

AS220

Artist-In-Residence

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AS220 MISSION STATEMENT

We, the citizens of Rhode Island, associate ourselves for the purpose of providing a local forum and home for the arts, through the maintenance of residential and work studios, galleries, performance and educational spaces. Exhibitions and performances in the forum will be unjuried, uncensored and open to the general public. Our facilities and services are made available to all artists who need a place to exhibit, perform, or create their original artwork, especially those who cannot obtain space to exhibit or perform from traditional sources because of financial or other limitations.

HISTORY

AS220 had its humble beginnings above the Providence Performing Arts Center at 220 Weybosset Street. It was 1985, and a few artists had a desire to create an open forum for performance and exhibition. The visionary behind this was Umberto Crenca who has been the Artistic Director since. With his last \$800 he and Scott Seabolt rented space in the PPAC building and, put out a manifesto declaring the open and unjuried philosophy that still remains the driving force behind our organization, but interest in participation steadily increased.

Soon the group, and PPAC, realized there was a need to expand and establish themselves in a more accessible space. Less than a year after opening its doors on Weybosset, AS220 moved around the corner to 71 Richmond St..At this time downtown Providence had the feeling of the wild west with very few spaces occupied. The group of AS220 artists keeping the space alive grew and moved into the second floor on Richmond Street, doing a sort of "grass roots" renovation to bring water and electric service to the floor, and doing other renovations to make the space usable. AS220 eventually became a non-profit tax exempt organization. (The Weybosset St. location became the home of Big Nazo puppet studio.)

The Richmond Street space developed its programming to accommodate all local musicians, performers and visual artists as an uncensored, unjuried forum. A rich tradition of house bands and performance groups coupled with local ensembles and experiments gave AS220 the unique atmosphere of an artist collective or Temporary Autonomous Zone. Eclectic and unusual programming distinguished the space from all other area venues. Newcomers always welcome, but ... expect the unexpected!

In the summer of 1991, AS220 embarked on an effort to purchase its own home in downtown Providence. After consideration of several properties and their feasibility, the goal became the acquisition of 95-121 Empire Street (our current location!) The planning began, and the "Build AS220" campaign was born.

AS220 raised over \$300,000 in equity through grants and loans, and a variety of fund raising activities and events. On February 13, 1994, AS220 celebrated the grand opening of the "AS220 Complex." A very special place was born.

Aside from the building on Empire Street, The Dreyfus Hotel, located at the corner of Washington and Mathewson streets in downtown Providence, was purchased by AS220 from Johnson & Wales University. We found the need to expand due to the growing need for affordable live space for artists and this beautiful terracotta building provided the perfect opportunity. Originally built in 1890, it was most recently used as a dormitory from 1975-2000 by JWU. The Dreyfus has a long history as a hotel, lounge, and restaurant that served the bustling downtown theater district and weary travelers searching for lodging from the nearby train station.

AS220 completed renovations for The Dreyfus in May of 2007. The building houses 14 studio apartments on the 3rd and 4th floor, 11 are affordable housing and three are unrestricted. The second floor is home to AS220 administrative offices, four individual artist studios and a community printshop. The first floor is leased to a commercial tenant, Local 121, who serves a menu rich with locally grown and produced foods and houses a beautifully restored bar, full of stained glass and fine woodwork.

DESCRIPTION OF THE AS220 A.I.R. PROGRAM

In the AS220 A.I.R. program, artists are given space to live and work and are expected to present their creative work in a public presentation at the end of their residency. Each residency lasts a minimum of one month or a maximum of three months, under which time, artist in residence will work independently or with other artists to complete the project outlined in their proposal. Time extensions can be possible with advance notice and availability. Proposals can be submitted year-round and are accepted based on availability of the A.I.R. space and a willing "point person" on staff. Artists in residence can work with other artists in the community or act as mentors to students, depending on their expectations of their proposal. The artist(s) have access to AS220 facilities within reason and with the cooperation of facility staff.

A.I.R. Expectations (So you want to be an A.I.R.?)

In addition to submitting a proposal, artist(s) interested in the A.I.R. program must identify a point person affiliated with AS220 who will be responsible for tending to the needs of the artist(s) [Please read Point Person Responsibilities for description]. While at AS220, the artist or team's residence is linked to a specific project in development and an exploration of ideas and processes intrinsic to their artistic growth. AS220 believes in the unjuried and uncensored creation of the artist, but is on hand to respond to the ideas and needs of its artists in residence. The artist themselves must be proactive in bringing those ideas and needs to the attention of AS220 and to their collaborators. The artist is also responsible for documenting their residency and providing their documentation to the communication director (i.e.- photos, etc.) for present and future use.

What is included in the AS220 A.I.R. program:

- One room on the third floor of AS220, shared communal living room, unisex bathroom and kitchen
- Bed linens for one queen bed (towels not provided)
- WiFi access in the Dreyfus Building and at the AS220 bar
- Access to quarter-activated laundry facilities
- Access to third floor kitchen computer
- Access to AS220 Print Shop and Darkroom (read "Facilities List")
- An AS220 "point person" (read "Point Person Responsibilities")
- Inclusion on the Third Floor email list
- Support in promoting your public display of work
- Freedom in your public display of work

Point Person Responsibilities

The Artist In Residence "point person" must be someone on AS220 staff who is responsible for the comfort of the artist through the duration of their residency. Although they are on staff, point people are volunteering to take on additional responsibilities out of the goodness of their heart and personal interest in the artist's work. The "point person" acts as a liaison between AS220 and the artist by presenting the artists proposal at staff meetings, preparing the A.I.R. room and connecting the artist to the AS220 community during their residency.

Point Person Checklist:

- __ Tidy A.I.R. room/ clean linens
- __ Arrange for artist arrival transportation
- __ Get Artist-In-Residence Contract signed by artist
- __ Arrange "Meet and Greet" for artist and other residents/staff
- __ Consult artist regarding public presentation of work

EMPIRE STREET LIVING

The Building & Neighbors

You may be asking yourself, "What goes on in this building? Who the hell are all these people around the space, and what are they doing?" O.K., calm down ... all these questions can be answered by staff, and a little snooping around. Our home is just part of the AS220 Complex. Other tenants include two privately owned businesses (Muldowney's and Roberto's Hair Salon.) Another non-profit (Perishable Theater) rents a black box theater on the ground level, office and classroom space on the second floor, and a dance studio (the former Groundwex Movement Center) on the third floor. Get to know the folks at Perishable Theater, especially if you are an actor, a dancer, or interested in helping with set, lighting and sound design. Perishable rents the third floor space

out to many different people who teach classes there. This changes periodically but keep your eyes and ears open just in case there is an offering that appeals to you. There are many mutually beneficial associations to be made within the complex community. Sing karaoke at Muldowney's, get a haircut from Roberto...Get to know your neighbors!

The second floor houses Broad Street Studios, College Visions as well as four artist work studios The AS220 Broad Street Studio (BSS) is a transitional arts program that employs and engages Rhode Island youth, but focuses specifically on those recently released from the state's juvenile detention facility, the Rhode Island Training School (R.I.T.S.), and those under the wing of the Department of Children, Youth and Families. College Visions, who also has offices on floor2 provides low-income and first-generation college-bound youth in Rhode Island with the individualized advising and resources needed to get into and succeed in college.

Door Safety

Knowing your community also includes understanding that Downcity Providence is an urban environment frequented by a variety of people from surrounding communities. As in any urban environment, downcity has its share of hobos, hustlers, vagrants, etc. Be aware of strangers who may attempt to gain access to any part of the building that is locked or otherwise off-limits. When you enter or exit the street level door, make sure that it is closed all the way. (In extreme temperatures the door may not latch on its own; give it a push or a tug.) Engage anyone trying to enter in a dialogue regarding who they are here to see. Do not allow entry to anyone you don't know. Ask them to buzz the person they are there to see. This also goes for the door at the top of the stairs. Most residents appreciate prior notice before an unexpected visitor is at their door. It's just common courtesy.

Fire!

The fire alarms work well and are very loud. When activated, the fire department is immediately notified. The firemen go to the panel that is in the lobby of Perishable Theater and they will go there first and then to the location where the alarm was activated. Sprinkler systems are local (they only turn on in the area where they are activated) and are activated only by heat or flame. Both stairwells are accessible in the event of an emergency. There are fire extinguishers at each end of the hall. Don't smoke in bed. No bonfires.

Mail

The mail is delivered to the second floor Youth Resource Center. The YRC is located on the second floor to the left at the top of the stairs and on your left. There is a bank of mailboxes on the left in the YRC and two of the slots are dedicated to floor3. Somebody from your floor should take the mail to the kitchen and put it in the mail drawer. You then get it there. The second floor is usually open from 10 to 6 during the week.

AS220 FACILITIES & PERKS

As an AS220 Artist in Residence, you are not required to volunteer five hours per month like leased residents are required to do. As our guest, resident artists are permitted access to all shows in the performance space during their residency. This does not apply to special events when it is noted that monthly passes are not accepted. Anyone in the community can get the same deal; In general, AS220 volunteers are granted a one month pass for access to shows in the performance space. There are sign-up sheets posted near the bathrooms at the AS220 bar at 115 Empire Street for volunteers who would like to take money at the door on the night of a show.

This is an amazing opportunity to see all kinds of great performances and events. Keep in mind that there are many people who volunteer to work the door in the Performance Space. You may not know all of them, and they might not know you. So don't just waltz past door volunteers; make a habit of introducing yourself as a resident to volunteers, so that they will learn your name and recognize you in the future. Keep this in mind also when it is your turn to work the door. Be sure to have your monthly volunteer pass on hand to show the door person. Oh, and your friends have to pay the cover. Sorry.

As a resident artist, you'll have access to the darkroom and print shop during regular business hours, and sometimes even after hours. There is a computer in the third floor kitchen for your use as well as free internet wireless the feeds the whole floor. The password for the floor is "thefloorthree". The community print shop and black and white darkroom is available for use by residents free of charge.

Take advantage of these facilities, but please don't abuse your privileges!

AS220 FACILITIES LIST

The Dreyfus Building

The Dreyfus Building at 95 Washington Street holds the AS220 central offices, the print shop, 14 artist live spaces and 4 artist studios.

AS220 Print Shop

The Providence Public Printmaking Studio, a screenprint, letterpress and intaglio print shop, is located on the 2nd floor of the Dreyfus and is available to the AS220 resident artist for personal use. It is one of the few "green" community printing facilities around and proud to be one. The Print Shop is closed to the public from 9AM to 1PM, but resident artists may use the facilities by themselves or with assistance from the Print Shop manager during this time. Contact Morgan Calderini for information regarding the Print Shop: morgan@as220.org or 831-9327 x112.

The Paul Krot Community Darkroom

The AS220 Community Darkroom is located on the second floor of 115 Empire Street and is the only professional-quality darkroom in Rhode Island open to the public, providing black-and-white, a group darkroom with four enlargers and a solo darkroom with one enlarger. Resident artists are able to use the darkroom free of charge, but must have a monitor session before you're able to use it alone. Contact Scott Lapham at 401-274-1299 to make an appointment for a monitor session or to ask more questions about the AS220 Community Darkroom.

Performance Space

Our performance space is booked 2 to 3 months in advance, so it will be necessary to communicate with our booking director ahead of time if you would like to utilize the space for your public display of work. Contact Meredith Stern for information regarding the performance space: booking@as220.org or 831-9327 x.115.

AS220 Galleries

AS220 currently has the Main Gallery, the Open Window Gallery and the Youth Gallery at 115 Empire Street and the Project Space Gallery at 95 Matthewson Street. Our galleries are typically booked a year or two in advance and, therefore, are most likely not available for your public display of work. Contact Neal Walsh for information regarding the galleries: neal@as220.org or 490-6164.

TRANSPORTATION

There is no overnight parking on the streets in Providence. Total bummer. If you have a car, there are parking garages downtown. AS220 does not own anything except the footprint of the buildings. Therefore, nobody gets parking aside from a few spots we share in the Trinity lot for the owners of the Taqueria and the bar manager.

If you have a vehicle you will have to rent a space from one of the downtown lots or the mall. The current going rate ranges from \$175 to \$225 per month. If you work at the mall it is half price. The best deal going right now is from Camille's restaurant on Atwells Avenue at \$75 per month, but the number of spaces is limited.

If you don't have a car, check out the bus schedule (<http://www.ripta.com>) or get a bicycle. You can work on your own or get one for cheap at Recycle-a-bike, a volunteer-run community earn-a-bike program located at The Steel Yard (<http://www.recycleabike.org>).

How about a cab? Big Daddy Taxi: 578-3163

PLACES TO GO

This is a little list Chloë put together of places she thinks would be helpful for a resident artist:

Grocery Stores

*Stop and Shop

The largest food retailer in New England, Stop & Shop is a basic supermarket.
1128 Mineral Spring Ave., N. Providence

*Price Rite

Best grocery bang for your buck.
Eagle Square, 325 Valley Street
Providence, RI 02940

*Whole Foods Market

Whole Foods Market is a food retailer of natural, local and organic products.
601 N Main St, Providence

*East Side Marketplace

A supermarket with traditional and alternative foods.
165 Pitman St. Providence, RI 02906

Art Stores

*Jerry's Art Supplies

14 Imperial Pl. Providence, RI 02903

*RISD Art Store

30 N Main St. Providence, RI 02903

*Utrecht Art Supply

200 Wickenden Street Providence, RI 02903

Eateries

*White Electric Coffee

Independent café with fair trade coffee, Seven Stars Bakery baked goods, WIFI, biodegradable cups and a nice reading and talking atmosphere.
711 Westminster St. Providence, RI 02903

*Julian's

Not the cheapest food, but lots of vegan options and a creative and fun atmosphere. Good bar, too.
318 Broadway Providence, RI 02909

*Nice Slice Pizza

Cheap, fresh and delicious pizza on the Thayer strip is open till 2am and has vegan options.
267 Thayer St, Providence, RI 02906

*The Red Fez

Good bar, good food, late nights, downtown.
49 Peck St. Providence, RI 02903

Other Resources

*Rhode Island Free Clinic
www.rifreeclinic.org
655 Broad St
Providence, RI 02907
(401) 274-6347

*Main Branch Library
150 Empire St
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 455-8000

*The Steelyard
27 Sims Ave
Providence, RI 02909
(401) 273-7101

AS220 STAFF LIST

Main Office

401-831-9327

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lucie@as220.org
Meredith Stern Booking Director. x115, booking@as220.org
Arley-Rose Torsone Design Providence Director. x. 113, arleyrose@as220.org

Broad Street Studio

401-467-0701

Marie Popko Managing Director. x.121, marie@as220.org
David Gonzalez Rhode Show/Performance Coordinator. x.126,
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