

ARTSCAPE NON-PROFIT HOMES INC.

Artscape is a not-for-profit, urban development organization that revitalizes buildings, neighbourhoods and cities through the arts. Artscape projects provide affordable space for creativity while generating positive cultural, economic, social and environmental impact.

Artscape transformed the historic Wychwood TTC streetcar repair barns located in Toronto's St. Clair and Christie neighbourhood into the Artscape Wychwood Barns—a 60,000 sq. ft. multifaceted community centre where arts and culture, environmental leadership, heritage preservation, urban agriculture and affordable housing are brought together to foster a strong sense of community. It is also the first designated heritage site in Canada to seek LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Canada certification and has won a number of prestigious awards including:

- 2008 Canadian Urban Institute Brownie Award, Excellence in Project Development
- 2009 Ontario Association of Architects: Design Excellence and Best in Show
- 2009 Honourable Mention, City of Toronto, Urban Design Award
- 2009 Sustainable Architecture and Building Magazine: Green Building Award
- Congress for the New Urbanism Charter Award
- Architectural Conservancy of Ontario: 2009 Peter Stokes Restoration Award

Artscape Wychwood Barns opened its doors in the fall of 2008 as a 100% smoke-free facility and is home to 26 artists and their families, 17 individual artists and 11 non-profit arts and environmental organizations. Home to people of all ages, including young children, the organization felt that it was important to make Wychwood Barns a smoke-free environment indoors and out. As a result, smoking is also prohibited within 7.5 metres of the building.



“When the smoke-free idea was presented to us for the live/work studios, we were very enthusiastic and voted unanimously to adopt it as a regulation, which is now in our lease. A no-smoking policy makes sense for economic, environmental, health and social reasons; it is what our tenants are asking for,” reports Peter D. R. Brown, President and Treasurer, Artscape Non-Profit Homes Inc.

The organization has other residential properties scattered around Toronto that are not smoke-free, and knows first-hand the problems that infiltrating second-hand smoke between units can cause. Adopting a no-smoking policy was a perfect fit for Artscape’s green, state-of-the-art Wychwood Barns project.

To date the organization has not experienced any difficulties regarding enforcement of its no-smoking policy, and there is a waiting list for accommodation. In fact, based on success at the Wychwood Barns, Artscape Non-Profit Homes Inc. is considering a no-smoking policy for other properties in its portfolio.

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