

Artist Preference: Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have to be an artist to live in an Artspace live/ work project?

Anyone may apply for affordable housing in an Artspace project, but we give a preference for occupancy to those applicants who participate in and are committed to the arts. Applicants do not need to derive their income from their art. It is not uncommon for artists to work in another field to support themselves, their dependents, and their art form.

How do you get an artist preference?

The Artist Preference may be granted to housing applicants who present a written record and examples of their artistic endeavors by completing an Artist Preference Form.

How does the Artist Interview Committee (AIC) work?

The AIC interviews self-identified artist applicants and will review the questions from the Artist Preference Form about their commitment to the arts, and interest in living in an Artspace building. Applicants are given an opportunity to show their portfolio/examples of their work and ask any questions that they may have at that time. In the Artist Interview Committee meeting, the applicant must be prepared to demonstrate that they are actively engaged in an art form. The willingness and ability to contribute to a cooperative/creative environment and show a commitment to engage in the greater community will also be discussed.

Note: The interview process only pertains to those properties with an active Artist Interview Committee. Active AIC's are ones that interview the applicant no later than five days after property management has provided the applicants information. If an interview does not occur then the Artist Preference Form will reviewed by staff.



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Does the AIC judge my work?

No. The AIC interviews applicants to determine their energy and passion for their art form; they do not judge the content or quality of an applicant's artistic work.

How does Artspace determine who is an artist?

We define the term "artist" broadly to encompass a wide variety of creative pursuits. An Artist Interview Committee consisting of arts leaders in the local community along with Artspace representatives (and later residents once the building is leased) interviews all applicants. The committee looks for evidence that applicants are seriously committed to their art and that they will be mindful and positive contributors to the building and community. The application and qualification process does not include judgment of quality of work. An artist shall be defined as:

- A person who works in or is skilled in any of the fine arts, including but not limited to painting, drawing, sculpture, book art, mixed-media and print-making.
- A person who creates imaginative works of aesthetic value, including but not limited to film video, digital media works, literature, costume design, photography, architecture and music composition.
- A person who creates functional art, including but not limited to jewelry, rugs, decorative screens and grates, furniture, pottery, toys and quilts.
- A performer, including but not limited to singers, musicians, dancers, actors and performance artists.
- A person involved in all culturally significant practices, including a culture bearer or practitioner, designer, technician, tattoo artist, hairdresser, chef/culinary artist, craftsperson, journalist, teacher or administrator who is dedicated to using their expertise within the community to support, promote, present, and/or teach and propagate their art form through events, activities, performances and classes.

Are all art forms allowed in Artspace residences?

Artistic processes that are extremely noisy, do not comply with local zoning regulations or involve hazardous materials are typically not allowed to be practiced in your unit. All uses must comply with applicable code. For example, welding, woodworking using power tools, amplified band practice or glass blowing would not be allowed.



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Artspace Projects, Inc. is America's leading nonprofit real estate developer for the arts, dedicated to creating, fostering, and preserving affordable and sustainable housing and workspace for artists, entrepreneurs, and the creative workforce. With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in New York and Washington D.C., Artspace has been at the forefront of artist-led community transformation for over four decades. Through real estate development, consulting services, and asset management, Artspace maintains financial accessibility for our projects while supporting the creative community. For more information, please visit www.artspace.org.