**Name:** Art on the Block: Detroit Artist + Community Relief Fund

**One Sentence:** To support Detroit Artist and our creative community by raising funds for direct emergency relief through virtual prompts for arts-based practices and joy-affirming activities.

**The Project:**
This fund will provide immediate financial support of up to $500 to Detroit creatives and cultural curators to help compensate for some of the unexpected loss of income due to the Covid-19 crisis.

In an effort to increase the number of individuals we can support through this initiative, Garage Cultural/Art on the Block has also committed to match any funds raised with ioby. Making every dollar donated increase from a 1:1 match from ioby to a 1:2 match from ioby/GC-AOB.

Then, later this summer when it’s safe for us to gather, we will be inviting everyone that applied to join us for a community event celebrating both our creative resiliency and the 10-year anniversary of the Victoria Violeta mural done in SW Detroit by Dasic Fernandez and the Rebel Diaz Arts Collective during the 2010 US Social Form in Detroit.

*Art on the Block - Arte en la Cuadra* (AOB) is a community public art initiative in Southwest Detroit that gradually developed from grassroots efforts dating back to 1998. Formally established in 2017, it seeks to achieve a significant visual and social impact by collaboratively creating murals and events that are reflective of the neighborhood’s identity, heritage, and overall appreciation for many forms of artistic expression. From murals on local businesses to art in parks, streets and on residential homes, *AOB* is about “coloring our streets” with the same kind of diversity and creativity we see in the people who live and work in the area, believing that when individuals are proud of their surroundings, a natural process of positive self-imaging begins to take place, which ultimately affects the overall safety, empowerment and cohesion of a community.

**The Steps:**

**Funds will be distributed in two ways:**

1) Through applications for direct support from local artist/cultural curators who have been negatively affected by physical distancing, event cancelations, and loss of income. In exchange, applicants will be asked to donate something that will either encourage individual donations or provide a resource to the community.
   **Examples:**
   - **Art:** donate a piece of art that could be used in a 50/50 raffle or online auction with residents.
   - **Virtual:** host an online workshop, concert, dialogue, or any other creative content.
   - **Free-Form:** come up with an idea that works for you and your artistic medium.
   - **Prompts:** help us develop and execute a creative community prompt.

2) Through submissions based on creative prompts developed for residents, artists and youth to participate in.
   **Examples:**
   - Earth Day Art Contest
   - Photography Prompts
   - Design a Community Coloring Page
   - Poetry Prompts
   - Write a Short Story
   - Capture a Piece of SW Oral History

Prompts and application details will be published at: [www.garagecultural.org/artsfund](http://www.garagecultural.org/artsfund)

**Other ways to support/participate:**

1) Become an organizational/business partner by either pledging additional funds or collaborating on one of the artistic prompts with in-kind support.
2) Submit an idea for us to potentially use as a creative prompt. Anything goes!
3) Volunteer to support by joining the community panel or helping with other fund administration/logistics.
How will artist/individuals be selected:
- Submissions for direct artist assistance will be selected randomly (after initial criteria is reviewed).
- Submissions based on the creative prompts will be selected by a community panel from within three self-identified categories: resident, youth, or professional artist.


Why we’re doing it:
The current global pandemic has made it impossible for us to gather and make art together as a community. Many projects that were planned to commence this spring are now pushed back indefinitely until physical distancing is no longer necessary for our collective health and well-being. So, instead of painting large scale murals right now, we have decided to shift some of our resources to find creative ways to continue to be an outlet for arts and cultural exploration in our community. Hoping that even during these times Art on the Block can grow a deeper sense of collectivity by providing direct support to the artist and cultural workers that have always brought so much vibrancy to our lives through their work.

“Every crisis, actual or impending, needs to be viewed as an opportunity to bring about profound changes in our society. Going beyond protest organizing, visionary organizing begins by creating images and stories of the future that help us imagine and create alternatives to the existing system” -Grace Lee Boggs

Giving Levels:
$5-25: Modern Art Supporter
$30-50: Street Art Supporter
$55-250: Abstract Art Supporter
$255-500: Contemporary Art Supporter
$505-1000: Renaissance Art Supporter

Budget Breakdown:
$4,000 potential donations.
$4,000 max ioby match.
$4,000 max GC/AOB match.
$12,000 maximum fund potential.

All funds received and matched will go directly to supporting applications.