated of materials that can withstand frequent moves and possible exposure to inclement weather conditions. It must be possible for at least one person to sit on the couch (although reclining is also to be encouraged), and a "complaints box" must be integrated and attached to The Couch.

TO SUBMIT: All proposals must be submitted by e-mail by 5:00pm, Friday, August 14th 2009, to culture@ci.worcester.ma.us and must include the following:

- 1) Sketch or rendering of the concept, with dimensions noted, submitted as a JPG file. The name of the submitter should not be visible in the image, as the initial round of judging will be blind.
- 2) Brief statement which describes the materials to be used in fabrication, talks about the "Worcester-ness" of the proposed design, and introduces the jurors to the individual or group making the submission. The statement should be in a Word file. Include complete contact information, including phone number(s) and e-mail address.

The winner of the competition will be contacted on or before Wednesday, August 19th 2009, giving them just one month for the completion of The Couch. We are looking for spontaneity and creativity. It's Worcester: Who Knew!

This project is sponsored in part by the Worcester Cultural Coalition and Clark University, site in 1909 of Sigmund Freud's only USA lectures.