

MICA Graduate Studies**2017 LAB Awards**

Kopf, Suzy
 824 W 36th Street, Apt 2
 Baltimore, MD 21211, US
 650-796-1155
 suzykopf@gmail.com

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**LAB Awards****1. What is your graduate program?**

MFA in Studio Art

2. What is your LAB project title?

Mapping a New Route for the Baltimore Streetcar Museum

3. Provide a brief summary of your project (no more than 100 words approx.)

In cooperation with Baltimore Heritage and the Baltimore Streetcar Museum (BSCM) I will create a scavenger hunt-style social media contest that encourages the public to engage with remnants of streetcar sites throughout Baltimore. The goal is to connect and educate a younger audience about this important and disappearing piece of Baltimore history. In addition to the scavenger hunt, my partners and I will plan an awards ceremony at the museum including an interactive bus tour of an old streetcar line. The timing of this project is critical for BSCM as they have recently completed plans to update their facilities and will be embarking on a fundraising campaign to enact them.

4. What impact will this project have?

BSCM is an entirely volunteer run organization which, they fully admit, is dying out. Their membership is largely retirees and they are extremely interested in connecting with a wider audience of people. The aim of my project is to engage more young families, couples and groups of school-aged kids with this affordable Baltimore institution. The museum has a fantastic collection of old cars and an enthusiastic team of self-proclaimed "railheads" but they lack a connection or means of making one with the greater public. This project is the first step in bringing them into the twentieth-first century by building awareness throughout the community.

5. How will this project advance your creative practice?

My creative practice is largely research based. I make books, prints and paintings that address ideas of American nostalgia, shared history and place. Up until this point I have conducted my research independently of any organization, and the opportunity to collaborate with local historians directly is extremely exciting to me. This project will get me out of my comfort zone by forcing me to find new ways to use and share information, publicize an event and cooperate with nonartists. Working directly with a nonprofit to educate the public through art will have a long lasting educational benefit for my creative practice and inform the way I make new work.

6. At the end of a year, what would happen next? Is this project sustainable?

This project is just one step in BSCM's efforts to increase the longevity of its existence beyond its current members life spans. If participation in the scavenger hunt contest and bus tour is strong, BSCM has expressed interest in making it a yearly event, sustained by membership dues and a small admissions fee. I could see myself working with the museum again or making a similar project at another museum in the future. The scavenger hunt illustrations, historical clues related to them, bus tour route and its talking points will remain online as part of Baltimore Heritage's online archive and resources in perpetuity.

7. Are there partners in this project?

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