

City of La Crosse Arts Board**2. Creative Development Grants**

Buri, Juliet Maya
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Section 1 (CDG) - Contact & Project Information**1. Name(s)/Organization**

Julieth Maya Buri

2. Mailing address

1918 Market St, La Crosse, WI 54601

3. Email address

juliethmaya@gmail.com

4. Phone number

(608) 461-6639

5. Website (optional)

www.julietmayarts.com

6. Biography

Julieth Maya Buri is a visual artist whose mixed-media practice explores motherhood, feminism, migration, and emotional memory. Working with textiles, photography, and painting, she examines how language, social

expectations, and embodied experience shape women's lives. She holds a BFA in Fine Arts from Fundación Universitaria Bellas Artes in Medellín, Colombia, and a BSA in Business Administration. Informed by Latin American and diasporic perspectives, her work has been exhibited in COL and the US, challenging fixed definitions of motherhood and identity through vulnerability and resilience.

7. 1-2 Page Resume or CV



8. Project Title

Mother is an Adjective

9. Brief Project Description

Mother Is an Adjective is a mixed-media visual art exhibition that examines the language used to describe motherhood and the expectations these words produce. Through textiles, photography, and painting, the exhibition explores motherhood as a complex, contradictory, and deeply personal experience, challenging fixed definitions of what it means to be a mother.

10. Project Start and End Dates

March 2026- Jun 2026

11. Requested Funding Amount

3162

12. List of Participants

Juliet Maya

13. Conflicts of Interest

None

14. Previous Funded Projects

None

15. Are you a non-profit that is registered in the City of La Crosse?

No

16. Federal Tax-Exempt Status

Section 2 (CDG) - Project Description

1. Project Location

La Crosse, Wisconsin

2. Project Description

MOTHER IS AN ADJECTIVE is a mixed-media visual art exhibition and community engagement project that examines motherhood as a fluid, evolving identity shaped by language, culture, and lived experience. Rather than treating motherhood as a fixed role, the project approaches it as an adjective—something that modifies an entire human life and continues to shift over time. Through painting, drawing, textile and fiber work, collage, and photography, the exhibition interrogates the language commonly used to describe motherhood and the expectations those words produce.

Language plays a powerful role in shaping how motherhood is understood and lived. Adjectives such as nurturing, strong, selfless, resilient, exhausted, or invisible are frequently used to describe mothers, often without space to reflect on their emotional weight or cultural implications. Over time, these descriptors become normalized within the collective psyche and are presented as universal truths, shaping both social expectations and personal identity. MOTHER IS AN ADJECTIVE challenges these assumptions by using language as a starting point rather than a conclusion, translating words into visual and material forms that reveal the contradictions and plurality of maternal experience.

The exhibition will be presented at the Rivoli Arts District in La Crosse, a public-facing, community-centered venue that supports accessible and socially engaged art. The artist's individual works explore motherhood through material processes that emphasize embodiment, care, labor, vulnerability, and resilience. Textiles reference domestic and emotional labor; painting and drawing convey memory and internal states; collage and photography layer personal and collective narratives. Together, these works create an immersive environment that invites audiences to encounter motherhood as lived complexity rather than idealized symbolism.

A central component of the project is a participatory workshop series designed for up to 12 new and expecting mothers. These workshops focus on the identity transformation that occurs during early motherhood—a period often marked by shifts in self-perception, visibility, and social recognition. Participants are frequently defined primarily through their caregiving role, experiencing a sense of loss or reconfiguration of personal identity. During the workshops, participants will create self-portraits reflecting on their emerging identities as mothers. Using accessible art-making practices such as drawing, collage, and mixed media, participants will explore themes of self-representation, change, loss, growth, and resilience. The emphasis is placed on process rather than artistic skill, ensuring that no prior art experience is required. The workshops are designed to foster a supportive, non-judgmental space for reflection, connection, and creative expression.

The artist will recruit participants from diverse backgrounds, including mothers of varied races, cultures, socioeconomic classes, family structures, and immigration statuses. This intentional approach to recruitment recognizes that motherhood is shaped by intersecting social factors and seeks to ensure that a wide range of lived experiences are represented. Participant-created self-portraits and optional written reflections may be incorporated into a community-based component of the exhibition at the Rivoli Arts District, with full consent from participants. This inclusion allows participants to see their experiences valued and made visible, while offering audiences a multiplicity of perspectives on motherhood.

Beyond its artistic outcomes, MOTHER IS AN ADJECTIVE supports maternal emotional well-being, reduces isolation among new mothers, and expands access to contemporary art practices. By combining exhibition, participatory workshops, and community-generated work, the project positions art as a tool for reflection, care, and social connection, presenting motherhood as layered, evolving, and deeply human.

3. Project Execution & Timeline

The exhibit will be at the RAD during April and May 2026.
The workshops would take place in May 2026

4. Required Materials

- Acrylic paints
- Framing
- Canvas
- Fabric and thread
- Paper and office stationery

5. Durability & Maintenance Plan**6. Plans for Removal****7. Target Audience**

The primary audience for Mother Is an Adjective is the general public in La Crosse, including caregivers, families, artists, students, and community members interested in social and cultural issues. Presented at the Rivoli Arts District, the exhibition is designed to engage a broad audience through accessible, visually driven work that invites reflection and dialogue around motherhood and identity. A focused participatory component centers up to twelve new and expecting mothers, who will be intentionally recruited from diverse racial, cultural, socioeconomic, and immigration backgrounds. Through workshops and creation of self-portraits, these participants engage directly in the project, contributing lived experiences that deepen public understanding of motherhood as complex, plural, and evolving.

8. Under-Served Audience (optional)**9. Artistic Goals**

Through Mother Is an Adjective, I aim to further my artistic and academic investigation of motherhood as a social construct shaped by language, culture, and expectations. This project allows me to expose the hidden contrasts and often overlooked dimensions of the social and emotional lives of mothers—experiences that exist beyond idealized or singular representations. I have been developing this line of inquiry across different geographical and cultural contexts, and this project continues that sustained research-based practice rather than emerging from a single local setting.

Artistically, I seek to expand my mixed-media practice by experimenting with new techniques that translate linguistic descriptors of motherhood into visual, tactile forms. I am particularly interested in how material processes can hold contradiction, vulnerability, and emotional complexity. Through the participatory workshops, I aim to contribute to emotional education and self-expression of mothers, providing creative tools that support reflection, agency, and identity redefinition. Ultimately, this project strengthens my commitment to socially engaged art as a space where artistic research, care, and collective knowledge intersect.

Media

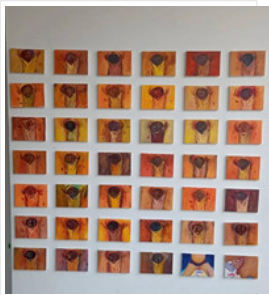


"Mother is an Adjective(2)"

Media/Materials:

Size:

Expo mock up



"42 weeks"

Media/Materials:

Size:

painting collage sample

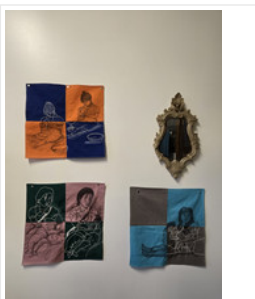


"Dormir.Serie Me mlma.JulietMaya"

Media/Materials:

Size:

Collage piece sample



"Memima (1)"

Media/Materials:

Size:

Collage piece sample

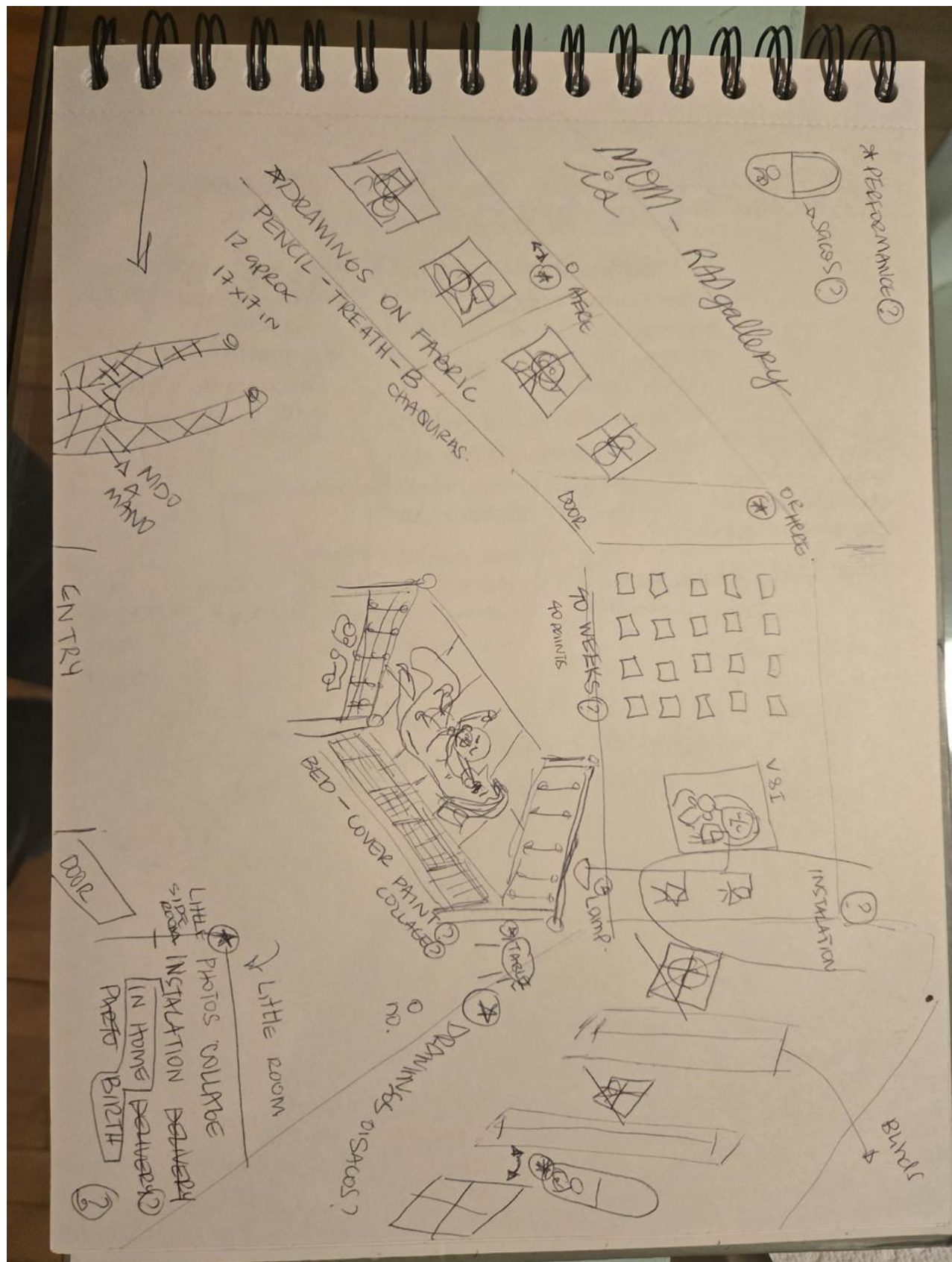
Attachments

Project Budget

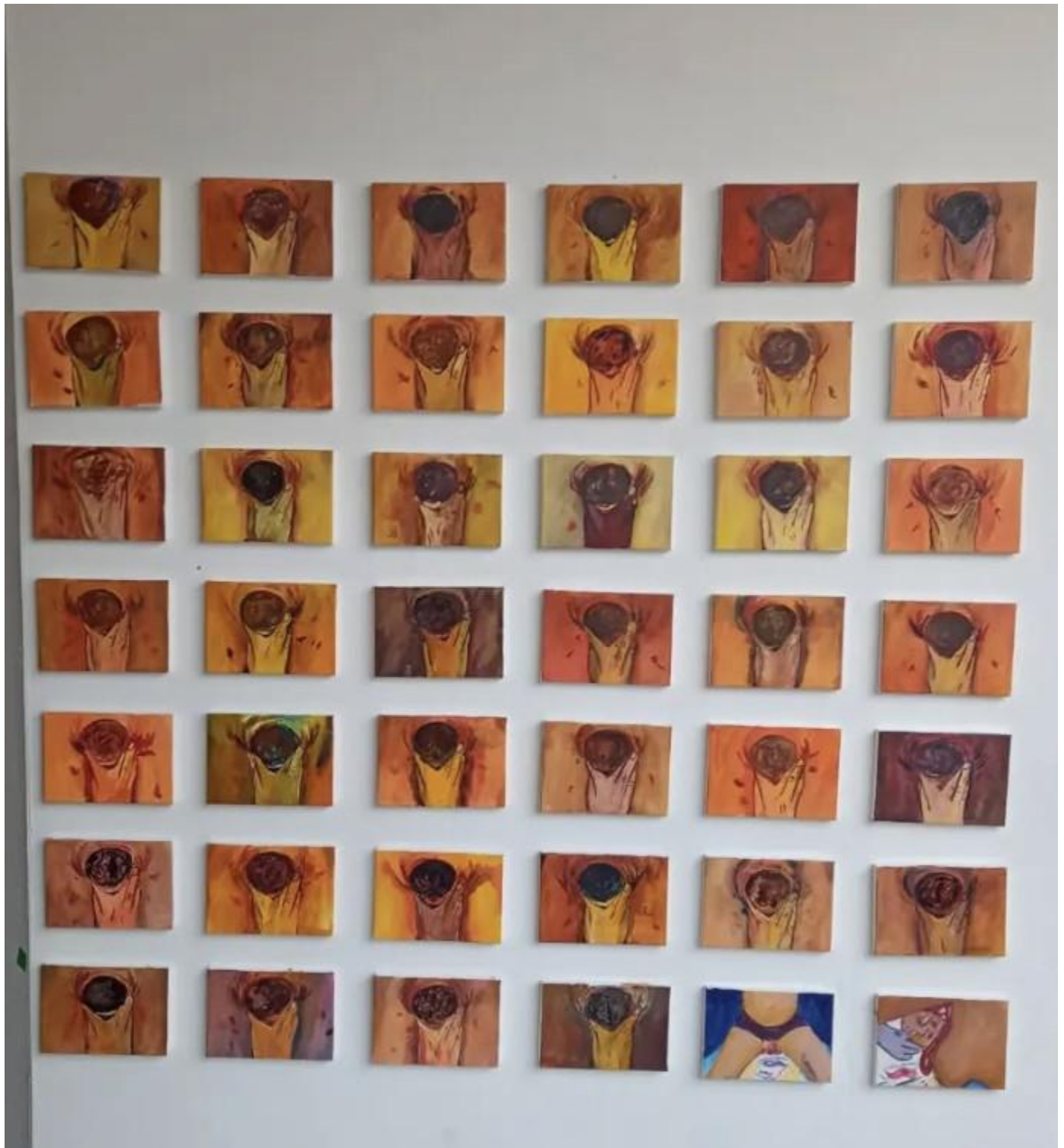
14.1 KB

Provided by Applicant

Item	Price	Quantity	Total
Studio rental	\$100	2 months	\$200
Planning charges (20 x \$5)	\$100	0	\$0
Calves (20 x \$5)	\$100	0	\$0
Transport (1 x \$1)	\$1	1	\$1
Vehicle park (2 x \$5)	\$10	0	\$0
Insurance	\$10	0	\$0
Materials	\$100	1	\$100
Total			\$301



"Mother is an Adjective(2)"



"42 weeks"



"Dormir. Serie Me mlma. JulietMaya"



"Memima (1)"