

## Roberts Street Social Centre RESIDENCY INFORMATION – 2012

The residency program runs seasonally at The Roberts Street Social Centre, from mid-May to mid-October each year. Residencies are two weeks long, and residents are provided with space, equipment and support for their project as well as living space in a garden shed in the backyard of the Centre. We encourage projects that relate to the mandate of the Roberts Street Social Centre, in any medium.

### **Mission Statement:**

The Roberts Street Social Centre is a space for people to come together to share skills, knowledge, and resources. It is a collection of projects dedicated to providing free or affordable access to independent and alternative media, art, and education. We support critical, creative projects and inspire social change with DIY (do it yourself), non-hierarchical, and consensus-based approaches. We aim to be active in our communities by collaborating with other groups and projects. We strive to be inclusive, aware of barriers and discrimination, and welcoming to all ages.



### **We house:**

- the Ink Storm Screenprinting Collective studio
- the Anchor Archive Zine Library
- the “Crow's Nest” space for events, workshops, and meetings
- an artist residency
- kitchen and bathroom facilities
- a yard with firepit and garden

### **Residency Program:**

Residencies are two weeks long throughout the spring, summer and fall. Local folks are welcome to apply, but priority will be given to out-of-town applicants. Because of the overwhelming number of applications we have been receiving the last few years, we have decided not to accept repeat residents. Sorry. If you want to come back, we would love to see you again, get in touch and we can facilitate another way to do that.

We are interested in proposals for projects that embody the same sort of do-it-yourself spirit as the Social Centre, and that contribute in some way to the community and/or the space.

We welcome proposals of any sort – not necessarily zine-based (although that is certainly welcome). We will offer you support and help executing your project, and access to supplies that we have here.

Residents are housed in the shed, an actual garden shed in the backyard. Life in the shed could also be described as urban camping. Accommodation is simple and rustic – there is a bunk bed, several shelves and hooks, and electricity. A kitchen and bathroom are available inside the Social Centre. The bathroom is located on the second floor, so is unfortunately not accessible. Billeting is also an option, let us know on your application if that is preferable. The rest of the yard has a vegetable and flower garden, a fire pit, and benches. We offer you the use of a bicycle while you're here.



### **How it works:**

Residents get two weeks in the shed. This is not much time! Please keep this in mind when planning your project. Here are some tips:

- Keep it simple! It's easy to overestimate what you can accomplish in two weeks.
- Plan ahead! Do prep and research before you arrive so you can hit the ground running.
- Give yourself time! You'll need to get oriented, meet people, and hit the beach. Don't forget to make time for those things in your schedule.

We expect you to share your work with us in some way. Here are some possibilities:

- give a reading
- have a project launch party
- teach a workshop
- do a performance
- have an art show
- have a film screening



You get the idea. We're excited you're here, and want to see why you came. Events can happen at Roberts Street, or at other venues around town. We will help you plan and promote your event.

(Thanks to Alex Wrekk for shed photos)

**Some background:**

The Roberts Street Social Centre, located at 5684 Roberts Street, is a small Maritime-style house. The Anchor Archive Zine Library occupies the front room of the house and is open twice weekly to the public. We have thousands of zines and books, for browsing and lending to members. We have a Mac computer with internet (and wireless access), scanner, printer as well as a photocopier and zine making tools like typewriters, stationary supplies, Letraset, clip art, etc. In the back room is Ink Storm, a collectively-run screenprinting studio, which is available for you to use as well. There is a light table to burn screens using photo-emulsion, silkscreens for printing on fabric and paper, and other supplies. You are welcome to use everything here.

Halifax is a small city on the east coast of Canada, about a twelve hour drive from either Boston or Montreal. The Roberts Street Social Centre is located just off Agricola Street in the North End. There is a small and welcoming community of activists, artists, musicians and neighbourhood people to meet. We love collaborating with other local groups, and can help make connections and suggest contacts that would apply to your project.

**Important information:**

Due to the very public nature of the Roberts Street Social Centre, and the very rustic nature of the shed, we realize this residency program is not for everyone. Residents must be prepared to work in a busy, social environment with little privacy, be comfortable with dust, the occasional spider web and be fairly self-sufficient with meals and housekeeping. Key holding members of Roberts Street have 24-hour access to the Social Centre house, so don't be surprised to find someone screenprinting or checking their email at 3am. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to explore the possibility of billeting, please feel free to get in touch with us before the application deadline.

**The deadline for applications is February 24 2012. For real.**

We will let you know in March.

Thank you!

– the Residency Committee

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