



Youth Housing Community Opening January 2021!

Youth Spirit Artworks' Tiny House Empowerment Village is a new long-term shelter program located at 633 Hegenberger Rd. in Oakland. This community is designed to support houseless transitional-aged youth in achieving their career, housing, and personal goals through community support and stable housing. Through a wellness-based youth-designed program, the Village environment will support and nurture residents while providing access to critical resources.

Being a part of this community is more than just *living* at the Village. All residents will also be a part Youth Spirit Artworks' core arts program located in Berkeley, where they will engage in a social justice-based art program and youth-led workshops around healthy interpersonal relationships, restorative justice, and more. Additionally, residents will be supported in developing a responsibility to the community at large, achieved through connections to local faith organizations and active involvement with local social justice projects.



Eligibility Requirements:

- **Must be literally homeless, between the ages of 18-23, and identify either Berkeley or Oakland as home**
- Must attend all weekly community meetings (at the Village) and case management sessions, which will be held at our art studio at 1740 Alcatraz Ave in Berkeley (both the Village and studio are located close to Bart stations and bus lines)
- Be willing to engage in restorative justice practices
- Be willing to contribute to building a safe and thriving community
- Practice nonviolent communication
- Be non-discriminatory and queer-affirming
- **Actively participate in the art and job skills training program at our art studio in Berkeley for a minimum of 3-8 hours/week**
- Be motivated to work towards your personal/vocational goals

Application Instructions:

- If you have never done a Coordinated Entry Assessment, please call (510) 613-0330 to do an assessment over the phone. If you leave a voice message, make sure to leave your callback number. **We are unable to consider anyone who doesn't have a recent Coordinated Entry Assessment.**
- Fill out an application (attached). Applications are being reviewed on a rolling basis, so it is best to submit your application as soon as possible. All eligible applicants will be contacted via phone for an interview. Submit application either by mail or in our drop box to:

Tiny House Village Application
1740 Alcatraz Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94703

Or, email your application to tinyhouseapplications@youthspirartworks.org (please send completed applications only).

Application for the Youth Spirit Artworks Tiny House Empowerment Village

Please make sure that you have read through and meet all of the Eligibility Requirements on the prior page before completing this application.

Our goal is to build a healthy, cohesive, and thriving community at the Tiny House Empowerment Village. We want to build a culture wherein all residents feel empowered to engage in and contribute to this larger community. The Village won't be a perfect fit for every person. For the purpose of finding residents who are a best fit for the community we are creating, we ask that you answer all of the below questions as candidly as possible. We are not reviewing your answers to judge you or discriminate against you, but rather to assess whether or not our program can meet your needs and how we can best do so.

Basic Information:

1. Full name: _____
2. Today's date: _____ / _____ / _____
3. Pronouns (ex: she/her/hers, he/him/his, they/them/theirs, etc.): _____
4. Date of birth: _____ / _____ / _____
5. Age: _____
6. Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____
7. Email address: _____
8. Phone number: _____
9. Name of most recent Case Manager (if applicable): _____
10. Email address of most recent Case Manager (if applicable): _____
11. Phone number of most recent Case Manager (if applicable): _____
12. Are you currently employed?
Yes _____ No _____
13. Do you receive income from any of the following? If so, please indicate how much:
 - a. TANF (aid to mothers and children): _____
 - b. Social Security: _____
 - c. VA (service in the military): _____

- d. SNAP (food stamps): _____
- e. Part-time employment (other than at YSA): _____
- f. Full-time employment (other than at YSA): _____
- g. Family, friends, people you know: _____
- h. None
- i. Other: _____

As part of the Housing Agreement, all residents of the Tiny House Empowerment Village will be required to pay 30% of their current monthly income as rent.

14. Each tiny home is intended for one occupant only, so unfortunately we are not able to accommodate children. Do you have any children or dependents that would need to be living with you?

Yes _____ No _____

15. Are you currently pregnant?

Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure _____

16. What city do you identify as home (if you're not sure, do you have an address that you use for mail, such as a P.O. Box, shelter, or program location)?

17. If accepted into the Village, would you need a wheelchair-accessible/ADA-accessible unit?

Yes _____ No _____

Personal Information:

18. Do you currently own any pets that you were hoping to bring with you to the Village?

Yes _____ No _____

19. If you answered "Yes" to the above question, please indicate how many pets you currently own and the kind(s) of animal. We are only able to accommodate a maximum of 1 dog and 2 cats per resident, and all animals must be spayed/neutered and have updated vaccinations.

20. Do you currently use any mind-altering substances (including legal substances such as alcohol, cannabis, or vape pens)?

Yes _____ No _____

If you answered "Yes" to the above question, how often do you use any of the above substances?

Monthly: _____

Once a day: _____

Weekly: _____

Several times in a day: _____

Several times a week: _____

What is your primary reason for using these substances (for example: for recreational use, to help cope with anxiety or depression, to help with falling asleep, etc.)?

Have you ever been in a treatment program for substance use?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you currently smoke cigarettes?

Yes _____ No _____

Questions:

How do you define community? How do you envision yourself fitting into and contributing toward a larger community?

Being a part of the Tiny House Empowerment Village will mean more than just having a place to live. It will also mean having ongoing commitments to and responsibilities within your community. Do you feel that this is something you have the capacity to do at this time in your life? Do you have any concerns or foresee any personal challenges about being a part of a community like this?

What are your goals for the coming year? What have you already done in order to reach these goals?

What type of support do you need to reach your goals?

The Tiny House Empowerment Village will give residents access to a lot of opportunities for personal and professional growth and skill building, including access to training and mentorship in the following areas: artmaking, art entrepreneurship and sales, nonprofit management, gardening, sewing, professional medical skills, music, biking and exercise, cooking, construction, and more. Do any of the aforementioned areas interest you? Please list any and all other skills that you're interested in exploring or learning more about.

Housing Information:

As part of the Housing Agreement, all residents of the Tiny House Empowerment Village will be required to pay 30% of their current monthly income as rent. This is intended to be affordable for anyone with any income. If you do not have any income, we will help you apply for General Assistance. You will also be paid \$175 a month to participate in YSA's core arts program, and this will count as income as well. Is paying 30% of your income toward rent something you feel you have the capacity to do?

Yes _____ No _____

Where did you sleep last night? _____

Where have you been staying this past month? _____

Have you ever stayed in any transitional housing programs? If so, which ones?

Have you ever paid rent before? If so, how much and at what type of place were you living?

Have you ever had permanent housing since leaving your childhood home/place of residence?

Have you ever lived with roommates? If so, can you share a bit about how that went for you?

Please list the last few places you've lived or stayed (ie. shelters, programs, friend's houses, permanent housing, etc.):

Dates:	Type of residence (include names if possible):

Schedule/Availability:

All residents will be expected to participate in our art and job skills building program, which involves attending weekly community zoom meetings, and participating in art projects during studio hours. Do you feel you have the capacity to do this at this time in your life?

Yes _____ No _____

As part of the Housing Agreement, all residents of the Tiny House Empowerment Village will be expected to participate in YSA's core arts program workshops for a minimum of between 3 and 8 hours per week (depending on employment and school commitments).

If you have other commitments (such as employment, school, therapy, regular medical appointments, etc.), please indicate them below:

Monday: _____

Tuesday: _____

Wednesday: _____

Thursday: _____

Friday: _____

Saturday: _____

Sunday: _____

Are you able to commit to participating in our core arts program 8 hours per week within the hours of 12:30 pm - 6:30 pm Monday through Friday?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you have any concerns about being able to fulfill this commitment?

Any other information you would like to tell us about yourself or add to this application?

Thank you for completing this application!

We will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis and will be contacting only those who we feel could be a good fit for this community to set up an interview. Please submit your application by dropping it in our dropbox or sending it by mail to:

Tiny House Empowerment Village Application
1740 Alcatraz Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94703

You may also email your application to tinyhouseapplications@youthspiritartworks.org. Please only send completed applications.