



TALLER·**PORTOBELO**·NORTE

**2012 Taller Portobelo Norte  
Summer Art Colony Application**

July 14th - July 29th

Portobelo, Panama



TALLER•**PORTOBELO**•NORTE  
2012 Summer Art Colony  
Writers and Researchers Retreat

Dear Applicant:

Welcome to the beginning of what I hope will be one of the most memorable experiences of your life.

Taller Portobelo Norte was created as a way for multidisciplinary artists throughout the United States to stay connected, share exhibition and career development information and help further the critical discussion and examination of the art and cultures of the African Diaspora, especially as they are manifested in Latin America and the Caribbean. To this end, we have created a year round roster of cultural trips and workshops, of which the **2012 Taller Portobelo Norte Summer Art Colony** is one.

This package is your first step on your journey to Portobelo, Panama. It contains:

- TPN Summer Art Colony Eligibility Requirements
- Summer Art Colony Background Information
- Submission Requirements
- Application Form
- Application Checklist

Once we receive your application, the selection committee will review your proposal, work samples and references and notify you of their decision within two weeks. If you are accepted into the program, you will receive an Acceptance Packet with additional information and forms. You will forward the residency fee with the Acceptance Packet. The residency fee is non-refundable, so please be sure you are dedicated to attending before you apply.

The number of spaces available at Taller Portobelo Norte is limited, so I urge you to complete the application requirements prior to the EXTENDED **May 18th** deadline.

Please use the Application Checklist to keep yourself up to date with your application. If you fail to send all of the materials as well as the program fee on time you will forfeit your place at Taller Portobelo Norte.

Should you require any further information do not hesitate to call me at 404-516-3195 or email me at [odeleye@tallerportobelonorte.com](mailto:odeleye@tallerportobelonorte.com)

Cordially,

Ms. Oronike Odeleye  
Administrative Director



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### **TPN Summer Art Colony Eligibility Requirements:**

The 2012 Taller Portobelo Summer Art Colony is dedicated to Writers and Researchers. We invite writers of all levels and genres and scholars of all disciplines both creative and academic to submit project proposals for work to be developed during the 14 day residency. Keeping in mind that the residency is only 2 weeks long, our goal is to support participants in realizing works-in-progress and the production of new, small works.

We define the parameters for Writers and Researchers loosely enough to encompass a wide variety of projects. **Don't be discouraged if your idea does not fall strictly into scholarly research or artistic writing.** From the waters of the Caribbean Sea and the impromptu soccer games in the plaza, to the songs and drumbeats that animate a local performance tradition called "Congo," Portobelo provides rich multi-sensory inspiration. Present a compelling idea and articulately explain your need for two weeks of uninterrupted time to explore it.

Although we ask for a project proposal, we encourage participants to think of this as a loose plan and come ready to create work without a predetermined agenda or schedule. A big part of the value of this artistic experience is a high level of interaction with peers and the local community. We aim to provide a space for visionary artists whose work stimulates and expands artistic boundaries and conventions to create work that challenges themselves and gives voice to their ideas.

TPN Summer Art Colony participants are selected based on their dedication to their art/scholarly practice, innovation, and craftsmanship. TPN encourages both collaborative and independent projects as ways to create a positive multicultural artistic exchange. Artists interested in working with Panamanian artists on a collaborative project should indicate as such in their proposal. Knowledge of Spanish is encouraged for collaborative projects - though is not mandatory.

This opportunity offers unique potential for artistic experience and production. Portobelo offers a non-traditional approach to art practice. "Studio space"/"work space" not only include Taller Portobelo facilities, but also the colonial forts surrounding the town, the open plaza, and other designated experimental spaces. Artists shall supply his/her own tools and materials necessary in completing the work. If you have special requirements, please indicate so in your proposal.

Taller Portobelo Norte Summer Art Colony measures its success by the level of creative excellence and cultural exchange that it contributes to an already thriving artistic community and encourages artists to reach beyond the boundaries of any one discipline to expand the possibilities of artistic vision.



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### **TPN Summer Art Colony Background Information:**

Founded in 1997 by Dr. Arturo Lindsay, a Panamanian born artist and Professor of Art and Art History, in conjunction with Spelman College in Atlanta, GA, the Spelman College Summer Art Colony laid the foundation for our current model. Since then, the Taller Portobelo Norte Summer Art Colony has attracted artists, scholars and students from throughout the country interested in the visual, literary and performing arts and cultures of the African Diaspora, ethnographic and anthropological research, Spanish and Latin American Studies, and responsible and ethical tourism.

### **Accommodations:**

All programs of Taller Portobelo Norte are housed at Taller Portobelo, an artist cooperative in the town of Portobelo, on the Caribbean coast of the Republic of Panama, unless otherwise noted. The Taller Portobelo complex consists of three guest houses and a small gallery and workshop. All rooms are multi-occupancy. Taller Portobelo rents additional housing in the town for overflow participants.

### ***Our goal is to create an environment of cultural immersion, not one of touristic voyeurism.***

The insects and amphibians of the surrounding rainforest also live in our small complex. The warm temperatures of the land also make it unnecessary for hot water in the showers. During the rainy season (May through November) there is an abundance of flies, mosquitoes and frogs to contend with. Rooms are furnished with fans and air conditioners. Participants are encouraged to bring whatever creature comforts (i.e. favorite pillows, cd players, etc.) they feel might help them feel more “at home” in the space.

### **Meals:**

The Taller Portobelo Staff, consisting of Soledad and her assistant Mavelis, create two traditional Caribbean meals per day. Breakfast usually consists of any of the following: eggs, bread, pancakes, fruit, juice, tea and coffee. Lunch, traditionally the largest meal of the day, consists of any of the following: rice, fish/chicken and vegetables and/or salad. Participants with dietary restrictions should bring or be prepared to buy the supplies that they need for the duration of the trip.

Please indicate on your application if you have a dietary restriction so that we can help you prepare. The third meal of the day is the responsibility of the participant. There is a full kitchen at Taller Portobelo for the use of the participants. There are also grocery stores and many inexpensive restaurants (\$5-\$15) in Portobelo.

### **Language:**

The language of Panama is Spanish. All critiques will be conducted in English and translators will be available as needed. We encourage all participants to learn, at a minimum, a basic vocabulary in Spanish. This not only endears you to the local community, but will also help you to build more meaningful, independent relationships in the town.



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**Currency:**

The US dollar is used as legal tender in the Republic of Panama. As a result, there is no need for currency exchange. There are ATM machines in Panama City as well as in Sabanitas, which is a 45 minute bus ride from Portobelo. Credit Cards, Check and Travelers Checks are not accepted in Portobelo. We will stop at an ATM before we arrive in town.

**Passports & Visas or Tourist Cards:**

United States citizens are required to have a valid passport and in order to enter the Republic of Panama. Visa/Tourist cards will be distributed to you on the plane.

**Eligibility:**

Taller Portobelo Norte defines Writers and Researchers in a broad sense. We are open to project proposals from artists/scholars working in a variety of disciplines. Students are also encouraged to apply.

**Trip Fee:**

\$955 per person

**Fee Includes:**

- Round trip Ground transportation between Airport & Portobelo
- Multi-occupancy room
- 2 daily meals at Taller Portobelo
- Tour of historic Portobelo
- Panama City Day Trip
- Colon City 1/2 Day Trip
- Isla Grande Day Trip + Beach Farewell Party

**Not Included:**

- Round trip Airfare (\$450-\$650 from Atlanta)
- Meals outside of Taller Portobelo
- Museum Entry Fees (\$2-10)
- Puerto Frances Beach Trips (\$5)
- Artwork at Taller Portobelo (\$100-\$500)
- Souvenirs and incidentals



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### **TPN Summer Art Colony Requirements:**

The following must be included with your application *and labeled as such*:

#### **1. Project Proposal**

Submit a detailed description of your proposed project. Describe project ideas, goals and materials needed. Be sure to include any special needs that you may have such as materials that have to be acquired on the ground in Panama or studio assistants. ***Be innovative and creative.***

For research projects please provide detailed information on the scholarly and/or global context of your work, the potential impact of your project in your discipline or to you personally, and the short and long-term outcomes of your project.

**NOTE:** In your proposal please describe how the samples you are submitting relate to the proposed project. (i.e. related prior work or work in progress) We only accept samples of original works produced within the last 3 years in all categories.

#### **2. Work Samples**

**Visual Artists:** A CD or DVD of 20 individual JPEGs ***named as*** Lastname\_Firstinitial\_number. (Example Hammons\_D\_01.jpg). File size is a maximum of 1MB each.

**Literary Artists:** Up to three samples of prose pieces (essays, short stories, etc.) and/or up to four poems on CD. Excerpts of longer prose pieces are welcome as long as the author provides context(s) in his/her cover letter. Total submissions should not exceed 10 pages (12 point, times roman font). Poems may be single spaced. Prose must be double-spaced. Work may only be submitted on a CD via mail.

**Scholars:** Up to three original articles, essays, published works, published reviews or graded school projects not to exceed 10 pages in length. If your work sample was done for school, please include the professors name and contact info.

**Video:** One DVD which plays both on a Mac computer and DVD player. There must be a menu to move between tracks or scenes. Alternatively use QuickTime files on a CD.

**Audio:** One CD, which plays both on a Mac and CD player. We will review up to 5 min. of AV material.

**Other:** Send slides, CD and/or DVD of at least 10 examples of your work. Please be sure that all work is clearly identified and/or labeled.

#### **3. Work Sample List**

The list should include title, medium, dimensions and year created. List should correspond to your file names, Video and Audio work.

#### **4. Artist's statement and Biography**

Describe your artistic outlook and practice and personal and professional history. This should be no more than two single spaced pages.



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## 5. Current resume/CV

A resume/CV with a 2012 degree should include the month of graduation.

## 6. Personal Statement

(not to exceed 1 single-sided, 12 point font, single-spaced page)

This is your opportunity to give us a snapshot of who you are as an individual, the major issues that interest/vex you, and how that shapes your artistic practices. How have you come to this point along your journey and how might the land, people, and/or culture of the small Afro-Latin community of Portobelo, Panama impact your work? How has an engagement of African/Black Diaspora, Caribbean, and/or Latin American art and culture informed your previous work and/or world view? Beyond your project, what are the personal goals you hope to accomplish by participating in this particular artist retreat? Why do you need financial assistance? How much are you realistically able to invest in this experience?

The selection committee is especially interested in applicants who are willing to immerse themselves in this unique experience.

## 7. References

Please forward three sealed letters of reference on official letterhead from professional and/or academic sources that address the following topics:

- Applicant's artistic/scholastic preparedness to participate in a cultural/artistic exchange
- Applicant's ability to adapt to different cultural environments/situations and peoples
- Applicant's talent and potential for growth from this experience
- Any other factors which you believe may have a bearing on the candidate's success in this program

**NOTE: Recommendations that do not reference the topics stated above will be disregarded.**

## 8. Completed Application Form

See next page.

**NOTE: Your COMPLETE application must in the office by May 18th.** We will not accept incomplete applications. Please contact us immediately if you have missed the deadline but would still like to apply. Materials will not be returned.

Proposals will be reviewed by Taller Portobelo Norte Staff and a panel of invited artists and curators.



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**TPN Summer Art Colony Application:**

Personal Data

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth Sex Citizenship

Mailing address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Website

How did you learn about the Taller Portobelo Norte Summer Art Colony?

\_\_\_\_\_

Authorization

I certify that all information in this application is complete and accurate. I understand that Taller Portobelo Norte reserves the right to dismiss any applicant who does not meet the general behavior standards and that any applicant who is dismissed for any reason waives refund of all fees. Taller Portobelo Norte also reserves the right to cancel or revise the program as needed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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**TPN Summer Art Colony Application Checklist:**

**Checklist:**

- #1. Project Proposal
- #2. Work Samples
- #3. Work Samples List
- #4. Artist Statement & Biography
- #5. Current Resume/CV
- #6. Personal Statement - including statement of financial need
- #7. Three sealed letters of recommendation
- #8. Completed Application Form

**Deadline Schedule:**

- Deadline Extended: Friday, May 18th
- Acceptance Packet and Registration Fee Deadline: Monday, June 4th
- Deadline to forward flight itinerary: Friday, June 25th

*In order to guarantee the rates quoted in this document, all deadlines are final.*

We look forward to working with you in Panama!

Taller Portobelo Norte  
odeleye@tallerportobelonorte.com