



ARCH | NEXUS

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APPLICATION OF INTEREST

I. Purpose

Architectural Nexus's charitable giving program seeks to better the lives of those in our community through building. This program is called Nexus Builds which is currently constructing tiny homes (accessory dwelling units, ADU) of our own design. We then donate the tiny home as a tool to help solve the social issues plaguing society.

Our program further seeks to advance a regenerative built environment by constructing buildings that aren't just sustainable but that actively work to regenerate the natural environment. Each tiny home seeks Living Building certification by constructing an accessory dwelling unit that produces more energy than it uses throughout a year, harvests and uses rainwater as allowed by local zoning and building codes, and utilizes regenerative materials. These materials are sought from local and sustainable sources and eliminate the use of harmful materials.

The purpose of this solicitation is to seek out partnerships with deserving organizations who are interested in receiving one of these home donations while also introducing them to the Living Building Challenge.

Timeline: Currently accepting applications for donation year 2022 and beyond.

II. Introduction

A. Architectural Nexus

Arch Nexus is a multi-disciplinary, people-driven design firm practicing throughout the western United States. By focusing on people rather than buildings, we design projects and create places that not only work well, but also help people be healthy, happy, and productive. Through purposeful design, people are inspired to achieve greatness and be more active stewards of the built and natural environment. We are, by design, creating and regenerating the world we in which we live.

B. International Living Future Institute

"The International Living Future Institute is a global nonprofit organization that inspires the greenest buildings for a healthy world. The Institute's mission is to advance communities that are socially just, culturally rich, and ecologically restorative. ILFI operates the [Living Building Challenge](#), the world's most ambitious, advanced, and holistic performance standard for green, resilient, and healthy buildings. It is also a hub for many other visionary programs that support the transformation toward—and provide a compelling vision for—a living future accessible to all."

Source: "Media Resources." *International Living Future Institute*, 23 Apr. 2021, living-future.org/media-resources/.

C. Nexus Builds

Nexus Builds, the action arm of Architectural Nexus' philanthropy program, provides our staff of architects the opportunity to further their mastery in the field of building design and construction, thereby creating a continuing education platform that nurtures the most important aspect of what we do. Architects are required to maintain a current and ongoing education in the craft of architecture to maintain their professional license, promoting the safety and welfare of those who utilize the buildings that we design. In turn our charitable giving program establishes the highest level of educational opportunity to foster the development of a sustainable built environment.

Currently the Nexus Build's program aims to build and donate 1-2 Tiny Homes per year and is building an ADU model of our own design, Chrysalis. Please see attachment for photos and floor plans of the unit currently being built for donation.

Chrysalis is **A REFUGE WHICH NURTURES THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION, INSPIRING HOPE FOR A NEW LIFE**. This refuge is designed to provide opportunities for change. It is imperative this new home encourages growth and transformation. Chrysalis is a protective covering that enables a period of positive growth, it provides a refuge for transformation. This new home allows for transformation of the functions within the space. as area is limited, it is necessary for the functions to be able to change for the needs of the occupant. The house is easily adaptable to almost any site configuration or solar orientation. This new home will be a place of safety and security for the occupant, providing both shelter and comfort. It will offer resilience and security with respect to energy and water as the building pursues living building status.



D. Links

Arch Nexus

www.archnexus.com

ILFI

www.living-future.org

LBC 4.0

living-future.org/lbc/basics4-0/

Past Builds:

2019 Video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-GVsMxJhdQ

2020 Video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tMcyoryRPc

Past Recipients:

The Block Project

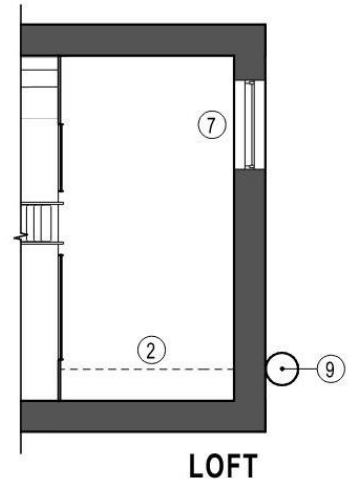
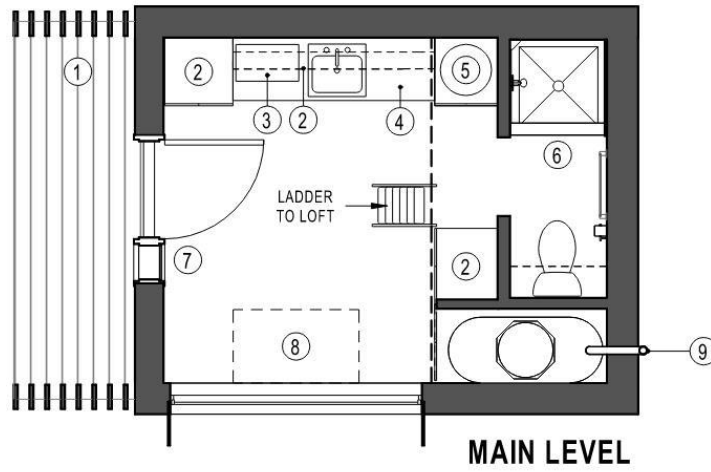
www.the-block-project.org/

Fresh Start Ventures

www.freshstartventures.org/



- ① CEDAR DECK
- ② BUILT-IN STORAGE & SHELVING
- ③ ELECTRIC STOVE
- ④ UNDERCOUNTER DISHWASHER
- ⑤ WATER HEATER
- ⑥ TILE SHOWER
- ⑦ OPERABLE WINDOW
- ⑧ BUILT-IN FOLDING TABLE
- ⑨ RAINWATER COLLECTION & CISTERN



III. Eligibility Requirements

A. Required

- i. Tiny Home/ ADU is an allowable use by local site jurisdiction or has a pathway

Not all jurisdictions currently allow for the placement of Tiny Homes or ADUs on a permanent foundation. In your application response please provide us with an understanding of your site and jurisdictional issues. If a site location is not currently identified or is in the process of receiving jurisdictional approval, please describe that below.

Applicants with an identified site that has a pathway for allowing an ADU on a permanent foundation will be given priority.

- ii. Cost Responsibilities (Site, Transportation)

Arch Nexus is donating one Tiny Home, site adaptation design services, and the LBC guidance needed for certification. All site-based costs, such as foundation, site improvements, solar photovoltaic panels, and transportation of the unit to the site, are the responsibility of the recipient organization. Arch Nexus will work with you to coordinate and identify those needs. Attached is a list of **potential** site costs based on the experience from our prior projects.

- iii. ILFI Performance Period

Our ADU's are designed and built to be a fully certifiable Living Buildings. This certification is only held by a handful of projects globally. A significant part of the certification is the Performance Period where a project proves through 12 consecutive months of operational data that it is functioning appropriately. Only applicants who are committed to participate in that Performance Period will be considered.

B. Preferred

- i. 501c3

The Nexus Builds program is the action arm of our Philanthropy program. While not required, applicants that are a 501c3 organization are preferred. Please describe in your application your organization's charitable status.

- ii. Sites located in Northern California and Utah

We are architects that are passionate about working and being of service to the communities in which we live. We will give preference to sites that are located within those communities; Northern California and Utah.

- iii. Sites that are not located in a Tiny Home Village

Based on our first exposure to these programs through our work with the BLOCK Project we organized our program around the idea of placing homes in residential yards with matched host families and/ or a network of support for the resident as they transition out of traumatic situation. Sites that create this social support network are preferred over Tiny Home Villages.

IV. Application Submission

Please provide the following information, limit application written responses to 2 pages. Attachments for photos and site plans are welcomed, but not required. Photos and site plans do not count towards the two-page limit.

A. Recipient Information

- i. Recipient / Organization Name
- ii. Recipient / Organization Address
- iii. Charitable status
 - 501c3
 - Recognized charitable
 - Non-profit
 - Faith-based
 - Educational Institution
 - None of the Above
- iv. Website (if applicable)
- v. Description

B. Primary Contact Info

- i. Primary Contact Name
- ii. Email
- iii. Phone Number
- iv. Mobile Phone Number (optional)

C. Site/ Location Description

- i. Site Address
- ii. Site Details

D. Permitting Status (check one)

- Tiny Home/ADU is a permitted use on our site by (JURISDICTION)
- Tiny Home will be permitted by (DATE, JURISDICTION)
- Other, please explain

E. Partnership Acknowledgment

Please provide a brief response to each of the items outlined in Section III. Eligibility Requirements.

F. Statement of need, tell us your story!

G. Donation Year (check all that apply)

- ASAP
- Future Year _____
- I don't know at this time

H. Questions for Arch Nexus?

If you have questions about the application process or Nexus Builds please feel free to reach out to the Program Chairs at nbuilds@archnexus.com.

Please submit your application to nbuilds@archnexus.com. Please keep all submittal sizes to 10MB or less as a zip file or compiled PDF.

APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Furnishings and Appliances	<i>LBC compliant Items specified by Nexus, Owners to purchase</i>
On-Site Inspection	
Site Construction, Required Utility Connections and Site Inspections	
Survey, Geotechnical and Soils Reports	
Building Shrink Wrapping and transportation preparations, Rigging, Craning and Transportation of constructed home at pickup and delivery locations	<i>Nexus to coordinate with applicant's transportation provider.</i>
Diamond Pier Foundation Placement of the Home onto the site foundation.	
Urban Agriculture	<i>Nexus will provide minimum area requirements - must be irrigated by stored rainwater or grey water if permitted.</i>
On site water collection and filtration systems, rainwater, greywater, blackwater.	<i>Nexus to design and provide building components (e.g. gutters & indoor cistern, as applicable). Applicant coordination required for cistern overflow pathway. Applicant to provide approved external cistern, including required pad.</i>
Solar Panel System	<i>Applicant will provide approved PV system and contract with a specialty subcontractor for the system installation.</i>
Net Metering	
ILFI Performance Period	
Building Systems Commissioning	<i>Nexus will make a recommendation for services.</i>