



TALLER·**PORTOBELO**·NORTE

2010 Taller Portobelo Norte
Festival del Nazareno Artist Retreat Application
October 16th - October 23rd
Portobelo, Panama

PLEASE NOTE: This is an Artist Retreat NOT a religious or missionary trip. This Festival is more secular than sacred, a sensory overload sure to excite and ignite creative output, and is open to artists of all spiritual and ethnic backgrounds!



TALLER·PORTOBELO·NORTE
2010 Festival del Nazareno Registration

Dear Applicant:

Welcome to the beginning of what I hope will be one of the most memorable experiences of your life. Founded in 2001 by a group of Taller Portobelo/Spelman College Summer Art Colony alumni, Taller Portobelo Norte was created as a way for multidisciplinary artists throughout the United States to 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.

TPN is always excited by the rich exchanges that happen as African Diasporic citizens encounter one another and share their cultural practices, traditions, and experiences. To this end, we have created a year round roster of international cultural and artistic excursions and workshops, of which the **2010 Taller Portobelo Norte Festival del Nazareno Artist Retreat** is one.

This package is your first step on your journey to Portobelo. It contains TPN Festival del Nazareno Information, Health Statement, Medical Waiver, Registration Form and Checklist.

The completed application and non-refundable deposit should postmarked by Friday, August 20th.

The number of spaces available at Taller Portobelo Norte is limited, so I urge you to complete the registration requirements prior to the **August 20th** deposit deadline.

Please use the Checklist to keep yourself up to date. 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 678.949.9860 or email me at odeleye@tallerportobelonorte.com

Cordially,

Ms. Oronike Odeleye
Administrative Director
Taller Portobelo Norte
678.949.9860
odeleye@tallerportobelonorte.com



TALLER·PORTOBELO·NORTE

2010 Festival del Nazareno Registration

2010 Taller Portobelo Norte Festival del Nazareno Artist Retreat Information:

About the Festival del Nazareno:

Oral history in Portobelo tells of a crate containing a black sculptural figure of Jesus Christ magically appearing in the bay during a cholera epidemic and being brought ashore by two fishermen. Shortly after the people began venerating the figure, the epidemic miraculously ended. As a result, for the last three centuries on the 21st of October, the Feast Day of the Cristo Negro de Portobelo—Black Christ of Portobelo, is celebrated. The effigy, depicting Christ carrying the cross, normally resides on a podium in the local church, but it is carried through the streets of Portobelo for the Festival del Nazareno, by far the town's biggest event.

As many as 60,000 devotees make the yearly pilgrimage to visit the statue. Many walk from places as far away as Panama City, a journey of three days. Devotees of the Black Christ come dressed in elaborate robes or simply in purple and gold, the colors associated with the Black Christ. The pilgrims descend on the small village carrying their homemade altars high above their heads, dragging their heavy, life-sized crosses behind them or crawling into town, their partners pouring hot wax on their bare backs.

The Festival del Nazareno is more secular than sacred. The crowds of thousands eat, drink, dance, yell, laugh, and blast music until the wee hours of the morning during the days leading up to the festival. There is a heavy police presence monitoring the crowd and helping to maintain order. After a few days the town is full of the smell of beer, cooking food and pee and the parties are non-stop.

Mass is called at 6 p.m. on October 21. (Be there before 4 p.m. if you hope to get inside the church.) At exactly 8 p.m., 80 able-bodied men carry the statue from the church to begin a four-hour parade around the community complete with a full brass band.

The bearers take three steps forward, two back, in a similar manner to that of Spanish religious processions. But, unlike those of Spain, this procession has a special Latin American twist: a quick step to lively music. The bearers have freshly shaved heads, wear purple robes and have bare feet. It is a distinct honor to be chosen to bear the Black Christ, an honor paid for by sore shoulders and aching muscles the next day.

At exactly midnight, The Saint is returned to the church. One story holds that it is impossible to return the Black Christ before midnight. "It just gets too heavy to move."

The Festival del Nazareno Artist Retreat is ideal for artists interested in religion, Latin America and the African Diaspora. Photographers will be attracted to the age-old rituals and traditions of the predominately black town; it's ancient Spanish forts, slave cemetery, and retained slave and cimarron (called Congo) culture. Artists won't fail to be stimulated by the abundance of stunning visual imagery, overwhelming emotion and electrifying energy of the festival.



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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. There are both multi-occupancy and single-occupancy rooms available. 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.

To that end, the accommodations at Taller Portobelo are on par to those enjoyed by the local inhabitants. The warm temperatures of the land make it unnecessary for hot water in the showers. During the dry season, water for showers and laundry has to be rationed to accommodate the water shortage. 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/or mosquito nets. Clothing and sheets often have to be washed weekly to avoid mildew and dampness. 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 Dona Ceci and Soledad, create two traditional Caribbean meals per day. Breakfast usually consists of any of the following: eggs, bread, pancakes, fruit, juice, tea and coffee. Lunch usually consists of any of the following: rice, fish/chicken and vegetables. Leafy green vegetables are scarce in Panama.

Participants with dietary restrictions should bring or be prepared to buy the supplies that they need for the duration of the Artist Retreat. ***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 are two kitchens at Taller Portobelo for the use of the participants. There are also grocery stores and many inexpensive restaurants (\$5-\$10) in Portobelo.

Language:

The language of Panama is Spanish. All tours will be provided 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.

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.

Visas:

United States citizens are required to have a valid passport and a visa or tourist card in order to enter the Republic of Panama. Tourist cards are available either at the airline check in counter on the day of departure, or upon arrival at the Tocumen International Airport for a cost of \$5.00.



TALLER PORTOBELO NORTE
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Submission Schedule:

The completed registration and non-refundable \$250 deposit are to be postmarked by Friday, August 20th. In order to guarantee the rates quoted in this document, all deadlines are final. We will not accept incomplete applications.

Payment Methods:

Taller Portobelo Norte accepts Visa, Mastercard and American Express. To pay by credit card please fill out the Credit Card Authorization Form in the Application Packet. The charge will appear on your card under the name Diamond Lounge Creative. Cashiers Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to Taller Portobelo Norte and sent to 235 Walker St Suite C, Atlanta, GA 30313.

Eligibility:

Professional and Emerging Photographers, Visual and Literary Artists, and the General Public interested in Latin America and the African Diaspora are eligible to apply. Knowledge of Spanish is helpful but not mandatory.

Artist Retreat Dates:

Saturday, October 16th to Sunday, October 23rd

Artist Retreat Fees:

\$725 per person

This fee includes:

- 2 Traditional Caribbean meals per day
- Multi-Occupancy Accommodations
- Roundtrip Airport Transportation
- 2 Beach Trips
- Tour of Historic Portobelo
- Day Trip to Colon City
- Shop in the Colon Duty Free Zone
- Day Trip to Panama City
- Visit the Panama Canal MiraFlores Locks
- Museum Entry Fees

Not Included:

- Round Trip Airfare
- NOTE:** Participants **must** make their airfare arrangements for the dates given to avoid an additional \$150 transportation fee.
- Dinner and Meals outside of Taller Portobelo
 - Souvenirs and incidentals
 - Artwork at Taller Portobelo



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2010 Taller Portobelo Norte Festival del Nazareno Artist Retreat 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 Festival del Nazareno Artist Retreat?

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



TALLER **PORTOBELO** NORTE
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2010 Taller Portobelo Norte Festival del Nazareno Artist Retreat Submission Requirements:

The following must be included with your application:

1. ID Documents

Please send a legible copy of your drivers license and US Passport. If you are traveling as a couple, both parties must submit copies of all documents.

2. Goals Statement

Although this is a retreat where we hope artists can find both relaxation and revitalization, we find that this is also an opportune time for artists to spend some quality time engaged in their creative practice. Please write a short statement about what you hope to get out of this experience and how you plan to tangibly incorporate what you see, hear and learn into your artistic practice.



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2010 Taller Portobelo Norte Festival del Nazareno Artist Retreat Health Statement:

To the applicant: A cultural immersion program can be both physically and emotionally stressful. Please provide an honest evaluation of your physical health by answering the following questions. If you answer “yes” to any of the following questions, please explain below or on a separate sheet of paper, describing the details of the condition or treatment, including any medications taken. Please type or print neatly in black ink.

Name _____
Last First Middle

Date of Birth Sex Citizenship

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Do you have any dietary restrictions or known food allergies? | Yes | No |
| 2. Do you have any physical disabilities or impairments that might cause hardship as a result of a change in diet, strenuous travel, or that might otherwise affect participation in a cultural immersion program? | Yes | No |
| 3. Are you currently being treated for any physical/mental conditions? | Yes | No |
| 4. Are you taking any medication? | Yes | No |
| 5. Are there any concerns relating to your health or your family's health history that we should know? | Yes | No |
| 6. Have you ever had any of the following? | | |
| a. A surgical operation (or have you been advised to have one?) | Yes | No |
| b. Treatment in a hospital or mental institution? | Yes | No |
| c. A major illness such as rheumatic fever or tuberculosis? | Yes | No |
| d. Allergies to medication? | Yes | No |
| e. Other allergies? | Yes | No |
| f. Disorders not specified above, including eating disorders? | Yes | No |
| 7. Do you have any conditions that could affect your adjustment to a new culture or to the artistic program abroad? | Yes | No |
| 8. Please explain any “yes” answers to the above questions on a separate piece of paper. | | |



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**2010 Taller Portobelo Norte Festival del Nazareno Artist Retreat Medical Waiver:
This MUST be signed by applicant.**

AGREEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE

1. In applying for my active participation in the 2010 Taller Portobelo Norte Festival del Nazareno Artist Retreat, I _____ assure Taller Portobelo Norte that I am cognizant of all the inherent dangers related to international travel, as well as certify to Taller Portobelo Norte that I am physically fit to travel and will take all of the necessary precautions to ensure my own safety and well being and that there is no reason known to me for not being able to participate in the 2010 Taller Portobelo Norte Festival del Nazareno Artist Retreat.

2. I also hereby acknowledge that international travel carries with it certain risks. These risks include, but are not limited to, lost or stolen belongings, regional illnesses, motor vehicle accidents, bodily harm and/ or death. I certify that I will take all the necessary precautions to ensure my own safety.

3. GENERAL RELEASE I hereby agree that the Taller Portobelo its owners, officers, agents, supervisors, instructors, employees, successors and assigns may not be held liable in any way for any occurrence in connection with traveling, receiving instruction, any physical actions, or use of the facilities or equipment of the Taller which may result in injury, death or other damage to myself. In consideration for being permitted to engage in the 2010 Taller Portobelo Norte Festival del Nazareno Artist Retreat and the use of the facilities, I hereby release Taller Portobelo Norte, its owners, officers, agents, supervisors, instructors, employees, successors and assigns, from any and all causes of action, debts, controversies, and claims in connection with injuries, death or damage to myself, which I, my dependant, my heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns ever had, now have or hereafter may have. Furthermore, I do personally assume all risks in connection with the aforesaid use, for any harm, injury or damage which may befall me or my personal property while engaged in the use of the facilities, services or equipment, including all risk connected therewith, whether foreseen or unforeseen, and further save and hold harmless the said corporation and persons from any claims, including but not limited to any claims or liabilities arising out of the negligence of the aforesaid corporation, agents, offers, supervisors, instructors, employees, successors and assigns, by me, my dependant, my family, estate, heirs or assigns.

5. I have read this document and I have received answers to any questions I might have about this document. I understand what I am signing and consent to these conditions. The provisions herein, when signed and accepted, shall constitute the entire agreement between us and cannot be changed, modified or discharged orally. This agreement shall remain in effect until I have actively ceased any activity with Taller Portobelo Norte and I have also given 30 days written notification of intent of being released from this waver.



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Credit Card Authorization Form:

Should you wish to pay by credit card, this form authorizes Taller Portobelo Norte (under the merchant service provider Diamond Lounge Creative) to charge your card for the amount indicated. The form **MUST** be filled out completely and signed and dated.

I, _____, authorize Taller Portobelo Norte/Diamond Lounge Creative to charge my _____ (card type) in the amount of _____ as payment for the 2010 Taller Portobelo Norte Festival del Nazareno Artist Retreat.

Signed,

_____/_____/_____

Date

Card #: _____

Name on Card: _____

Expiration Date: _____

3-digit security code on back of card: _____

Complete Billing Address: _____



TALLER **PORTOBELO** NORTE
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TPN Festival del Nazareno Artist Retreat Application Checklist:

Checklist:

- Completed Application Form
- Copy of travellers drivers license and US Passport
- Goals Statement
- Applicant Health Statement
- Medical Waiver
- Deposit Payment

Payment Schedule:

\$250 Deposit Due: Friday, August 20th

Balance Payment Due: Friday, September 17th

We look forward to working with you in Panama!

Ms. Oronike Odeleye
Administrative Director
Taller Portobelo Norte