

Interact Center Overview

Since 1996, Interact's mission, **to create art that challenges perceptions of disability**, has opened doors for creators and audiences who might never have seen the art as a life choice, but who now see the arts as essential to their humanity. We were the first – and remain the only – visual and performing arts organization nationally or internationally that is creating full-time at the professional level, offering a complete season of performances and exhibitions to a broad public audience.

In our history, we have produced dozens of original, ensemble-created plays; mounted over four dozen exhibitions of original work; and hosted a national juried arts exhibit in our gallery. Artists are paid fees for performances or commissions on the sale of artwork, that are comparable to standards of other mid-sized arts organizations.

Interact's driving vision of **radical inclusion** recognizes the fact that people with disabilities are uniquely creative and talented but are often locked into failure situations because their creativity is ignored, discouraged, or considered inappropriate. Interact's mission challenges that perception. We have been leaders in developing an inclusive creative environment, producing critically recognized work that blurs the boundaries between who "can" and who "cannot," and blending a wide spectrum of talents and abilities by artists with and without disabilities.

Our company has continued to grow throughout the years, starting with only five artists in 1996, to well over 100 artists today!

Through our mission, Interact **creates art** in a spirit of radical inclusion; **inspires artists and audiences** to explore the full spectrum of human potential; and **transforms lives** by expanding ideas of what is possible.

What happens at Interact?

Interact is a place where artists with disabilities come to enhance their creativity and build their talents through the daily practice of theater and visual arts.

This means that your artistic goals come first – Interact is about what you can do, and where you want to go with your life. All staff members at Interact are trained to provide services and supports to meet your own unique health and safety needs. Staff members are all professional working artists themselves who will teach and mentor in ways that maximize **your** artistic growth.

Interact programs flourish in an environment of **radical inclusion...** an environment in which artists with and without disabilities work side-by-side to create the most exciting, most rewarding work possible. We invite professional artists from the community into our work as fellow performers, workshop facilitators, teachers, and mentors; AND we create opportunities for Interact artists to move beyond our own theater and studio programs as collaborators in the broader arts environment.

Interact Visual Arts mount public exhibitions each year through the Interact Gallery, and we have developed a wide network of off-site exhibitions that put Interact artists in the public eye throughout the community. Our staff of professional visual artists provide daily support and instruction in a range of two- and three-dimensional forms such as painting, drawing, sculpture, and textile work. We regularly invite mentors from the greater arts community to facilitate workshops and special projects. A day in the studio can include critique, artist-led workshops, and self-guided research. Artists in our Visual Arts studio also expand their experiences when they attend exhibitions at other galleries and art centers, and other community arts events. We regularly take research trips to local arts institutions, sculpture parks, and artist studios to keep up with contemporary art and art history. All Interact artists are paid a standard commission when we sell their artwork.

Program Expectations

To be a successful artist, one must actively and consistently work on their trade. Interact Center does not host drop-in workshops, nor operate as a drop-in day center. Interact expects all artists attending to maintain attendance at or above 80%.

The Interact Schedule:

- Interact is a **Monday through Friday** program, with programming hours from approximately **9:00am to 3:30pm**. **We are offering the opportunity for artists to attend on Fridays only, to allow more flexibility within their schedule.**
- **We ask that all artists commit to participating every Friday from 9am -3pm, and maintain 75% attendance.**

Program Funding:

- Interact Center is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services under chapter 245D and offers Day Support Services.
- Artists attending Interact Center should work with a case manager to develop a service agreement that authorizes payment for our services.
- **If you do not have a case manager, call the county where you live and ask for a social services intake. You must have a funding source secured before applying to the program.**
- **Typical funding options include:**
 - o HCBS waivers
 - o Direct county contracts
 - o CDCS contracts
 - o Private pay contracts

Transportation:

- Interact does not own vehicles for transportation but will assist you in managing your transportation rides to and from Interact through services such as Metro Mobility.

Admission Criteria Policy

The Admission Process for Potential Clients:

Step 1: Inquiry & Visit

Tour Interact and speak with the Visual Arts Recruitment Coordinator while attending an Open House! Sign up for an Open House on Interact's website, www.interactcenterarts.org.

Step 2: Application Packet

Submit an Application Packet! Partially completed applications will not be accepted.

Step 3: Initial Screening

Attend a Zoom screening with the Visual Arts Recruitment Coordinator and a Designated Coordinator. During the initial screening, Interact program specifics will be discussed and applicants should come prepared to discuss their motivation in wanting to join. Please note that Interact limits admissions to those individuals with a clear motivation to pursue art/theater in a professional manner.

Step 4: Experience Day Assessment

Based on the initial screening, an artist may be invited to participate in an experience day at the center. This experience day gives the applicant an opportunity to participate fully in a day of programming before committing. Interact staff will also have the day to assess and work with the applicant to ensure the program has adequate supports and will be a good program fit.

Step 4: Intake Meeting

If the experience day is successful, an intake meeting with the full support team will be scheduled and completed for those artists accepted into the program.

Step 5: START!

After the intake meeting, the artist can start attending!

Individual conditions the center is not prepared to accept:

Interact Center does not discriminate against anyone because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, status regarding public assistance, sexual orientation, or age.

Due to the center's spacing and staffing ratios, Interact Center is not prepared to accept clients with a history of severe physical aggression toward others or clients that require a consistent in-person staffing ratio during the day of 1:1 – 1:4.

Interact Center does not have lifts available, so clients admitted must maintain a degree of independence, including being able to self-transfer when toileting.

Interact Center is also not prepared to serve individuals who have communicable diseases requiring isolation. All individuals at Interact are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Interact limits admissions to individuals that demonstrate clear artistic achievement, potential, or motivation to pursue art/theater in a professional manner.

Please be aware that Interact Center does not currently have interpreters available during daily programming.