



## **Detroit Artists Workshop, Inc.**

**EIN: 14-1926570**

### **Attachments to Form 1023, Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code**

#### **Part IV: Narrative Description of Activities of Detroit Artists Workshop, Inc.**

On November 1, 1964, a group of artists, musicians and poets in Detroit, Michigan, founded a collective known as the "Artists Workshop Society" a/k/a "Artists Workshop." The goal of the founders was to provide an encouraging environment and a center where members could gather and view or perform their works. The Artists Workshop Society was an unstructured, unincorporated activity and the weekly programs were conducted by volunteers. Periodically, members were asked to contribute a few dollars each toward paying bills; no other funding was sought nor accepted. Under the banner of the "Artists Workshop Press," members individually mimeographed their own books of literature or periodicals, which were given away freely.

By 1968, many of the Artists Workshop founders had moved on to other activities. In its demise, the Workshop left an indelible influence on the artistic landscape of Detroit. For decades, many local literary presses traced their lineage to the Artists Workshop Press. Likewise, the Cass Corridor artistic movement, flourishing in the 1980s, was founded on principles inherited from the Workshop innovators:

- That self-determination art is possible, i.e. ground-breaking art conceived and produced by the originator without outside interference
- That art could express socially aware themes and could empower communities.

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In recent years, some of the founders returned to Detroit with an interest in resuming Artists Workshop activities. By 2004, an unincorporated steering committee was meeting regularly with the objective of producing a festival known as the "40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Detroit Artists Workshop Reunion." The committee contracted Artserve Michigan to act as fiduciary in collecting monies and dispensing payments. Funding for the reunion project was obtained in the following manner:

- Solicitations to contributors by mail (*a copy of a solicitation brochure is attached; see Exhibit A*)
- Monies received from sponsors of ads in the reunion Program Book (*a copy of the Program Book is attached; see Exhibit B*)
- Monies collected at fundraising events
- Other donations.

Total income from fundraising was \$6900 with total expenses \$6455, all of which was reported to Artserve. The festival was produced in the first week of November 2004 (*facsimiles of the Mayor's Achievement Award, Governor's Letter, Congressman's Proclamation and Detroit City Council Resolution are attached; see Exhibits C - F*).

In April of 2005, the remaining \$445 was donated by Artserve to the Detroit Artists Workshop, toward incorporation expenses. An EIN was obtained and a set of bylaws was adopted. The articles of incorporation were filed on May 3, 2005.

Thereafter, between the remainder of 2005 to 2008, very little business activity took place. The following reasons are given:

- Redirection of the mission of the incorporated Detroit Artists Workshop, from its limited role as producer of the 2004 festival, to an ongoing organization, one in which the objective is cultural enrichment in Southeastern Michigan; and
- Evolution of the mission: the organization now perceives itself no longer as merely an arts collective, but as one in which artistic expression is a conduit for educational and charitable activities.

As of this date, the acting Board of Directors of the Detroit Artists Workshop, Inc. has specific plans for the following activities in 2008:

- A. Fundraising for production, publicity and distribution of the *WORK/6 Literary Anthology*
- B. Membership drive.

Detail planning for activity a) the Literary Anthology:

- At this time, the acting Board of Directors has not yet contracted with a specific press organization, although negotiations with the Marick Press are underway
- A budget of \$6000 is projected

- Funds will be obtained by means of mailed solicitations, monies obtained from fundraising events, and miscellaneous contributions
- Fundraising activity to begin in April 2008
- Fundraising will be conducted by an acting steering committee (to be appointed by the acting Board of Directors in 2008)
- During the fundraising period, approximately 60% of the corporation's time and resources will be given to this activity
- Proposed release date of the publication is July 1, 2008
- Net proceeds will be used to fund a follow-on edition of the anthology.

The *WORK/6 Anthology* is considered a "lightweight" project, for the purpose of exposing the Detroit Artists Workshop, Inc. to a wider audience in Southeastern Michigan. It is advertised as a "multi-generational" edition, and thus, has an educative element: it attempts to show how multiple generations can work together to produce an outstanding literary edition. We view this as a stimulating opportunity for pairing a mentor generation with young and ascending writers. It is hoped that, in future editions, a larger portion of the area's educational system will be able to participate.

Detail planning for activity b) Membership Drive:

- In 2008, the acting Board of Directors will appoint a membership committee to manage and conduct a membership drive
- Approximately 40% of the corporation's time and resources will be given to this activity
- The membership drive will be concurrent with *WORK/6 Literary Anthology* fundraising activities; costs of the drive are expected to be minimal and will be funded by fundraising proceeds
- The goal of the drive is to enroll sufficient membership by early July 2008, so that the annual membership meeting can be held, resulting in elected officers, Board of Directors and steering committee in accordance with the bylaws
- Membership dues will be used to fund administrative costs.

Although in the planning stage, a description of the "Everyone Tells A Story" project further explains how the Detroit Artists Workshop, Inc. intends to operate as an educational and charitable organization: the concept is to encourage members (or other individuals or groups known by members) to come forward with inspiring stories about themselves or their activities in their communities, based on the idea that everyone has a story to tell. The collected narratives will then be artistically presented to the public by use of media, concerts, symposiums and other means. The purpose is to foster community empowerment and to educate the public as to its own cultural heritage. As more and more members become involved, the project has unlimited opportunity for artistic enrichment of benefits, other charitable activities, and of programs at existing institutions.

**Part V. Compensation and Other Financial Arrangements With Your Officers, Directors, Trustees, Employees and Independent Contractors**

**Line 1a.**

Additional names, titles, and mailing addresses of directors.

Name	Title	Mailing Address	Compensation Amount
Scott Dedenbach	Director	1072 Linda Lane, Madison Heights, MI 48071	None
Jack Bodnar	Director	5160 Hough Road, Dryden, MI 48428	None

**Part VI. Your Members and Other Individuals and Organizations That Receive Benefits From You**

**Line 1b.**

We answered "Yes" to question 1b. The following describes a program of ours that will provide services to organizations:

As explained in Part IV above, the proposed "Everyone Tells A Story" project is an activity in planning. The Board of Directors has decided that specific budget, commitments and resources can only be determined on or after the annual membership meeting in July 2008; the project is dependent largely upon the size and interests of the future membership.

Once the project is underway, this organization intends to contract with holders of individual benefits and other charitable events, as well as with more permanent programs at public institutions, to provide services in the form of artistic enrichment based on the "Everyone Tells A Story" initiative. This will be an ongoing activity and the service is expected to expand, throughout southeastern Michigan, in subsequent years.

**Line 2.**

We answered "Yes" in this case, because we anticipate having programs that are available only to members (see Part IV above, under "Detail Planning for Membership Drive," description of the proposed "Everyone Tells A Story" project).

Below is a proposed membership application in which annual dues are indicated:

Detroit Artists Workshop Membership Form

I want to help support the Detroit Artists Workshop and become a DAW member at the following level:

- Individual \$30       Senior ~~\$30~~ \$25       Student ~~\$30~~ \$25  
 Companion \$40 (membership plus free copy of movie *20 To Life*)  
 Enclosed is my check payable to the Detroit Artists Workshop, Inc. for annual membership, in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City-State-Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Please tell me more about programs available to Detroit Artists Workshop members.

Note: all or a portion of your membership dues may be tax-deductible, depending on the level of giving.

**Part VIII. Your Specific Activities**

**Line 4a.**

As explained in Part IV above, we will carry out fundraising activities for the *WORK/6 Literary Anthology* project by means of mailed and emailed solicitations, similar to the printed brochure used in 2004. The solicitation will consist of a very artistic document filled with content related to the history of the Detroit Artists Workshop, Inc. *A sample brochure is attached (see Exhibit A).*

Personal solicitations will be in the form of follow-up calls or meetings with potential contributors (we have no intention of cold-calling for solicitations).

**Line 4d.**

We will fundraise solely for our own organization, specifically in the State of Michigan, and in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

**Line 10.**

The Detroit Artists Workshop, Inc. owns the "Judith Semark Memorial Collection," an archive of the late board member Judith Semark, contributed by her executor, James Semark. The archive consists of vintage tape recordings, posters, postcards, newsprint, prints, journals, documents, paintings and other collectibles, and will be used as part of future historical exhibitions of this organization. Aside from potential historical value, the property has no fair market value at this time.

**Line 11.**

The Detroit Artists Workshop, Inc. will accept intellectual property of the kind described in Line 10 above. A background purpose of this organization is to provide a repository for works of art, music, literature, film, etc., produced by members and founders of the original Artists Workshop Society, all of whom are in their senior years. The repository will be used for future nonprofit exhibitions of this organization, to educate the public as to its cultural heritage.

Similar to the Judith Semark Collection described in Line 10, the anticipated works to be accepted have never been sold nor marketed, and thus, have no fair market value at this time.

No fees will be charged by the Detroit Artists Workshop, Inc. for acceptance of such property. Costs for storing, framing and preparing the property for exhibit will be absorbed by this organization.

**Line 19.**

As part of its service to the public education of southeastern Michigan, the Detroit Artists Workshop, Inc. plans to offer workshops, classes and symposiums on cultural history of the region. These workshops and symposiums will be similar to the ones offered during the 2004 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion (*see Exhibit B, Program Book, Page 5*). We are responding to Line 19 as "No," in the sense that we have no intention of operating a school at this time, whether as a primary or secondary activity.

**Part IX. Financial Data**

**B. Balance Sheet**

**Line 15. Other Liabilities**

The \$45 interest expense is the bank inactive account fee.

**Schedule E. Organizations Not Filing Form 1023 Within 27 Months of Formation**

**Line 5.**

The Detroit Artists Workshop, Inc., having its Articles of Incorporation filed by the State of Michigan on May 3, 2005, requests an extension of time to apply to be recognized as exempt from the date it was formed. Explanation is as follows:

During the time between the date of formation and the present, the members and officers could not agree on the language of the mission statement of this organization. Thus, a key element of Form 1023 could not be provided.

In Part IV above, we described a change in direction, from an organization of limited duration to an ongoing one, and we described an evolution of the mission from that of an arts collective, to one that:

1. Provides, to the public, concerts, exhibitions, symposiums and other artistic events in their original work
2. Provides, as charitable and supporting activities, such artistic events as deemed appropriate, at locations and institutions where such activities are performed
3. Provides public education in self-determination and social awareness through cultural empowerment workshops and seminars, and
4. Educates the public on behalf of its own cultural heritage.

Recently, the acting Board of Directors agreed as to the mission of this organization and has amended the bylaws with a strong statement, one that includes the points enumerated above. At this time, the remaining elements of Form 1023 are completed and the application is submitted.

Having 501(c)3 status, our organization will be able to contribute substantially to the cultural enrichment of southeastern Michigan in years to come. In the words of Governor Granholm, in a letter to our former steering committee dated November 1, 2004 (*see Exhibit D*):

“...In the face of a challenging economy, it is often difficult to remember just how great a value the arts bring to our lives. We must hold tightly to that connection and support the arts whenever and wherever possible. Preserving such an educational and innovative environment is worth every effort.”

Again, we request the necessary time extension and we look forward to exempt recognition under IRS code. If we are remiss in any way, we ask that we be advised of the proper course of corrective action.