

## **SOMERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL ARTIST CERTIFICATION APPLICATION**

The City of Somerville announces its artist certification program specifically designated for artists. Somerville's current zoning ordinance 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 ensures that developments 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 (3) 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, or any artist who is applying for Somerville artist housing, 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 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 is 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 to serve in this capacity. **The peer review committee's primary task is to confirm whether each applicant has demonstrated that they are 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, they can reapply in a future round with further information. No one who might apply for a unit may serve on this committee.

### **WHY GET CERTIFIED AS AN ARTIST NOW?**

If one of existing units or any new unit coming online is available, **IF** an applicant is chosen, they must receive an artist certification to move forward in securing the unit. Each of the current buildings may have specific by-laws concerning the process by which they make available these

units. Regardless of the specific process, the overall policy ensures that any unit available will house an Artist Certified applicant.

### **WHEN DO I APPLY FOR AN ARTIST CERTIFICATE?**

Applicants typically apply and are chosen to be “pre-qualified” for an artist housing unit. If they do not have a current up-to-date certification, they will complete this application to become certified.

**The owner/developer/property manager will conduct an application process FIRST, then if chosen you will apply for certification.**

For more information about inclusionary housing, please visit:

[www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/inclusionary-housing-program](http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/inclusionary-housing-program)

### **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.

### **ARTIST CERTIFICATION 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.

### **HOW TO SUBMIT**

**(Drop off)** Full application with support material to: Artist Certification, Somerville Arts Council, 50 Evergreen Ave. Somerville, MA 02145 by any deadline that is set by the owner/manager for a particular unit announcement.

**Or**

*(Email) Full application with support materials to: [gjenkins@somervillema.gov](mailto:gjenkins@somervillema.gov) by any deadline that is set by the owner/manager for a particular unit announcement.*

**AUTOMATIC CERTIFICATION**

Automatic certification is granted to Somerville artists who have **received in the past three calendar years (2021-2023)** 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.**

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](mailto:gjenkins@somervillema.gov)