

Time Out Chicago

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Easel into it

Here is how to start your own live/work studio space.

Visit Chicago Artists Resource (www.chicagoartistsresource.org), a website created by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, and download **Square Feet Chicago**. The free, 27-chapter guide is full of tips for artists looking to rent or buy work space. While you're there, sign up for the site's periodic e-newsletter.

Okay, you've signed up, right? Good, because now you'll be alerted when the date is set for the next **Creative Chicago: Space + Housing Expo** in the spring. The city knows that art is important to a community's cultural life, which is why it hosts the fair. The fair features workshops including the ever-popular I'm an Artist, How Can I Get a Mortgage? seminar.

Feeling ambitious? Establish a nonprofit organization, and you'll be eligible for a **Chicago Community Loan Fund** to help you buy that amazing empty warehouse for you and your new arty neighbors. It worked for the city's first live/work space, Acme, at 2418 W Bloomingdale St in Humboldt Park. That member-owned space is a project of the nonprofit NorthWest Arts Council (www.nnwac.org). Additional resources include the **Nonprofit Financial Center** (www.nfconline.org), where you can get a taste of the enormous amount of paperwork you'll have to fill out. Then, get thee to a workshop. DePaul Center hosts **SYONPO** (Start Your Own Non-Profit Organization) Workshop on Thursday 5 from 3-5pm (cec.depaul.edu/calendar/2006/10/syonpo_start_yo.php). Also check out the **Chicago Artists' Coalition's** website (www.caonline.org) for more seminars. Have fun filling out those forms. And let us know the dates of your first open house.

-Ruth Lopez