

## Harrison Community Village Artist-in-Residence Request for Qualifications

If you would prefer these materials in another language please contact the RACC project team for translation services.

Interpretation services are available, please email [info@racc.org](mailto:info@racc.org).

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In partnership with [Multnomah County](#) and [Do Good Multnomah](#), the [Regional Arts & Culture Council](#) (RACC) invites artists/artist teams who are currently living in Oregon or Washington and producing work in visual, literary, media, social practice and/or interdisciplinary mediums to submit qualifications for up to a one year artist-in-residence opportunity at the newly constructed [Harrison Community Village](#) in Southeast Portland. One artist/artist team will be selected to work with and among village residents and staff to create work in any medium that engages and/or is a result of collaborating with the community. A combination of temporary, itinerant, time-based and permanent artistic manifestations are welcomed, encouraged and to be determined through the course of the residency. Located on the southeast corner of SE Mill St and SE 82nd Ave, the new village is nestled between the Tabor, Montavilla and Mill Park neighborhoods in Portland, OR. The budget available for the project comes from Multnomah County's Percent for Art Program and is an all inclusive budget of **\$15,000-\$25,000**. Submissions are due by **Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 11:59pm PDT**. Further information about the project can be accessed [here](#).

## Art Opportunity

We are seeking an artist/artist team who can engage with residents and embed themselves into village life over the course of the residency in order to provide opportunities for artistic expression and creative outlet for those who will call the village home. Several locations within the village site have been identified as potential opportunities for temporary, permanent and/or rotating art such as panels of the inward facing fencing and community kitchen area. However, we expect these final opportunities to be decided upon in collaboration with the selected artist(s), village residents, staff and RACC as a result of what is shared, learned and prioritized over the course of the residency. Multnomah County, Do Good Multnomah, RACC and other project team members are open-minded about how the tangible results of the residency may manifest and are consciously trying not to be prescriptive. Therefore applications from artists' working in a wide-range of mediums are encouraged. However, artists' with lived experience will be prioritized.

The goals are being driven by shared values across the project partners and the experience for residents is just as, if not more, important than any tangible outcome.

## Information Sessions for Artists

The information in this RFQ is also described in a recorded video which [can be accessed here](#). Please click the link and use passcode **b\*8S6@1=** to access the recording.

Additionally, given the sensitivity and nuance of this project, we understand that some applicants may wish to ask questions in a confidential setting. Therefore, if that is of interest, you may schedule a brief one-on-one meeting with project manager, Sophie, [via Calendly here](#).

We strongly encourage you to review the recorded info session, especially if you are a first-time applicant as more information about this opportunity is shared and there are details on how to submit application materials.

If you have questions about the info session, the opportunity or need any accommodations in order to access these resources, please email project manager, Sophie, at [shook@racc.org](mailto:shook@racc.org).

## About Harrison Community Village

The [Homeless Services Department \(HSD\)](#) at Multnomah County, previously known as the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS), is converting the property at 1818 SE 82nd Avenue into an alternative shelter site. This work has been done in collaboration with the Multnomah County Facilities and Property Management (FPM) team and Sosyal Architecture & Community Development with significant input from neighborhood residents, local businesses, community organizations and other key stakeholders.

In December of 2022, as part of the Community Sheltering Strategy/Homelessness Response Action Plan, Multnomah County acquired the future Harrison Community Village site. As a former recreational vehicle dealership, the original building needed to be demolished in order to allow for more intentional and flexible architectural design which is responsive to the residential and programmatic needs of the site. Harrison Community Village, and other similar offerings, expand the County's capacity to provide safety off the streets for more individuals experiencing homelessness.

One of the aspirational goals of these types of facilities is to provide an environment of safety and support which allows residents to successfully engage in wrap-around services that facilitate their transition to permanent housing. Feedback from those with lived experience has informed the use of modular units for individual use, having a secure space after living unsheltered can assist in people's experience of safety, stability and ability to engage with services.

The site will include 38 sleeping pods, including 8 that are designed for people living with disabilities. In total, the village will be able to accommodate up to 38 adults (18+). There will be six additional units which will provide office space for staff and participant services, bathrooms and showers, kitchenette amenities, laundry facilities, on-site trash services and storage, all of which will be ADA accessible. For exterior use, there will be a pet relief area and covered outdoor community space. The entire site will be fenced with privacy inserts on all street sides.

Nonprofit provider, Do Good Multnomah, is the programmatic partner involved in the project who will offer and oversee 24/7 wraparound services for village residents while they transition into permanent housing. Services include temporary emergency shelter, sleeping quarters, basic hygiene, 24/7 staffing, and access to case management and abstinence-based recovery services. The goal is to create a low barrier site with access to case management and abstinence-based recovery services that ensure equitable access and outcomes for adults (18+) of all backgrounds and identities.

The objective is to provide these support programs through person-centered and trauma-informed care principles. To protect participant safety, maintain program integrity and support recovery goals in an abstinence-based recovery program, Harrison Community Village will require all staff, participants and volunteers to remain free from the illegal use of drugs and alcohol while working at or participating in the program. All staff, program participants, and volunteers will be asked to consent to random drug testing as a part of this policy.

Since December 2024, HSD has been engaged in a robust series of community meetings with resourced neighbors in order to build relationships and develop the Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA). This is a written statement of shared commitments and responsibilities in relation to HSD-funded shelters where the signatories make a public and joint commitment to each other to abide by the terms. The GNA sets-up protocols and processes to identify opportunities for cooperation and support as well as address potential problems. HSD has already been engaged with the Montavilla Neighborhood Association, 82nd Ave Business Association, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), African Youth & Community Organization (AYCO), Portland Public Schools, and other key community partners. Presentations and related documents from engagement with the surrounding neighborhood, local businesses and community organizations are available on [HSD's Harrison Community Village project webpage](#).

Construction began in July 2025 and is estimated to be completed in May 2026 with staff and residents expected to arrive in June 2026.

## Community Engagement

Community engagement is a central component of this project. We are seeking an artist/artist team who welcomes and reflects the diverse communities that will be served by Harrison Community Village, reside within the surrounding neighborhoods and/or have historic connection to the area within their process and work. Genuine understanding and demonstration of community engagement practices in existing artistic practice, past work and/or other key areas of experience where skillsets may be transferable, such as teaching, mentorship, community organizing, care work and other non-typical/non-traditional examples of embedding community into process and practice, are highly desirable.

We are seeking an original approach to the artist residency that is accessible to people with lived experience of homelessness, adds enjoyment and fulfillment to the community, honors the area's history, celebrates the shelter and respects its residents while being mindful of their experiences and potential triggers. To avoid the potential to trigger a negative emotional response in visitors and users of the village, the artworks connected to the village must be designed to be trauma-informed. If needed, RACC can assist with hiring a community engagement liaison who will work with the selected artist/artist team to create a plan for community engagement.

While each person is unique, we often expect people who have experienced homelessness to also have histories and identities which additionally include experiencing and/or witnessing trauma, violence, the use of drugs and/or mental health challenges. Therefore, people with lived experience and those with an understanding of [trauma-informed design](#)\* are preferred. Multnomah County, Do Good Multnomah and RACC are working closely with the local homeless community, future Harrison Community Village residents, Do Good Multnomah participants, health providers and Tabor, Montavilla and Mill Park neighbors to plan for a trauma-informed space.

While the focus of this residency is centered around the residents of Harrison Community Village, there is potential for wider engagement in the neighborhood with other values-aligned community groups such as PDX Saints Love, Rahab's Sisters, AYCO, APANO and IRCO. While these collaborations are not a requirement of the opportunity, there is a hope that the selected artist(s), with support from RACC, Multnomah County, Do Good Multnomah and other project partners, may consider what's more broadly possible.

*\*Further information and definitions of trauma-informed design can be found in the supplemental materials packet*

## Budget & Length of Project

The all-inclusive budget for the project is between \$15,000 and \$25,000. This fee is inclusive of all project expenses including artist fees, design development, fabrication/production, materials, equipment, any installation costs, insurance, documentation, community engagement scope of work including any associated travel or additional expenses for these activities, communication/coordination with the design team, construction team and third-party contractors who may help to fabricate and install any artwork.

The residency will ideally commence in Summer 2026 and be completed by Spring/Summer 2027, the exact schedule is to be determined in collaboration between the selected artist(s), RACC, Multnomah County and Do Good Multnomah. The selected artist(s) will be required to carry general liability insurance for the duration of the project.

Following final selection, the artist(s) will develop a scope of work, proposed outcome(s), project calendar and budget. During this planning phase, there will be opportunities to learn more about the Harrison Community Village project and residents from RACC, Multnomah County, Do Good Multnomah and other project partners.

## Eligibility

This opportunity is open to artists/artist teams based in Oregon or Washington. If applying as a team, at least one member must meet the residence eligibility requirement. Those with significant current or past connections, or those with interest and ability to create meaningful connections, to the Montavilla, Tabor, Mill Park and/or other surrounding neighborhoods and/or the greater Southeast Portland area are preferred.

Applicants who have an interest in and/or experience with community engagement processes, including social practice, which inform their approach and art practice are strongly encouraged to apply. Significant consideration will be given to artists who have experience working intergenerationally and with residents from historically marginalized and displaced communities to develop their artwork including communities of color as well as immigrant and refugee communities. Artists who have demonstrable lived experience and alignment with people who experience houselessness, people who use drugs and alcohol, people who have experienced incarceration, people who live with neurodivergence, mental illness and/or identify as [MAD](#) will be prioritized. Artists who speak languages other than English are also desirable.

RACC is committed to reflecting the cultural richness of our city by promoting opportunities for emerging and historically underrepresented artists. Artists/artist teams representing communities of color are strongly encouraged to apply. RACC is committed to engaging new communities of artists and expanding the range of artistic and cultural expression represented in the City's public art collection.

The selected artist/artist team must be able to commit to a regular schedule of engagement events at Harrison Community Village between Summer 2026 and Spring/Summer 2027. The exact schedule will be determined in collaboration between the selected artist(s), RACC, Multnomah County and Do Good Multnomah.

As Harrison Community Village is located within a designated school zone, once the artist/artist team has been selected they (all members) must successfully complete a background check to finalize the selection process. Not all convictions will be a barrier to selection for this opportunity. Only certain convictions, including those involving harm to minors or other vulnerable populations, may disqualify applicants. Do Good Multnomah will facilitate background checks at no cost to the selected artist(s). Results are typically received within 7 business days, but may take longer depending on individual jurisdictions.

As indicated above, Harrison Community Village will require all staff, residents and volunteers to remain free from the illegal use of drugs and alcohol while working at or participating in the program. The selected artist/artist team (all members) will be required to adhere to this policy as well, including consent to random drug testing. Drug testing under this policy is limited to detecting the illegal use of drugs and alcohol and is not intended to identify, screen out, or discriminate against individuals with disabilities or individuals lawfully using prescription medications. Drug testing will be facilitated by Do Good Multnomah, at no cost to the selected artist(s) and will take place on site. Negative results can be interpreted the same day, with confirmation testing for positive results taking an additional 48-72 hrs to be processed.

## Selection Process

At this time, the selection process will be entirely virtual. A selection panel composed of Multnomah County and Do Good Multnomah representatives, local artists, community members and Southeast Portland residents, Harrison Community Village project and design team members will review artists' submissions and choose more than one finalist to invite to interview for the commission.

Overall, the purpose of the interview is to allow the artist(s) and panel to meet each other and engage in a mutually beneficial and informative conversation. It's an opportunity for the artist(s) to better understand the context of the project and the intentions the selection panel has for the residency. Both parties are given the chance to ask questions and determine best alignment and artist selection for the project. After the interviews are completed, the selection panel will choose a final artist/artist team to award the public art opportunity to.

Criteria for selecting semifinalists for interviews are (1) quality of past work as demonstrated in submitted images; (2) ability and interest in creating site-specific artwork as informed through a residency practice; (3) how past artworks/projects fit one or more of the general goals described above, specifically community engagement and designing with stakeholder communities, through demonstrated processes and/or final outcomes; (4) demonstrable lived experience and understanding of trauma-informed design; (5) existing, interest in and/or ability to create connections to Tabor, Montavilla, Mill Park and/or other surrounding neighborhoods in the greater Southeast Portland area.

Please note the selection panel reserves the right to select an artist who does not directly apply to this call, if appropriate. Likewise, the panel maintains the option to make no selection from submitted applications and to reopen the selection process or propose other methods of selection if no applicant is accepted.

## How to Apply

All application materials must be submitted through the [RACC Opportunity Portal](https://racc.org/apply), an online application system. Applicants will need to create an account, or log into their existing account at <https://racc.org/apply>. If you are applying as a team, please assign one person to apply and be the point of contact on behalf of the team.

For first-time users of the portal, view a brief video learning how to register [here](#).

## Application Materials

- **Statement of interest.** Applicants are invited to submit their responses to the prompts below **either** in a written statement\* or in an audio or video statement\*\*. Please outline the following:
  - Your/your team's interest in this project
    - Why this project, its focus and themes are of interest to you
    - Why you'd be a good match for the project
    - How do you foresee your work connecting to the mission and values of the project
  - Describe your/your team's capacity and/or experience to complete the scope of work, specifically your ability to engage meaningfully with village residents and the trauma-informed guidelines and goals
  - Explain why you value community engagement in your artistic process and share past examples of successfully incorporating community visions, values and voices into a project
  - If you are applying as a team, describe your individual roles on the team and how you anticipate working together
- **Up to 8 past work samples.** These work samples are the primary way the quality of your work will be judged. Provide up to two images, no larger than 5MB each, for each work sample. For each image, please provide title, artist name, media, dimensions, year completed, budget and location. Conceptual information is desirable but not required.

*\*Written statement: 3000 characters or less*

*\*\*Audio or video statement: Upload an audio/voice or video recording no longer than 2 minutes*

Once you have started your application, you can save after each step and sign out. Your application will be saved as a draft that you can continue to work on, as needed. Please note that after you click "Submit," your application is final and no further edits can be made.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us throughout the process.

## Questions

We are here to support and assist you! If you have questions about the overall opportunity or the RACC application portal, would like to set up a time for a phone/video call or have any other needs for assistance please email project manager, Sophie, at [shook@racc.org](mailto:shook@racc.org).

If you would like to be considered for this opportunity and don't have a computer or online access, please feel free to contact RACC for support. Also, if you prefer these materials in another language you can contact the RACC project team for translation services.

We strongly encourage you to submit your application with enough time for any questions to be answered prior to when submissions are due as enquiries received towards the end of that period may not be responded to. We appreciate your understanding and consideration of our capacity.

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## Important Dates

May 13, 2026 – RFQ launch

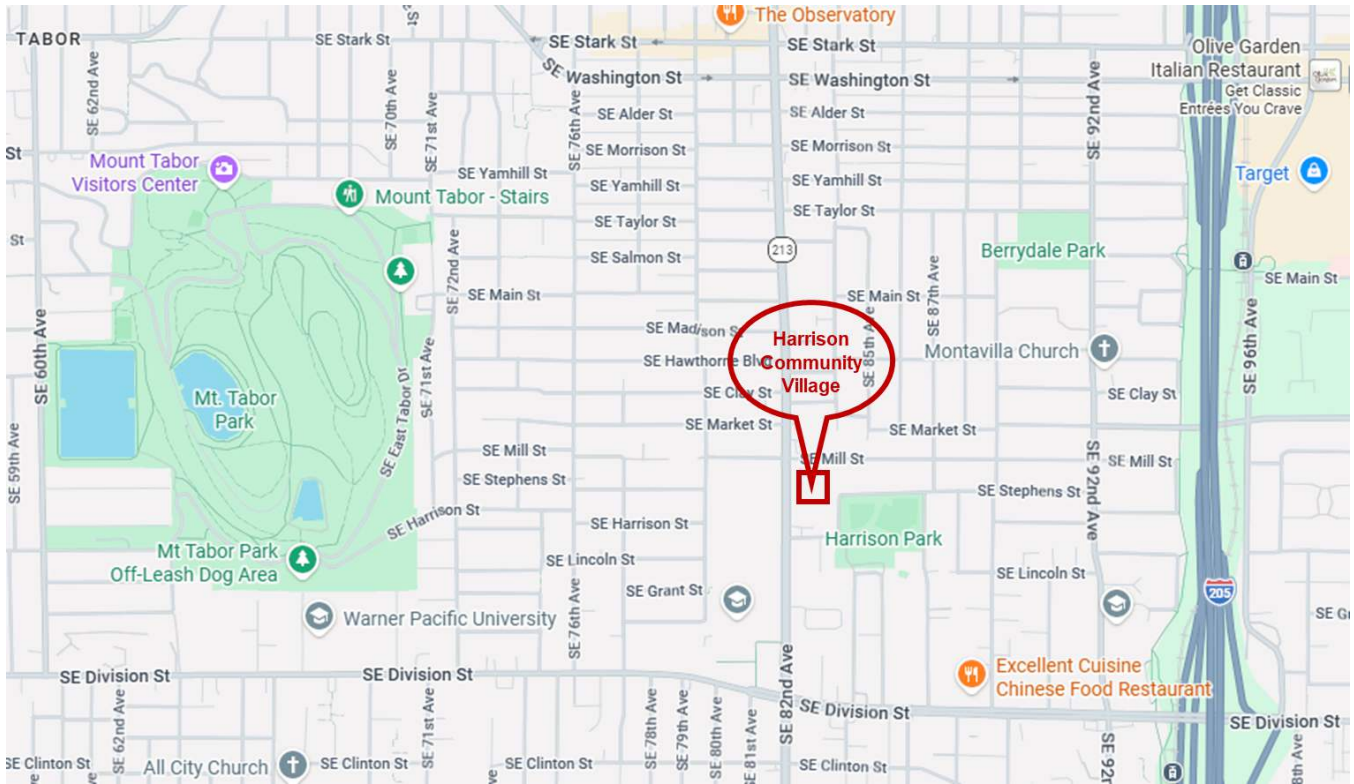
May 15, 18, 26 + June 1, 8, 2026 – Sophie's Office Hours, [more information here](#)

June 10, 2026 11:59pm – Applications due

June/July 2026 – Panel review and artist selection including interviews

August 2026 – Onboarding and Project Design

August 2026-August 2027 – Community Engagement and Artist-in-Residence



## Harrison Community Village Artist-in-Residence Supplemental Materials

**Site Address:** Harrison Community Village, 1818 SE 82nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97216

**Project Scope:** One artist/artist team will be selected for up to a one year artist-in-residence opportunity at the newly constructed Harrison Community Village in Southeast Portland.

**Project Budget:** \$15,000-\$25,000

**Deadline:** Wednesday June 10, 2026 at 11:59pm PDT

### Culturally Specific Definitions

"Homeless" means to lack a permanent place of residence while "houseless" means to be lacking or in need of a house. For many people, "home" is also associated with experiencing a sense of community and it is possible for a person to build "community" wherever they may be staying. Therefore someone may be "houseless" without being "homeless".

A "trauma-informed approach" incorporates four key elements: (1) *realizing* the widespread impact of trauma and understanding potential paths to recovery; (2) *recognizing* the signs and symptoms of trauma in all individuals involved with the program, organization, or system, including its own workforce; (3) *responding* by fully integrating this knowledge into policies, procedures and practices; and (4) *resisting* retraumatization of clients and staff ([SAMHSA](#), 2014).

As Do Good Multnomah has grown as a provider, they've learned from participants and staff that there's a strong need for spaces that are based on sobriety and recovery so that individuals can achieve their long-term housing goals. Based on that feedback, Harrison Community Village will follow an abstinence-based recovery model.

In this context, “abstinence-based recovery” means that all staff, residents and volunteers will abstain from substance use that is not prescribed by a licensed medical provider. In addition, residents will be required to be actively engaged in a treatment plan prior to intake or be willing to start one within the first 7 days of joining the program. Drug and alcohol screenings are required for residents at intake and will also be conducted randomly throughout their stay at Harrison Community Village, with a right to remedy process if there is a return to use. Random drug and alcohol screenings will also apply to staff and volunteers to ensure the integrity of the community agreements and maintain a supportive environment. This is a service model that Do Good Multnomah participants have asked for, as the supported and shared accountability helps ensure they maintain sobriety while working to accomplish their housing goals.

During the listening process, Do Good Multnomah heard that specific language matters. Vocabulary like "clean and sober" is now considered outdated as it implies that some individuals are not clean, therefore "dirty" or that they must earn access to basic human rights based on their behavior. That is a stereotype we all want to move away from.

## More About Trauma-Informed Care & Design

[Shopworks Architecture, Dignified Design: A Trauma-Informed Approach](#)

[Trauma-Informed Oregon, What is Trauma-Informed Care?](#)

[Hopper, Bassuk & Olivet, Shelter from the Storm: Trauma-Informed Care in Homelessness Services Settings](#)

## More About the Project Site

[Harrison Community Village Photos](#)

[Harrison Community Village Art Sites - Aerial View\\*](#)

[Harrison Community Village Art Sites - Detail\\*](#)

*\*Please note that, as tends to happen with development projects, some of the details of these initial plans for the site have shifted since construction began.*