



## Frequently Asked Questions

Prepared for ArtCorps Artists, including 2010 placement opportunities

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Can I choose my placement?
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### 1. Can I choose my placement?

Due to the need to juggle the different needs of our NGO partners and different talents and interests of our artists in the best way possible, ArtCorps makes the final placement decisions. However, we invite you to share this important responsibility with us by telling us openly and honestly about your interests, strengths and weaknesses during the selection process. For additional information, see “What placements are available?” at the end of this FAQ section.

### 2. Does ArtCorps provide medical insurance?

Yes, all ArtCorps artists are covered by ArtCorps’ group medical insurance under the Atlas Group Travel plan. This insurance covers the cost of most medical services provided in Central America, including hospitalization and emergency evacuation. It does not cover pre-existing conditions, pregnancy-related services, plastic surgery, non-medical vision services, or injuries resulting from extreme sports. The Atlas Group Travel insurance is offered by the United States company MultiNational Underwriters. Full terms and conditions are available upon request.

### 3. May my partner travel with me?

Yes, it is usually possible for your partner to accompany you. ArtCorps can support only 1 person (artist) per placement, however, and therefore you and your partner would need to select one of two possible arrangements. The first option is for both of you to apply to be ArtCorps artists in separate communities. We do have some placements that are only a few hours apart by bus, although we cannot guarantee that your skills and interests would match those placements. The second option is for one of you to be selected as the ArtCorps artist and the other to accompany you independently. In this arrangement, the companion would be responsible for covering 100% of all travel, living, and any other costs. He or she would be welcome to participate in most ArtCorps activities but would need to pay all associated costs. Also, the details of such an arrangement must be agreed upon with your host NGO in advance since ArtCorps artists are guests of the host NGO in the communities.

### 4. Does ArtCorps provide language training?

No, unfortunately ArtCorps is unable to provide or pay for language training. We do, however, encourage artists who are not native Spanish speakers to undertake immersion language study before participating in the program. We are happy to recommend affordable, high-quality immersion schools in Central America.

## 5. Does ArtCorps offer placements that are shorter than one year?

No, ArtCorps does not currently offer any opportunities that are shorter than one year. The artists and NGOs who have participated in our program recommend strongly that one year is the minimum amount of time needed for an artist to integrate into the new culture, community and NGO, to establish effective working and personal relationships, and to accomplish significant goals.

Does ArtCorps offer placements beginning at times other than January?

All of ArtCorps' regular placements begin in January, when we hold our training session. At times, unforeseen opportunities do arise at other moments during the year. To fill those opportunities, we consider any artists who are already in the midst of the application process and may send out special announcements to advertise the opportunities to additional artists.

## 6. What if I need to come home in the middle of the year?

### *Short visits*

If a temporary health or family emergency arises, ArtCorps will make every effort to ensure a smooth trip home and a smooth return to your community. Non-emergency trips may be scheduled only every three months when you need to renew the stamp in your passport since constant travels away from your community disrupt your relationships and work. We generally discourage non-emergency visits home because they can cause additional culture shock, although there are times when the benefits outweigh the costs.

### *Permanent withdrawal*

Permanent withdrawal from the program causes significant hardship for the communities that we aim to serve as well as for your host NGO and ArtCorps. It reinforces a historical pattern of broken trust and cynicism between communities and development programs.

If an emergency or undue hardship requires your permanent withdrawal from the program, we will work with utmost compassion to ensure your smooth exit. In this case, you will forfeit your deposit but will not be required to reimburse funds used during your time with the program. If you withdraw for reasons other than an emergency or undue hardship, you will be required to reimburse all funds received in addition to forfeiting your deposit, unless otherwise agreed with your host NGO and ArtCorps. You will receive and sign a Cancellation Policy along with your contract.

## 7. What placements are available?

We will know the final list of 2010 placements in late August or September. We plan to continue with most of our 2009 partners and to begin working with a limited number of new partners. Our 2009 placements are:

### La Coordinadora Asociación Mangle

<http://asociacion-mangle.sv.tc/>

<p><i>Location:</i> Bajo Lempa, El Salvador</p> <p><i>Social Issues:</i> Sustainable Agriculture; Community Development; Youth Leadership; Environment</p> <p><i>Population:</i> Youth <i>Years of Partnership:</i> 5</p> <p><i>Living There:</i> With a strong history of internal organization and political consciousness, these communities have electricity and a potable water system. Rural environment. Weather is hot.</p>	<p>Asociación Mangle seeks to organize and train local communities to develop economic opportunities, organized responses to natural disasters, sustainable agriculture, durable housing, and systems for waste disposal and water purification.</p> <p>ArtCorps artists have primarily used theater as an outreach and educational tool with local youth, in addition to the development of workshops, focused skits, and other visual projects. Currently, our artist focuses on supporting the consolidation of a creative facilitation youth training program under the direction of a local artist.</p>
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### Fundahmer

<http://www.fundahmer.org.sv/>

<p><i>Location:</i> El Salvador</p> <p><i>Social Issues:</i> Sustainable Agriculture; Education; Community Development; Human Rights; Women's Rights</p> <p><i>Population:</i> Youth, Adults <i>Years of Partnership:</i> 3</p> <p><i>Living There:</i> Artists have lived both in the dormitories in Fundahmer's offices in San Salvador and in the rural communities served, which offers a mix of modern conveniences and simple living but little privacy. The mangoes are delicious. Weather is hot.</p>	<p>Fundahmer works with over 223 impoverished and vulnerable families from seven communities within La Libertad and San Salvador. Its mission is to grow these communities in four main areas: Education, Human Development, Solidarity, and Self-Sustainability.</p> <p>Past ArtCorps artist have shown great creative initiative in reaching these goals—implementing theater, puppetry, painting, and leadership workshops to promote community engagement and action. This year, our artist is piloting a formal series of workshops to train Fundahmer staff in creative techniques.</p>
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## Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

<http://www.wcs.org/globalconservation/latinamerica/mesoamerica/guatemala>

<p><i>Location:</i> Uaxactún, Petén, Guatemala</p> <p><i>Social Issues:</i> Environmental Education and Conservation; Wildlife Protection; Preservation of Historic Sites</p> <p><i>Population:</i> Children, Youth, Adults <i>Years of Partnership:</i> Off and on during 5 years</p> <p><i>Living There:</i> Uaxactún is an indigenous village located in a national park between two Mayan ruin sites, including Tikal. No electricity except for generators. It is necessary to visit the city of Flores (3 hours by bus) to purchase some goods and use internet. Weather is very hot.</p>	<p>The Wildlife Conservation Society empowers local communities to take stewardship of the surrounding flora and fauna of the Maya Biosphere Reserve through education focused on conservation, biodiversity, forest fires, and eco-tourism.</p> <p>ArtCorps artists are free to devise and manage projects that support the overall mission of WCS through such medias as visual art, dancing, and theater. This year, our artist aims to achieve greater integration with the WCS-supported community organization Management and Conservation Organization (OMYC).</p>
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## World Neighbors

<http://www.vmma.org>

<p><i>Location:</i> Rabinal, Baja Verapaz and Lake Atitlán, Guatemala</p> <p><i>Social Issues:</i> Education; Health; Poverty Alleviation; Environment; Community Participation, Collaboration and Solidarity</p> <p><i>Population:</i> Indigenous Maya (Qeqchi) Men, Women and Children <i>Years of Partnership:</i> 2</p> <p><i>Living There:</i> Rabinal is an artisan town with a tradition in ceramics. Internet and goods are readily available. Hot during the days and chilly at night.</p> <p>Lake Atitlán is located at the base of striking volcanoes, ringed by indigenous villages. On the tourist route, internet and goods are readily available though may be expensive. Often overcast and cold due to the altitude.</p>	<p>World Neighbors supports the transformation of communities by inspiring and training local people to address hunger, poverty, disease and other challenges that undermine their livelihoods through leadership and collective action.</p> <p>ArtCorps has placed artists in two communities, each working to generate better communication and cooperation in order to build a shared vision for local development. Successful initiatives have included theater about native seeds, creating recycled seed bags, making ceramic tiles for a new community center, and a public art project created by diverse groups from the communities.</p>
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**Asociación de Comunidades Forestales de Peten (ACOFOP)**

<http://www.acofop.org/>

<p><i>Location:</i> San Benito, Petén, Guatemala</p> <p><i>Social Issues:</i> Environment Conservation; Community Participation and Collaboration</p> <p><i>Population:</i> Children, Youth, Adults</p> <p><i>Years of Partnership:</i> 2</p> <p><i>Living There:</i> Artists may live in one of a few communities on refreshing Lake Itza while working in a variety of surrounding communities. Weather is very hot.</p>	<p>ACOFOP is the umbrella organization that represents 19 indigenous forestry communities in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. ACOFOP was formed to aid these communities in managing their land and resources in harmony with conservation goals while protecting their legal right to do so, in addition to improving quality of life.</p> <p>Our ArtCorps artist has successfully incorporated theater and puppetry to help improve communication between ACOFOP and their constituency, thus developing leadership, increasing participation, and broadening an understanding of ACOFOP's mission—particularly among youth.</p>
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**Bosques Pico Bonito (BPB)  
&  
Asociación de Juntas Administradoras de Aguas Sector Sur Pico Bonito (AJAASSPIB)**

<http://bosquespicobonito.com/>  
[no website for AJAASSPIB]

<p><i>Location:</i> Pico Bonito National Park, Honduras</p> <p><i>Social Issues:</i> Environmental Land Management; Economic Development</p> <p><i>Population:</i> Children, Youth, Adults</p> <p><i>Years of Partnership:</i> 1</p> <p><i>Living There:</i> Both placements enjoy spectacular landscapes. The AJAASSPIB location has electricity and easy access to transportation and goods. The BPB location has no electricity. Artists in both locations travel to the lively city of La Ceiba regularly to visit the organizations' main office.</p>	<p>Both BPB and AJAASSPIB work with the Ecologic Development Fund within the Pico Bonito National Park. BPB is a for-profit venture created to plant two million native trees to capture carbon dioxide. AJAASSPIB is focused on the protection and management of local clean water sources.</p> <p>ArtCorps artists are just now laying the foundations of our work. At AJAASSPIB, the focus is on engaging youth in environmental education and maintaining tree nurseries. At BPB, the focus is on improving communication between the company and the community to nurture and perpetuate a win-win situation for the communities and the environment.</p>
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