



## **A Public Ritual in Protection, Praise and Grace**

“Above all else, the colored girls museum is a safe space to be a colored girl”

## **The Colored Girls Museum Process**

### **What is the Colored Girls Museum**

A Colored Girls Museum, is a space, which honors the stories, experiences, and history of Colored Girls. This museum initiates the “ordinary” object—**submitted** by the colored girl herself, as representative of an aspect of her story and personal history, which she finds meaningful; her object embodies **her** experience and expression of being a Colored Girl.

### **Rationale**

There are many museums about many things—we should have a Colored Girls Museum. Colored Girls have a unique and complex history—it is a history informed by great tragedy and great triumph---a history which intersects and overlaps with other histories but remains distinct as colored women navigate their dual circumstances as “colored and female “ we must begin the documenting process somewhere—why not now—why not here---our stories are as varied as our skin tones.

### **Where**

The Colored Girls Museum takes place in a residence in Germantown, Philadelphia. It is a collective conversion of a home into a Museum disguised as a Bed and Breakfast. This added layer allows curators and actors to play with the concept of disguise and camouflage as a necessary feature of the Colored Girls Existence.

### **Contributors Role**

Objects for the museum **will** come from colored girls who are invited by the artist/ curator to submit an object of personal import to the museum. The contributor will write a brief narrative about the object which answers the following questions. What is your object? Why is it important to you? Why are you entering it into the Colored Girls Museum

### **Artist /Curator Role**

Artists of various disciplines are assigned to each room—they may invite Colored Girls who they know to submit objects which they will then curate (based on their discipline).

The objects are speaking for the Colored Girl who submitted it—the goal of the artist/curator is to present the object(s) in such a way that we understand the objects significance- and the artist curator then artfully interprets the story as they see it in the room.

### **A Good Nights Sleep:**

An interactive Memoir Museum set in a Colored Girls Home; informed by this year's theme: *"A Good Nights Sleep"*, a series of curated exhibits, performances, stories and artifacts which explore the issue of sleep as it impacts colored girls. Artists and curators will examine sleep as a "sacred/healing space". Each room in the home is hosting the objects and stories of several colored girls –The objects have been thoughtfully entered into the space by the Artist/ Curator who then creates an environment in the space which interprets, protects and celebrates the Colored Girl. In this Museum masquerading as a Bed and Breakfast the Colored Girls Objects are the valued guest!!! Artist/Curators should not feel compelled to do new work-as like the ordinary extraordinary Colored Girl who enters her object- what the Artist brings, should be what completes or deepens the conversation(s) which is happening in the room. This process may vary dependent on the artist's discipline.

And of course sometimes inspiration does strike!

## **TIMELINE**

### **August 8th**

**Notification of acceptance**

### **August 9-August 19<sup>th</sup>-**

Identify your collective of ordinary extraordinary colored girls whose objects you will install.

### **August 20<sup>th</sup> -21**

Group Meeting with Artist /Curators

### **August 20<sup>th</sup> August 27<sup>th</sup>**

Artist Statements and Object Descriptions Due (via google doc or email)

### **August 27<sup>th</sup>-Sept 8<sup>th</sup>**

Load-in of Installations (Artist can schedule their coming and going to begin installations/rehearsals)

### **September 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Gathering and Museum blessing for those who can make it!**

### **September 8<sup>th</sup>,**

**Opening Night**

### **September 9, 2016**

**Fringe Arts Closing**

### **September 18<sup>th</sup> 3:00 Matinee, It's a House Party!!!**

*Following the Philadelphia FringeArts Festival there are scheduled TCGM openings on Sundays and by appointment through 12/31/2016.*

TCGM is committed to paying for the time artist contribute to projects of this scope. TCGM is actively fundraising and hope to make that a reality for you. Please know that if TCGM can she will. Any expenses that you anticipate you may incur during this process should be submitted to TCGM as soon as possible.

We know you may have additional questions please contact us at: [thecoloredgirlsmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:thecoloredgirlsmuseum@gmail.com)