

The Soap Factory - Frequently Asked Questions

Was it really a soap factory?

Yes – The Soap Factory was the National Purity Soap Factory for a large portion of the 20th century. It was also used as railroad storage, battery storage, and as a syrup manufacturer. The Soap Factory's current building was acquired by the gallery in 1995.

How long does the Soap Factory's season last?

Early Spring – Fall. The Soap Factory does not yet have central heating and thus closes for the coldest months of the year. We will eventually include programming year round and each year we have one winter programming month.

How do you pick the artists?

The Soap Factory uses guest curators, as well as the gallery staff to choose the artwork for The Soap Factory's exhibitions. We also host rental exhibitions (MCAD Senior MFA show). There is an open submission process for artists (volunteers are welcome to submit) and hundreds of artists apply. More information is available on the main website: www.soapfactory.org

How do I sign up to volunteer?

If you would like to start volunteering please register for an orientation session on our volunteer website: www.volunteersoapfactory.org

If you are a new volunteer getting started please email Lillian Egner (Lillian@soapfactory.org) to sign up for shifts.

How do I get a studio upstairs?

Studio spaces are available for volunteers who complete a minimum of 9 hours per month of volunteer hours. Please contact Lillian Egner if you would like more information, or would like to be added to the studio program's waiting list.

How do I apply for internships?

Each spring The Soap Factory hires a number of interns for the season. These positions are available to anyone, even current volunteers. The positions are posted on the volunteer website early in the spring.

Current staff at The Soap Factory:

Ben Heywood: gallery director
Debra DeNoyelles: development director
Mitch Redepenning: installation and building manager
Katherine Rochester: program manager
Bob Fagerhaugh: Soap Factory Gallery 4 producer
Lillian Egner: manager of volunteer programs