

Partnerships, programs provide space for artists to share

BY JENNIFER FORKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Emily Free Wilson was renting space in an old Helena, Montana, brick building where other artists worked, when she began hosting community events and kids' summer art camps. "I remember my friend, a sculptor, telling me, 'Emily, you're running an art center!' And I said, 'No, I don't want to!'" Free Wilson recalls. Then she thought more about it: She did like sharing her space, organizing events and collaborating with other artists. So she and her husband, Matt Wilson, bought and renovated a former mortuary. In moved their company, Free Ceramics, which produces pottery notable for colorful, playful dots. Other artists — painters, a sculptor, a furniture refinisher and crafters — also moved in, lured by 90-cents-a-square-foot studio spaces. Free Ceramics has rented



its events and gallery space — with a vaulted ceiling and hardwood floors — for a square-dancing potluck fundraiser, a preschool graduation ceremony, a furniture refinishing class and more. The place is booming. "It's really important to have spaces like this in the world — places that encourage creativity and deepen that artistic spirit that people need to share," says Free Wilson. Unusual studio arrangements and community art centers exist nationwide to provide artists with free or reduced-cost space and a way to share their work with the public.

For example, the nonprofit Ponyride has for several years provided space in a 30,000-square-foot Detroit warehouse to socially conscious artists and entrepreneurs at a mere 20 cents to 25 cents per square foot. Now Ponyride is launching an artists-in-residency program: Vetted artists will receive a stipend, studio space and lodging at the warehouse. In return, they'll need to document their work and provide a workshop or seminar for the community. "We want them to leave their imprint on Detroit if they're not from here," says Ponyride Executive Director Karla Henderson. In Denver, the nonprofit PlatteForum hosts a single artist for two months four times a year. What the artist receives: free lodging, a stipend and ample studio space. In return, the artist provides open studio hours,

and hosts an exhibit or workshop. The program also links artists with Denver children who are struggling in school or don't feel they fit in. "They're the kids at low-performing schools who need to re-engage in school and learning and in themselves," says Judy Anderson, an artist and PlatteForum's artistic director, who founded the nonprofit in 2002. Collaborating with musicians, dancers, painters and poets, she hopes, will provide hope and direction for the children. Multimedia artist Sarah Rockett of Denver said her recent PlatteForum residency allowed her to build larger-scale sculpture. "I've never had the space to do so, and grew immensely from the experience," says Rockett. "Working with the youth became the most important aspect for me. Their creative range anchored the playfulness of my work."

CUSTOM

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"We took the path of Sarah Susanka in *The Not So Big House*," Anne continues. "We asked ourselves, 'what do we need the space for and what are we going to do with the space?' We let the space be determined by our activities, not the other way around. The house is no bigger than it needs to be; it's the right size for us. Activities have been combined for rooms and I'm delighted to have simplified my life. I no longer have to clean, maintain, or pay taxes on a huge home. It's been liberating!" The energy efficiency of this home features a high efficiency wood stove, which produced the vast majority of the heat the home needed this past winter from wood on their property and from another property in the neighborhood where trees were being removed for a new home to be built. "Barry enjoys chopping wood and we both strive to be good stewards of the environment," Anne comments. The Westons used their heat pump only twice last winter: Once, when some work was being done inside their home while they were out of town, and they wanted the workers to perform in comfort; and again while Barry was recuperating after surgery due to a cross-country skiing accident. "We just have a darn energy efficient house, and it was proven during the snow and ice we experienced last winter," says Anne. The Westons opted for a solar photovoltaic system from Southern Energy Management that allows them to produce electricity. This system resulted in a power bill of \$.20 last month. Yes, you read that correctly... Their power bill was 20 cents for the month of April! "We have a real time gauge on how much power is being produced and how much power is being used by our solar panels, so we can time how and when to use power," Anne explains. "It's been a learning curve for us and an interesting



Submitted photos
Located in Hillsborough, this energy efficient, custom 1,848-square-foot home by M Squared Builders & Designers consists of three bedrooms and two baths.



The energy efficiency of this home features a high efficiency wood stove, which produced the vast majority of the heat the home needed this past winter from wood on their property and from another property in the neighborhood where trees were being removed for a new home to be built.

science project. If I'd just read during the day instead of at night last month, we could have gotten our power bill to below zero! Of course if we want power, air conditioning, or heat at specific times, we can do that and still have very low power bills, but it's been fun to work at getting the bill as low as possible. For example, Barry put a note on our toaster that says 'toaster = 1000 watts.' If we wait for the gauge to show us that power is being produced at 1000 watts, we can use the toaster at no charge. If I do laundry at the right time, I can leverage our own electricity production, while also utilizing the power company at its best time too. It's win-win for everyone." "We get a lot of compliments on our home, and sometimes we get comments about how well everything fits together," says Anne. "I can't stay quiet when those statements are made... I let people know that we had a very good idea of what we wanted from the beginning, and we were actively involved throughout the building process. We asked around before

A good builder, like Michele, walks you through the process step by step. Michele's plan and kitchen designer were both fantastic, and all of our pre-planning paid off. Michele's attention to detail and quality was truly amazing... It was fascinating to see how our requests came to fruition. No one should ever think he or she will wind up with a fabulous home without thinking through it very carefully. Michele and her team did that with us, and we love the result. We've been thrilled to show our home to friends and family, so that others can see that their dreams can become a reality too." So there you have it, another glowing report on M Squared Builders & Designers. What are you waiting for? Learn more about the green, healthy, and energy efficient practices of M Squared Builders & Designers today! Visit www.msquared-builders.com, or call 919-620-8535.



Submitted photos
Sunny yellow flowers are just two of many qualities of a Father Hugo's rose.

HUGO

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with "high bred" hybrid tea roses, which not only represent a melding of various species but then are selected and given individual names, like Peace, Mr. Lincoln or Chrysler Imperial. These named roses are multiplied by cuttings or grafting. As a species rose, Father Hugo can be propagated by just planting a seed, taking a cutting or even digging up a rooted shoot from the outside edge of the clump. (An attempt was made to give Father Hugo some "culture" when a variety named Dr. E.M. Mills was selected from the species. Its claim to fame was double blossoms — that is, more than just a single row of petals. Despite all those extra petals, Dr. E.M. Mills was considered inferior to the species and has been little heard of since its introduction in 1926.)

LOW MAINTENANCE
As a species rose, Father Hugo has other qualities. You don't have to worry about a shoot from the rootstock growing and then

overgrowing your plant. Most hybrid tea roses are grafted on special rootstocks. But any shoot springing up from near or at ground level of a Father Hugo's rose is the same as the rest of the plant. That's how the plant grows; new shoots rise up to eventually replace old shoots. Like many other species roses — rugose rose and prairie rose, as examples — Father Hugo is also tough and cosmopolitan. Give it full sun and it will be happy in most soils. No need to worry about black spot, mildew, and other pests that commonly plague hybrid tea and other "high bred" roses. And cold? This rose tolerates temperatures down to minus 25 Fahrenheit. You may, at this point, wonder just who this Father Hugo was, for whom the rose was named. He found this rose in the wilds of China, introducing it in 1899. The gentleman's real name was actually Hugh: the Reverend Hugh Scallan. "Hugh" became "hugonis" in the botanical name of the rose (*Rosa hugonis*), which became "Hugo" for the plant's common name when it entered the nursery trade.

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