



Industrial Afterglow

Acknowledging Baltimore’s industrial past and its impact on the city’s communities and landscapes. This theme would address environmental justice, labor, and the transformation of industrial spaces into creative hubs.

Theme: *Industrial Afterglow*

SPARK Baltimore 2025

Industrial Afterglow explores the evolving relationship between humanity, technology, and the landscapes—both physical and digital—shaped by industry. This theme examines the lingering “afterglow” of industrial revolutions past while illuminating the new technological shifts of today, from automation to artificial intelligence.

As we stand on the threshold of the digital and post-industrial age, the afterglow expands beyond smokestacks and factories to include virtual worlds, algorithmic systems, and data flows. The theme invites artists to consider: What marks do these technologies leave behind? What radiance—or shadow—do they cast on our environment, bodies, and collective memory?

Conceptual Anchors

Artists are encouraged to engage with the following ideas:

1. **Traces of Industry:** How do remnants of industry—whether material, social, or digital—continue to shape our present and future? This could include themes of ecological impact, labor histories, and the reuse of industrial spaces alongside explorations of digital “residues,” such as archives, abandoned networks, and data decay.
2. **The Glow of Progress:** As industries shift from physical to virtual spaces, how do technologies like AI, automation, and machine learning illuminate new possibilities or cast long shadows? How do these innovations reshape relationships to labor, creativity, and identity?
3. **Human and Non-Human Entanglements:** The theme invites exploration of the blurred boundaries between human, machine, and

environment. How do we coexist, resist, or adapt to new technological realities?

4. **Light as a Metaphor:** Light serves as a symbol of revelation and transformation, illuminating connections between the past, present, and future of technological progress. This can include literal explorations of light (projections, reflections, or digital art) or conceptual inquiries into the invisible processes of modern technology—algorithms, energy grids, and artificial intelligence.

5. **Hope and Reckoning:** *Industrial Afterglow* contemplates the double-edged nature of innovation—its potential to create, destroy, heal, and divide. How can art reckon with this complexity while imagining alternative futures that are more equitable and sustainable?

Who Should Apply

We welcome proposals from artists from UMBC and Towson (Faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students) working across disciplines, including but not limited to visual art, installation, performance, video, photography, digital media, and sound, especially those whose work engages with themes of place, history, labor, and materiality. Collaborative and interdisciplinary projects are also encouraged.

Project Details

- **Exhibition Dates:** Late Fall - Winter, 2025
- **Location:** 1100 Wicomico St, Baltimore, MD 21230
- **Support:** Selected artists will receive an honorarium and production support. Details will be provided upon selection.

How to Apply

Please submit the following materials via [WeTransfer](#) compiled into a single PDF less than 100 MB.*

1. **Project Proposal** (500 words max): Describe your concept for *Industrial Afterglow*, including how your work engages with environmental justice, labor, or the transformation of industrial spaces.

2. **Artist Statement** (250 words max): A brief overview of your practice.
3. **Portfolio**: Up to 10 images, videos, or links to relevant past work.
4. **CV/Resume**: Include relevant exhibitions, projects, and experience.
5. **Technical/Production Needs**: Any specific requirements for presenting your work.

*For video files, please include a link to view it either on an online platform (such as YouTube or Vimeo) or on a storage platform (Google Drive, Drop Box, etc.). Please make sure it is viewable through the link (password provided if private or set to accessible to anyone with the link).

Label your file as LastName_FirstName_SPARK_25.pdf

Deadline for Submissions: April 19, 2025 11:59 PM

For more information, visit <https://www.sparkbaltimore.org/> or contact efaust@umbc.edu.

SPARK Baltimore is committed to fostering diverse voices and perspectives. We encourage submissions from BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and underrepresented artists whose work resonates with the theme.

We look forward to seeing your vision for *Industrial Afterglow*!

