NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley
Community Builders-In-Residence
at the C3 Center in Woonsocket, RI

Request for Qualifications

NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley (NWBRV) is a nonprofit community development corporation serving Northern Rhode Island. We strongly believe in the importance and transformative power of education as part of a comprehensive community revitalization effort, and that the cultivation of this resource in our community will greatly enhance what has already been achieved. We believe that we need more secure places for neighborhood youth to go after school, and we must create more opportunities for them to activate and extend their knowledge, imagination, talents and skills. Finally, in order to make this vision a reality, we believe that we need dedicated and creative, mentors and educators in the midst of our community. For more information about NWBRV, visit www.neighborworksbrv.org.

NWBRV is inviting applications from interested and qualified individuals to serve as Community Builders-In-Residence [CBIR] in a newly renovated mill on the Blackstone River built expressly for this purpose.

About NWBRV's In-Residence Programs

The CBIR program is part of NWBRV's special initiative, known as 'Our Neighborhoods', to bring residents together to plan and take action to create positive change, build prosperity, and make targeted neighborhoods exceptional places to live, work, and invest. Our CBIR program offers a unique opportunity to live, work, and serve in the Woonsocket community. We offer six, highly-qualified professionals - entrepreneurs, businesspeople, artists, educators, healthcare professionals, etc. - a riverfront loft apartment in exchange for 16 hours per week of community service with eligible NWBRV youth programs (serving grades K-12). Residents are expected to live, work, and serve the City of Woonsocket as part of a special year-to-year program agreement, eligible for annual renewal based upon evaluation and achievement of program goals and outcomes.

About The C3 Center at 120 Northeast Street

NWBRV will provide six qualified applicants with spacious, newly-renovated, one-bedroom loft apartments at the C3 Center [**C**ommunity, **C**ollege, **C**areer] on Northeast Street in Woonsocket (along the Blackstone River, minutes from the City's downtown Main Street district). The 900 square-foot [average size] apartments have large rooms with high ceilings, custom-built windows, and off-street parking. They are valued at $1,500 per month. Apartments include stoves and refrigerators and have washer and dryer hook-ups (tenants must supply these appliances). Some apartments also feature scenic views of the Blackstone River.

If selected, Community Builders-In-Residence must provide 16 hours of instruction and/or programming each week with NWBRV youth programs and under the direction of the NWBRV Education Programs Manager and Director of Community Building. The CBIR will execute a one-year Program Contract, which includes the provision of housing as a part of the Contract. The Contract may be renewed based upon an annual evaluation. All program hours must be discharged within the year of the residency in order for the CBIR to be eligible for renewal.

Community Builders-in-Residence are financially responsible for their own utilities, telephone, cable and other living expenses. NWBRV only provides housing as a part of the Program Contract. A refundable damage deposit of $1,000 is required prior to occupancy.

Apartments are in the same building as a new community learning center. It is expected that most programming and instruction will take place in this Center.

NWBRV expects that the CBIR's individual 832 hour annual commitment will form the basis for a well-designed learning program. We are most interested in educators/mentors who will work with us to develop and build a

strategy that engages youth in: new and exciting community building projects, extended and/or project-based learning activities, and developing a college preparation orientation and focus.

Program Goals

The goals of our Community Builders-In-Residence effort are to:

1.) Expand and broaden a successful neighborhood revitalization initiative, enrich the community and provide new educational experiences, especially for youth;
2.) Maintain a permanent community asset and learning environment that builds community, increases access and preparation for college, expands 'extended learning' and 'project-based' opportunities, and works to indentify and provide experiences for career exploration;
3.) Work to develop a program focused on 'project based' and 'extended learning' activities, which will involve youth in solving challenging questions/problems and the production of unique products or presentations at the end of a discrete time period;
4.) Help build a neighborhood interest and passion for mathematics, science and technology with innovative project based/extended learning projects;
5.) Provide opportunities for mentorship and leadership development to prepare youth to serve as energetic role models and engaged citizens in the community;
6.) Utilize community building projects to inspire civic pride, connect generations, bridge diverse groups and forge stronger community bonds; and
7.) Work to develop community partnerships that will provide new strategies to engage youth in community building projects that will transform their lives, bolster their academic achievement, and enrich our neighborhoods.

Eligibility and Desired Qualifications

To be eligible to apply for the NWBRV Community Builders-In-Residence program, applicants:

• Should have documented experience working with youth (especially teens);
• Meet the applicable U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development income guidelines (below) and authorize NWBRV's confidential, third party verification of their earnings (if selected);

HUD Program Guidelines as of 07/2015*

Family Size	50% Income Limit [two units]	60% Income Limit [one unit]	80% Income Limit [three units]
One Person	$26,050	$31,260	$41,650
Two Persons	$29,800	$35,760	$47,600

• Must complete an application for housing and for youth work, which includes a credit check, previous landlord reference checks, a criminal background check, and a drug test (if selected);
• Must be a US citizen or alien authorized to work in the United States;
• Must complete the NWBRV application for the Community Builders-In-Residence program (see below).

Selection Process

A selection committee made up of NWBRV staff and board, community partners and youth will be convened to review applications, contact references and conduct preliminary interviews. Finalists will be invited for a personal interview, or if this is not possible, a conference call interview. Finalists will be expected to present their extended learning/project-based learning ideas/plans before the Education Programs Manager and the Director of Community Building, who will make the final selection.

Greater weight and consideration will be given to the applications of educators who are interested in working with us over a longer term to build a model community based program that engages the community, especially teens, in new and exciting educational pursuits, who are certified educators, and to those who have knowledge of Woonsocket community resources.

NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley
Application for Community Builders-In-Residence

Please answer all questions and return this application and all other requested materials to:
Margaux Morisseau
NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley
mmorisseau@neighborworksbrv.org
719 Front Street, Suite 103, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Date:

Name:

Present address:

Telephone number:

E-mail:

On a separate piece of paper please list your work history for at least the past five years. Include dates of employment and name and location of company or organization. In addition, list your formal education, dates, schools attended and degrees earned. Please also list community awards and/or honors received. This information may be delivered in the form of a resume or curriculum vitae.

On a separate piece of paper please answer the following questions (no more than two pages total):

1. What type of community work are you currently involved in?
2. What is your philosophy of education and learning?
3. Why do you want to participate in the NWBRV's Community Builders-In-Residence program?
4. How might you connect your philosophy of learning with ongoing programs in the community?
5. What is your experience teaching, mentoring and/or working with teens, especially at-risk teens?
6. Describe a time when you felt you made a difference in a teen's life?
7. What are your ideas for potential community learning projects as a part of this residency?
8. What are your ideas to inspire a community passion for math, science & technology?
9. What do you consider to be an effective, successful residency?

Please include two letters of recommendation. NWBRV desires information about your character, personality, ability and capacity to provide instruction and work as a part of a neighborhood team. We will be grateful for a full and frank statement, including any firsthand, direct experiences your reference has with you and your work. They should also comment on your strengths and limitations.

<u>**Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.**</u>

<u>Authorization</u>

I hereby authorize NWBRV to contact, obtain, and verify the accuracy of information contained in this application from all previous employers, educational institutions, and references. I also hereby release from liability NWBRV and its representatives for seeking, gathering, and using such information to make contractual decisions and all other persons or organizations for providing such information.

I understand that any misrepresentation or material omission made by me on this application will be sufficient cause for cancellation of this application or immediate termination of contract, whenever it may be discovered.

I represent and warrant that I have read and fully understand the foregoing and that I am applying for this residency under these conditions.

Applicant's Signature:

Date: