The Ultimate Residency Resource Guide
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Welcome to the Ultimate Residency Resource Guide, a compilation of the essential tools needed for artists’ communities to function at a highly professional level. The Ultimate Residency Resource Guide is a new version of the How-to Kit for Artists’ Community Administrators, originally compiled in 1996. The URRG represents all new research conducted in 2005.

This publication provides introductory topical essays, how-to overviews, and dozens of standard and sample documents on nonprofit management in general and artists’ residency programs specifically. While the guide will be especially helpful for start-up organizations, it can also serve as a resource for established nonprofit programs, especially those evaluating their existing policies and documents.

One of the wonderful things about this field is also one of its greatest challenges—that there is no “one size fits all” approach to developing a residency program. Whenever possible, we have included a variety of samples in this guide, as well as standard templates and tips on creating your own policies.

The Alliance of Artists Communities could not have created this guide without the cooperation and generosity of all the residency programs that contributed documents (for a complete listing, please see the Index); we are grateful for their willingness to share with others their wisdom and experience.

The URRG was developed under the leadership of Alliance Executive Director Deborah Obalil and the Member Services Committee; with Caitlin Strokosch Glass, editor; Maggie Baez, research, typesetting and design; and Emily Ustach, research assistance.

The Alliance of Artists Communities contributes to America’s cultural vitality by supporting our membership of diverse residency programs and advocating for creative environments that enhance the endeavors of artists. The Alliance is the only national service organization supporting the field of artists’ communities, colonies and residency programs. Cultivating new art and ideas—which cross boundaries posed by discipline, religion, race, ethnicity, gender, class, age, and physical ability—is the fundamental work of artists’ communities. Supporting artists’ communities in this work, as well as acting as a collective voice for the field, is the work of the Alliance.