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insider

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On Record

Opportunities Online for ISC Members Only

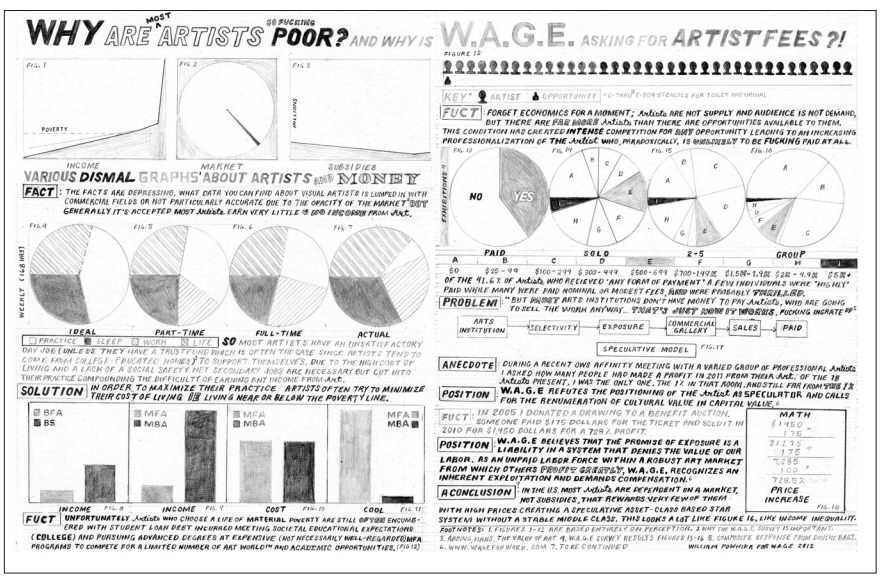
The on-line version of Opportunities provides more current information than the print version. We hope you will visit the Opportunities section on the Web and encourage sculptors and colleagues who are not ISC members to join so that they too will benefit from this valuable information.

Web opportunities on <www.sculpture.org> are available to ISC members only. To enter the section you must use the user name and password. For more information, contact <isc@sculpture.org>.

To join the ISC, contact ISC/Membership at 609/689.1051 x301, fax: 609/689.1061, or e-mail: <membership@sculpture.org>.

Resource

"We demand payment for making the world more interesting." These words flash on the **Working Artists in the Greater Economy (W.A.G.E.)** Web site in pulsating neon green and red when you scroll over a picture of the symbolic last piece of pie in the tin. Founded in 2008 in New York City, W.A.G.E. was the offspring of frustrated artists who felt they were underpaid (or not paid at all) by the galleries and museums that showed their work. Subscribing to the iniquitous notion that artists should be happy that their work is shown at all, many art institutions don't even have artist fees in their budgets. As a result, even popular



artists still have to work a couple of side jobs in order to survive. W.A.G.E. has set out to change all that. Through surveys, statistics, and advocacy campaigns, it endeavors to set a minimum artist fee with which all New York City arts organizations are lawfully required to comply. The hope is that, over time, the city will set a precedent for the rest of the U.S.—and the world.

The idea of paying artists living wages is not at all new to North America. In fact, W.A.G.E's counterpart to the north, **Canadian Artists' Representation/Le Front des artistes canadiens (CARFAC)**, has been advocating for the same cause since 1968. Over the years, CARFAC has gained an impressive amount of clout in Canadian politics. It was as a result of CARFAC's efforts that artist fees became part of federal copyright law in 1988. W.A.G.E. hopes that it, too, will be able to establish such a threshold in art world politics.

Both W.A.G.E. and CARFAC are dependent on artist support in order to function. They're kind of like voluntary labor unions for artists. W.A.G.E. is currently collecting signatures, while CARFAC offers membership opportunities. Whether you're an artist based in New York, Canada, or anywhere else in the world, these advocacy organizations are definitely worth looking into.

Working Artists in the Greater Economy (W.A.G.E.): <http://wageforwork.com>.
Canadian Artists' Representation/Le Front des artistes canadiens (CARFAC): <www.carfac.ca>.

WILLIAM POWHIDA, COURTESY W.A.G.E.