



## The Community Builders (TCB) Artist Housing Model How does it work?

### **Cornerstone Apartments (opened: Chicago 2015):**

Welcome to Cornerstone Apartments, where creativity and community meet! This high-quality yet affordable new construction is enclaved in a tranquil community along 50th Street in Chicago's North Washington Park neighborhood within the Bronzeville community. We intend to help support the community's continuing commitment to the arts and artists by attracting creative individuals from diverse artistic and cultural backgrounds.

Surrounded by historic and relatively new arts-related organizations and businesses, our intent is to help support the community's continuing commitment to the arts and the artists through our mission of providing high-quality housing that fits the needs of artists and their families. Cornerstone Apartments is intentionally affordable and will remain that way for the long term, as will its leasing preferences for working artists.

TCB is committed to building an intentional community attracting creative individuals from diverse artistic and cultural backgrounds. We encourage all people in the creative arts to apply regardless of race, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual preference, or status with regard to public assistance or physical challenges. We are interested in individuals who are committed to building a creative community and willing to contribute their time and energy toward this goal. The artists will organize and manage common space for music practice, a dance rehearsal space and meeting room.

## Do you have to be an artist to live at Cornerstone Apartments?

A leasing preference is provided to applicant heads of households who are working artists. Non-artist family members are welcome. Roommates are welcome, but preferences will be given to roommates where each is a working artist or where a household has a head of household who is a working artist and all other household members are family members.

No income need be derived from an applicant art practice, as many artists also work in other fields to pay the bills.

## How much is the rent?

1 Bedroom- \$750

2 Bedroom- \$880

**The applicant must demonstrate a financial ability to pay his/her monthly rent for the unit.**

## How do you define "artist"?

We understand that artists work within a wide spectrum of creative pursuits. Consequently, our definition of "artist" broadly includes individuals actively engaged in artistic and literary activities, including: visual arts, theater, multi-media, dance, music, writing, design, and functional art, such as furniture making. During the application process evidence of professional commitment will be requested, which can be done through:

- A resume and/or portfolio that evidences art education, professional training, exhibitions, performances, samples of work, and any career-related information that demonstrates professional intent
- Advanced education and/or training or knowledge of art, or
- Other evidence of the attainment of special artistic skills as a workman or craftsman.

## How do I apply?

There are three steps to the application process:

- 1. Initial Application Submitted Online**
- 2. Tenant Income Verification**
- 3. Artist Selection Committee Interview**

After your application has been preliminarily approved, you will be interviewed by the Cornerstone Selection Committee. You will need to present your portfolio and resume at the interview. The committee members will ask you questions about your commitment to the arts and your interest in becoming a resident of Cornerstone. To assist the committee, it also will review and use the enclosed Artistic Application that you will have completed.

The Artist Selection Committee screens applicants to determine their participation in, and commitment to, the arts; the committee does not judge the content of an applicant's artistic work. The Artist Selection Committee is a permitted preference or a permitted screening criteria pursuant to HUD Handbook 4350.3 2-25, which is subject to federal, state or local preferences.

## Who is the Cornerstone Selection Committee?

The Cornerstone Selection Committee is drawn from local artists and community organizations as well as 1-2 members of the Property Management team. The process is friendly and informal, but we take it very seriously; we want residents of Cornerstone to be committed artists and good neighbors, and we're sure you'd want this too.

The selection committee does not judge the content or quality of an applicant's artistic work.

## What documentation is required to submit as an artist?

Each artist member of your household will complete a questionnaire to help us to better understand your needs and expectations with regard to living in an unit.

Questions are as follows:

- Please write an Artist Statement, briefly describing your art form, how long you have been creating, your inspiration and your goals.
- Why are you interested in living in this community? What are your expectations?
- Have you ever lived in an artist housing situation before? If so, where and what was your main impression?
- What is your artist training?