

Illinois Wesleyan University  
**Theme Housing Charter Application**

**Arts House  
2010-2011**

## Art House Proposal

### Mission Statement:

The mission of the Art House is to unite students who are passionate about creative expression in all of its forms. Residency is restricted neither by major or minor, but attained by true interest and contribution to arts programs on and off-campus. The Art House is a place where students can be part of a constructive and helpful community, feel safe in their creative expression without fear of judgement, and most importantly, it is a swarming hive of inspiration; where students can bounce ideas off of each other, give constructive criticism, and share opportunities to promote individual and collective growth.

Illinois Wesleyan values diversity in education and student events, and the Art House would reflect these same values. Students living in the Art House would have varying majors and backgrounds, but all would have an interest in the fine arts on campus. Universal enthusiasm for the arts would involve members in campus-wide events throughout the year, especially in support of housemates. The house supports Illinois Wesleyan's mission for students; providing diverse educational and experiential opportunities to develop well-rounded and successful people.

### Proposal:

During the 2009-2010 school year, Blackstock was not an Art House, straying from its roots for the first time in nearly a decade. The result of this was that there was no place on campus other than theatre, music, or art facilities to congregate creatively. There is a certain something about being in an intimate space working creatively that is not achieved in the classrooms or in small shared rooms. This opportunity was lost this year, and sorely missed.

When applying for Illinois Wesleyan, the prospect of the Art House is extremely appealing; a place for artistic individuals to get together, a common ground to foster new friendships, and a house holding events to bring art to people on and off campus. But this year, Blackstock did not give back to the community as it would have had it been an Art House. There were no events that discerned Blackstock as anything other than a residence hall, and the lack of a community of artistically driven people left something to be desired of campus events.

The Art House offers space for things like painting, rehearsing a monologue, or practicing an instrument, that would otherwise be intrusive in a large hall environment. There is a mutual understanding of the lifestyle of those involved in the arts. For example, if a member of the house needed to practice a monologue in the morning and woke someone up, there would be little animosity because of the understanding and support that members have for each other in their pursuit of artistic endeavors.

Having an artistic community on campus can really spice up residential living events by creatively expressing the three values of ORL; diversity, fun, and sustainability.

#### In-House Programs include

- “Sustain to Gain”- a workshop on how to be more green at IWU, in coalition with sustainability organizations on campus
- House Theme Mural
- B.B.B.Q.- Blackstock Barbeque
- Attending fine arts events on campus as a group
- “Nationalities’ Nosh”- group potluck with each member bringing a food from his/her ethnic background

#### Open Hall Programs include

- “Porch Light Poetry Slam”- when the weather is nice, hold a poetry reading for students, faculty, and community members on Blackstock’s porch
- “Garbage or Gold?” Host local Bloomington artist Jason Mack, who uses all recyclable materials for his art, and have an open forum with him about his glassworking, followed by an in-house exhibit of “recycled” art made by Blackstonians.
- Movie Night!- themed movie nights based on holidays
- Fundraising for local schools experiencing fine arts budget deficits

The importance of integrating the arts among the Illinois Wesleyan community is to inspire others to be expressive. If students with varying majors attended events at Blackstock, not only would they be exposed to a wide array of art, but they would strengthen communication skills and build a tighter-knit campus community.

Blackstock is the perfect location for the art house because of its proximity to the art facilities on campus. Art students are unbelievably busy, so to have a home base close to where they work is essential. It is also practical for art majors who often have to carry large and heavy supplies, theatre majors with props for acting classes, and musicians with their instruments; it is the most convenient living space for anyone involved in the arts.

Interest in Blackstock as an Art House has peaked this year among art students especially since it lost its original charter. This means that there will be no problem meeting the roster requirement for the 2010 Fall semester. The structure of Blackstock is such that interaction among residents is unavoidable, and what would be better than to fill the house with people who enjoys interacting, meeting new people, and expressing themselves to create a more joyous environment? The goal is an intimate, thriving community- and it is definitely achievable with the right crowd- the artists!

#### Community Development Plan and House Participation Policies

- Tuesday, March 2, everyone signed up for next year will meet, pending approval, elect hall leadership and discuss ideas for programming and events next year. House guidelines will be established as a group.

- All of the In-House Programming will promote community development, but the first and most essential will be the B.B.B.Q. as a meet and greet for members of the house.
- After the first week, we will have an “Open Doors Night” where residents will get a chance to see other peoples’ room setups and mingle with housemates.

#### House Participation Policies

- We recognize our mission and aforementioned goals. In order to achieve these goals, it is necessary that every person participate in the planning and setup of at least two events.
- In the event of non-participation, the Hall leadership shall meet with the individual(s) and discuss the matter so as to come to the best solution.

#### House Conflict Policy

- In the event of roommate conflicts, the individuals are expected to meet with the R.A. and discuss possible solutions
- In the case of inter-resident conflicts, the individuals involved are to meet with the R.A. and discuss the issue at hand.
- If the nature of the issue is of a smaller non-personal conflict, this issue can be brought to any member of the Hall council. When the Hall council meets they shall discuss the issue and a solution will be offered at the next Hall meeting or earlier depending on the matter.
- In the event of a severe issue arising between an individual and the other members of the hall, the issue will be brought before the Hall council and the R.A. to be dealt with appropriately.