“[Arts] Culture is a school-to-work strategy, a youth development strategy, and an economic enterprise strategy. Arts and culture are clearly not indulgences, but rather mighty allies in the complex community building process.”

Robert McNulty, President, Partners for Livable Communities

Introduction
NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley [NBRV], is a non-profit community development corporation working in the City of Woonsocket, Rhode Island. NBRV is inviting applications from interested and qualified artists to serve as their Neighborhood Artist-In-Residence in a facility renovated expressly for this purpose.

We believe in the importance and transformative power of artistic/cultural resources as part of a comprehensive community revitalization effort, and that the cultivation of this resource in our community will greatly enhance what has already been achieved. We believe that we need more secure places for neighborhood youth to go after school, and we must create more opportunities for them to activate and extend their knowledge, imagination, talents and skills. Finally, in order to make this vision a reality, we believe that we need a creative, sharing, artistic mentor and role model in the midst of our community.

About The Neighborhood Artist-In-Residence Program
NBRV will provide a rent-free, spacious, newly renovated three bedroom apartment valued at $15,600 a year to a qualified artist in exchange for 624 hours of arts instruction/programming annually. We expect that this annual commitment will be discharged weekly—twelve hours weekly, with two hours of planning/preparation time, and ten hours of direct contact with program participants. The Residency will be for at least one year, with the potential for annual renewals up to three years. We would prefer an applicant that is willing to make a longer term commitment.

The Artist apartment is large—1500 square feet. It includes all appliances [stove and refrigerator], a washer and dryer. There is a large eat-in kitchen and a very large family room/den. The three bedrooms are large with good closet space, they also include both telephone and cable outlets. There is a large deck [16’ x 16’] off the kitchen, off-street parking [two spaces], a medium sized yard, and an alarm system. The apartment is not handicapped accessible.

The apartment is above a lower level office and learning center. It is expected that some arts programming and instruction will take place in this area. The office and any equipment that it contains will also be available for use by the Artist on a limited basis through a separate agreement.

It is expected that the Artist will be financially responsible for their own utilities, telephone, cable and other living expenses. NBRV is providing housing only. NBRV or other project partners will also be responsible for providing necessary materials, supplies and equipment necessary to carry out the Artist’s programming commitment.

A security deposit of $1,000 (slightly less than one month’s rent) is required before occupancy.

NBRV expects that the 624 hour commitment will form the basis for a well designed community building arts program. We are most interested in Artists who will work with us to develop and build a model community based arts strategy that engages the community, especially teens, in new and exciting cultural pursuits.

Project Goals
The goals of our Neighborhood Artist-In-Residence effort are to:
1] expand and broaden a successful neighborhood revitalization initiative and to enrich the cultural life and provide new cultural experiences in a low income neighborhood, especially for its youth;

2] maintain a permanent community cultural asset and learning environment that will generate at least 624 hours of arts instruction and programming annually;

3] work to develop a community arts partnership that will provide a new strategy to engage youth in community building arts projects that will transform their lives, bolster their academic achievement and enrich our neighborhood;

4] utilize community building art projects to inspire civic pride, connect generations, bridge diverse groups and forge stronger community bonds;

5] work to develop a program focused on ‘project based learning’ activities, which will involve participating youth in solving challenging questions or problems and production of unique products or presentations at the end of a discrete time period. Participants will be involved in design, problem-solving, decision-making and/or investigative activities; and

6] provide a leadership opportunity for a low income artist to serve as an energetic and creative role model in the target neighborhoods—indeed throughout the City of Woonsocket.

**Eligibility and Desired Qualifications**

To be eligible to apply for the NBRV Neighborhood Artist-In-Residence program, the following criteria must be met:

- Applicants must be one of the following: a professional practicing artist in folk and traditional arts, theatre, music, media arts and/or visual arts; or an interdisciplinary artist who works with one or more art forms.

- Applicants must provide documented experience and credentials in arts education and/or instruction, especially with teens;

- Applicants must meet the applicable US Department of Housing and Urban Development income guideline for the duration of their residency, and authorize NBRV’s confidential, third party verification of their earnings, if they are selected [see attached guidelines];

- Finalists must complete the NBRV application for housing, which includes a credit check, a previous landlord reference check, a criminal background check, and a drug test;

- Applicants must complete the NBRV application for Neighborhood Artist-In-Resident [which follows]; and

- Applicants must be a US citizen or alien authorized to work in the United States.

- Greater weight and consideration will be given to the applications of artists who are interested in working with us over a longer term to build a model community based arts program that engages the community, especially teens, in new and exciting cultural pursuits.

**Selection Process**

The selection committee is made up of NBRV staff and youth. Finalists will be invited for a personal interview, or if this is not possible, a conference call interview. The finalist will be expected to present themselves and their portfolio before the full board and staff of NBRV as well as the youth.
NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley
Application for Neighborhood Artist-In-Residence

Please answer all questions and return this application and all other applicable materials to the above address. Please type or print clearly.

Date:
Name:
Present address:
Telephone number (day):
Telephone number (evening):
Email:
Other name [show all other past and present names, including maiden name if married]:
Present citizenship or nationality:
Date and place of birth:
Name, address, telephone number and relationship of a contact in case of emergency:

On a separate piece of paper please list your work history for at least the past five years. Include dates of employment and name and location of company or organization.

On a separate piece of paper please list your formal education, dates, schools attended and degrees earned. Please also list exhibits participated in and/or awards received.

On a separate piece of paper please answer the following questions (no more than two pages):
1. What type of artistic work are you currently involved in?
2. What you would like to accomplish personally, and what do you like your art work to convey?
3. Why do you want to participate in the NBRV’s Neighborhood Artist-in-Residence Program?
4. How might you connect your work with ongoing programs in the community?
5. What is your experience working with children, especially at-risk children?
6. What are your ideas for potential community projects as a part of this residency?
7. What do you consider to be an effective, successful residency?
8. How might living in the community impact your work?

Include two letters of recommendation.
NBRV desires information about your character, personality, ability and capacity to provide instruction and work as a part of a neighborhood team. We will be grateful for a full and frank statement, indicating any firsthand opportunities your reference has about you and your work. They should also comment on your strengths and limitations.

Please submit all materials by July 31, 2008 c/o NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley, 719 Front Street Suite 103, Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895

Please call Margaux Morisseau with any questions at 401-762-0993 x206, or by email at mmorisseau@wndc.org

Pictures of the residence can be viewed at a website at www.wndc.org
Please Include samples/documentation of your work as a professional artist following the guidelines listed below:

**Slides**
Submit a maximum of five 35 mm slides. If proficient in more than one medium, submit up to three slides representing each medium.

Slides should be numbered and placed accordingly in a 9” x 12” clear plastic sheet. Place a numbered red dot on the bottom left-hand corner on the front of each slide. Attach a numbered slide list of the work shown. Include in the list: the title of the work, medium, dimensions of artwork, date of completion, and a brief description of the work.

**Photographs**
Submit a maximum of five unframed photographs not to exceed 8” x 10”. Photographs should be submitted in a folder. Number each photograph and include a numbered photo list as described.

**Music**
Recording of written or performed pieces on CD. Tracks must be labeled with title of work(s) and date(s) completed and/or published

**Writing Samples**
Writing samples of poetry or fiction (up to 5 pages) should be typed, collated and clearly reproduced. Do not send books, manuscripts, plays, etc. Writing samples must be labeled with the applicant’s name, title of work(s) and date(s) completed and/or published

**Advanced Technology**
(e.g. computer art, Internet projects, electronic publications, web pages, etc.)
Indicate on a separate sheet of paper what the work consists of and what is the best way for the selection committee to access the work.

**Other Support Materials**
You may include a marketing brochure, additional support letters (no more than three) from residency or workshop sites, catalog, newspaper or magazine reviews (no more than three), etc., All support materials should be organized in one folder.

Please Note: Work samples will not be returned unless the applicant specifically requests that we do so. If the work sample is to be returned, you must include a self-addressed envelope with the proper postage attached. NBRV will not be responsible for any loss or damage.
Authorization
I hereby authorize NBRV to contact, obtain, and verify the accuracy of information contained in this application from all previous employers, educational institutions, and references. I also hereby release from liability NBRV and its representatives for seeking, gathering, and using such information to make contractual decisions and all other persons or organizations for providing such information.

I understand that any misrepresentation or material omission made by me on this application will be sufficient cause for cancellation of this application or immediate termination of contract, whenever it may be discovered.

I represent and warrant that I have read and fully understand the foregoing and that I am applying for this residency under these conditions.

Applicant’s Signature:

Date:

NBRV Neighborhood Artist-In-Residence
HUD Income Guidelines*

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<th>Family Size</th>
<th>Income Limit</th>
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<td>One Person</td>
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*As of 5/31/08