

SOMERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL ARTIST CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

*The City of Somerville announces its first artist certification program specifically designated for artists. Somerville's current zoning includes provisions that certain developments require "artist use." If a new development creates "Artist Live/Work" or "Artist Studio Space" a certification process will accompany those units. **This policy will ensure that development built for artists will retain artists.*** (For more information on arts and zoning go to: <http://somervilleartscouncil.org/artsunion/zoning>)

WHAT IS AN ARTIST CERTIFICATE?

An Artist Certificate is a confirmation from the City of Somerville that an artist has been reviewed by a committee of peers and is "certified" as a working artist. An Artist Certificate qualifies an artist, for a period of three years, as eligible for artist spaces. Upon expiration, an artist will need to seek new certification.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A SOMERVILLE ARTIST CERTIFICATE?

Any artist who either lives or works in Somerville and who can demonstrate to a committee of peers that they have a recent body of work as an artist. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

WHY DO I NEED AN ARTIST CERTIFICATE?

The City of Somerville has established through zoning the creation of artist spaces permanently dedicated to artists through deed restrictions or other legally binding covenants. An individual who seeks to rent or purchase one of these artist units will be required to submit a current Artist Certificate as proof of eligibility.

WHO REVIEWS THE APPLICATION AND MAKES DECISIONS REGARDING CERTIFICATION?

Each application and related attachments is presented to a peer review committee. The committee is comprised of Somerville artists and arts professionals who have been nominated to serve in this capacity. To make a nomination contact Gregory Jenkins at gjenkins@somervillema.gov. **The peer review committee primary task is to confirm whether each applicant has demonstrated that s/he is a working artist. Applicants will not be judged based on the aesthetics of their work but rather their commitment and activity of work.** The decision of the peer review committee will be final for that round. If an applicant is not certified during that round, s/he can reapply in a future round with further information. No one who is applying for a unit may serve on this committee.

WHEN DO I APPLY FOR AN ARTIST CERTIFICATE?

Applicants must first apply for an artist certificate prior to applying to the units. If the units are affordable artist housing, applicants must undergo a two-step process.

First, applicants should seek artist certification.

The deadline is Feb. 17th. The next step is to submit an application to the Housing Division by March 2nd at 4 p.m. (For more information go to:

<http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/housing/Affordable-Homeownership-Opportunities>)

HOW DO I GET AN ARTIST CERTIFICATE?

To obtain an Artist Certificate, an artist must submit a simple application form. Please see below for the guidelines and attached Application Form.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Each application must consist of the following materials:

- A. *(Required)* Completed application form, below.
- B. *(Required)* Evidence of a recent body of work, **created in the past three years**, as documented in support materials such as CDs, slides, JPGs or other digital images, DVDs, video and/or audiotapes; production photographs; scripts, works of fiction, non-fiction or poetry;
- C. *(Required)* A resume that demonstrates the following two categories: 1) Evidence that the artist has training or is self-taught. 2) Evidence that the artist has **presented his/her work during the past three years** in exhibition, performance, readings or comparable public programming.
- D. *(Required for non- Somerville resident)* If your primary address is outside of Somerville, please show evidence of work in Somerville, either via a copy of the first page of studio lease, or an employment pay stub with existing business/organization in Somerville, or employee verification letter.

HOW TO SUBMIT

(Drop off) Full application with support material to: Artist Certification, Somerville Arts Council, 50 Evergreen Ave. Somerville, MA 02145 by **4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17th 2016**

Or

(Email) Full application with support materials to: artistcertification@gmail.com by **11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17th 2016.**

AUTOMATIC CERTIFICATION

Automatic certification is granted to Somerville artists who have ***received in the past three calendar years (2012-2015)*** a *fellowship or finalist* from the Massachusetts Cultural Council or a fellowship from the Somerville Arts Council.

If you are such an artist, you must still submit the application form and a copy of your award letter from the Massachusetts Cultural Council or the Somerville Arts Council.

If you do not live in Somerville you must still show evidence of work in Somerville through requirement D above.

For information about the artist certification process and future deadlines, contact Gregory Jenkins, Somerville Arts Council at (617)625-6600 ext. 2985 or gjenkins@somervillema.gov

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
ARTIST CERTIFICATION APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/ZipCode: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

What is your primary artistic discipline?

Visual Arts

- crafts
- painting/drawing
- printmaking
- photography
- design/illustration
- sculpture
- installation/public art
- other

Performing Arts

- dance
- theatre
- music
- other

Media Arts

- film
- video
- animation/digital arts
- other

Literary Arts

- fiction
- non-fiction
- poetry
- other

CHECKLIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Please note which of the following items are included (check all that apply):

___ (Required) Application form:

___ (Required) Evidence of recent body of work:

___ 5 images (digital or traditional); and/or
___ up to 10 minutes of videotape/CD/audiotape; and/or
___ up to 30 pages of sample scripts, works of fiction, non-fiction and/or poetry.

(Drop off) If sending via drop off be sure to label all materials with your name, date of the work, and, where appropriate, media, dimensions and/or duration.

(Email) If you are submitting via email, please use this form and attach all support material. If sending JPEGs please be sure that each file size is no larger than 750k each. Concerning moving image/video work, please send web links to work on separate sheet.

Work must have been completed within three years of the date of this application

___ (Required) Resume

___ (Optional) If not a Somerville resident, documents demonstrating work in Somerville [see section D above]

___ (Optional) Return-addressed, stamped envelope

If hand delivering please do not use staples, binders or other packaging. Paper clips only. SAC will return support materials ONLY if an artist provides a returned addressed stamped envelope. Be sure the envelope has adequate postage. Other materials will be discarded after the review process is complete.

ONE LAST QUESTION...

Please tell us how you heard about this initiative; it will help us reach artists in the future:

___ Newspaper, please specify: _____
___ List Serve or social media, please specify: _____
___ SAC website
___ Word of mouth
___ Other: _____