

MILFORD ARTS COUNCIL

40 Railroad Avenue South, Milford, CT 06460



Walnut Beach Firehouse Gallery

81 Naugatuck Avenue, Milford, CT 06460

Artist's Sponsorship & Residency Application February 2024

Background: When the Milford Fire Department moved to a new facility on Naugatuck Avenue, they vacated a historic station that had served the neighborhood since 1920. Prominently located on the corner of Monroe Street and Naugatuck Avenue, the vacant building became an eyesore of concern to local residents. Encouraged by the Walnut Beach Association, the Milford Arts Council and the City of Milford came to an agreement in 2000 to develop the former Walnut Beach Fire Company #3 building into a community facility and residency to promote the arts and improve the neighborhood. The new facility includes approximately 1,000 square feet of gallery space, a lower level for storage and a second floor for an office and a residential dwelling unit.

The "artist in residence" will have extensive use of the facility and assist as a curator of exhibits in the Gallery. The MAC has a long-term lease to operate the building that was donated by the city and renovated with federal funds through the Community Development

Block Grant Program. As such, occupancy is limited to low and moderate income households in accordance with regulations imposed by the U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Artists Sponsorship: The residency was created with the intent of supporting aspiring, transitioning, or professional artists who are working to further establish their careers. MAC sponsorship of individual artists is intended to provide temporary support through the provision of low cost housing and studio space as a transitional opportunity. It is the objective of the MAC to provide an inspirational, stress free environment where artists can live and work to further establish their financial independence as professional artists. Residents will be granted a one-year lease with the option for a second year. Residency Sponsorship will not exceed two years.

Property Description and Residency: The 750 square foot residency was designed for artist's use and includes studio space within the dwelling. The one bedroom apartment includes a living/dining area, a kitchen, bath and the studio. The lower level has a laundry facility. The grounds include off street parking, a large terrace and a bicycle rack. The monthly cost, which includes heat, hot water and electricity, will be well below market rents. The actual rent will be based on the income of the occupant household.

It is required that the "artist in residence" be active in the maintenance and management of the Gallery & Workshop programs and facility.

Professional Background: Applicants will be required to submit professional background. This may vary depending upon the artistic endeavors of the applicant. Requested information may include but not limited to the following:

- Statement of Career Goals & Objectives
- Educational Experiences and/or Professional Training
- Accomplishments and/or Achievements
- Portfolio and/or Work Samples
- Professional References

*A Background Information Statement Form is provided as a guide for you to use as part of this application package. Background information does not need to be provided on this form. Please be certain to address all of the required background areas.

Application & Selection Process: Residency sponsorship will be awarded based on the completion of a conventional rental application and the submission of the most appropriate background information. Applicants will first be qualified based on the income eligibility of the household. These limits are subject to change and are based on the adjusted gross income as reported in the most recently filed federal income tax return. A complete copy of your tax return should be submitted along with your application.

Completed applications with all supporting documentation should be mailed or delivered to:
Milford Arts Council Att: Residency Review Committee
40 Railroad Avenue South, Milford, CT 06460

Applications that are determined to be income eligible will then be reviewed for artistic commitment, accomplishment, and potential. The impact the sponsorship opportunity will have on the applicants' ability to realize stated goals will be considered. The potential contribution the applicant might make to the Gallery/Workshop facility will also be considered. Interviews will be conducted with the most qualified candidates before a final selection is made.

Artist's Sponsorship & Residency Application Professional Background Information

Career Goals & Objectives

Please outline your professional goals and objectives and describe how residency sponsorship at the Firehouse Gallery will help you to attain these goals.

Education and Professional Training

Identify all educational experiences that have contributed to your professional development including programs you are presently enrolled in. Include degrees awarded, certificates or honors received.

Accomplishments and/or Achievements

Identify at least three accomplishments that were significant to you and have played an instrumental role in your decision to pursue the arts as a profession.

Work References

Please list two professional references that we may contact.

1) Name: -----
Day Phone: ----- Evening Phone: -----
Address: -----
Professional Relationship: -----

2) Name: -----
Day Phone: ----- Evening Phone: -----
Address: -----
Professional Relationship: -----

Work Samples

Please list or describe the work samples you will supply should your application be approved and an interview scheduled.

Personal and Financial Information

Applicant: -----
Email: -----
Phone: -----
Mailing Address: -----
Resident Address (if different): -----
How long have you been at your current address? -----
Present Rent: -----

Utilities included? _____

Notes: _____

Rental Subsidy? NO _____ YES _____, type of subsidy? _____

*Prior Resident Address (if needed or requested) _____

Pronouns _____

Birthdate _____

SS# _____

*Household Composition (if applying as a couple): _____

*Name/Secondary Applicant _____

*Relationship _____

Household Income

Present Employer: _____

Employer Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Date Hired: _____

Job Title: _____

Gross Income: _____

Banking Information

Bank/Credit Union Account# _____

Balance _____

Checking: _____

Savings: _____

Other _____