

Proposal 1: Criteria to become and remain an Omni Commons Member Collective

1. Have a minimum of 5 active members. Active members are those who participate in the organization's decisions by participating in meetings, responding to email or other online decision-related discussions, performing administrative work, and leading programmatic activities. People who only attend events are not counted as active members.
2. Be a collective: a non-hierarchical group with a participatory decision making process.
3. Fulfill requirement to delegate a board member, and participate in the delegates/board meeting regularly.
4. Endorse the Omni Commons [statement of solidarity](#), [statement of purpose](#), and [safer space policy](#), and demonstrate how the activities of the collective contribute to them. Also, [this song](#).
5. Be or become either a tenant or a fiscally sponsored project of Omni Commons.
6. Contribute materially to the Commons via rent, fiscal sponsorship fee, or other resources.

(Note 1: If an existing member collective fails to meet agreements made in the lease or fiscal sponsorship agreement, OC may take actions described in these documents or allowed by law. If an MC fails to meet internal OC agreements [eg. participating in delegates meetings or operating as a collective] they will be considered “inactive” and will not be included in the consensus count at delegates meetings until the requirement is met or another agreement is reached.)

(Note 2: Groups using space at Omni Commons can also be just tenants or fiscally sponsored projects without having the additional benefits and responsibilities of being a member collective. However, it benefits OC to have as many groups as possible contributing to the work and decision-making, and we should set a maximum ratio of non-member resident groups to member collectives, perhaps 1:4.)

Proposal 2: New Member Collective Application Process

(What follows is more or less what would appear on the wiki and in the handbook as instructions to new potential MCs. It would be presented in a more graphically clear format.)

Decide if your group meets our basic requirements.

- **Being a Member Collective at Omni Commons means that your group wants to engage in our ongoing experiment in commoning. You will join other collectives that collectively manage and steward the resource of the building at 4799 Shattuck Avenue for the purposes set forth by the delegates. Participation in the commons includes sending a delegate to the Omni Commons board of directors; following the agreements made to and with Omni and other member collectives; and contributing labor to do the work required to keep Omni Commons functioning and maintain the building. IF THIS DOES NOT INTEREST YOUR ORGANIZATION, OR**

APPEARS TO BE TOO MUCH OF A BURDEN, THEN BEING A MEMBER COLLECTIVE IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR YOU at this time.

- Please read about our [vision / governing principles](#), to determine if your collective is willing and able to collaborate within the structure and culture we have co-created so far.
- Review our current criteria for becoming and remaining a member collective. These may change over time.
- If you don't think you meet the Member Collective criteria, there are other ways your group can participate in the Omni. Talk to the Finance Working Group. ----->

Let us know you are interested in joining Omni Commons by talking to a delegate or the finance working group.

- A process guide will be assigned to you to help you navigate the member collective application process.
- They will give you the information you need and answer your questions.

Write your application using the questions below. Keep it as brief as possible while still answering the questions:

- What do you do that makes a difference in the world?
- Briefly recap your history as an organization.
- What is your incorporation status? (501c3? Unincorporated Association? etc)
- How do you make decisions?
- State your goals for becoming an Omni member collective.
- How would your presence in the Omni contribute to its purpose and Statement of Solidarity?
- Explain how you will finance your Omni membership dues/rent.
- Describe what dedicated physical space (if any) you need. What will you do in the dedicated space? What can you do in shared space? Will you need to make any modifications of the building? Include floor plans if that makes your proposal clearer.

Application review process:

1. Submit your application to the Omni Delegates in writing at consensus@omnicommons.org and discuss@omnicommons.org
2. Present your application proposal at the next Delegates meeting (First and Third Thursdays at 7pm). Delegates will ask questions and give you preliminary feedback about the proposal. In the 2 weeks following the meeting, delegates will discuss your proposal with their collectives.
3. Attend collective meetings if invited to further explain your proposal. Incorporate feedback into your application proposal.
4. Legal and financial review
 - a. The Omni Finance Working Group will review your financials (Budget, balance sheet, P & L), size, incorporation status, space needs, and reach an agreement with you about your financial contribution and legal relationship to Omni Commons.
 - b. If you need to make modifications to the building, Finance may ask you to get preliminary inspections, consult with the Building Working Group, or provide other information to determine if the changes are possible and advisable.
 - c. If necessary, the Omni legal advisor will advise about your legal relationship to the Omni.
 - d. Update your proposal with this agreement.

5. Attend a 2nd Delegates meeting to discuss your updated proposal. Ideally this would be the next Delegates meeting, but if the delegates and you agree, it may be scheduled for the 2nd meeting following. Delegates will report on and discuss the feedback they received from their collectives, and if there are any blocking or serious concerns that can't be resolved at the meeting, contact information will be shared so that further discussion can happen between you and the groups or persons with the concern.

(Note for existing MCs: If an MC's meeting schedule doesn't fit into this application review time frame, it MUST have a special meeting to deal with the application, out of respect for the new applicant group.)

6. Before the next Delegates meeting, attend collective meetings, and/or communicate with Omni members as needed to discuss any remaining issues.
7. Attend the next (3rd) Delegates meeting and present your updated application proposal for a final discussion. You will be asked to leave the building and the delegates will reach a decision. The process guide will notify you of the decision.

If approved, finalize your membership

1. Sign a contract with Omni Commons, either a lease or fiscal sponsorship agreement.
 2. Obtain insurance coverage as described in your contract
 3. Read [Member Collective Handbook](#) and sign document stating that the collective members read the Handbook.
 4. Select a delegate to the Delegates Assembly (Board of Directors)
 5. Pay deposit/rent/fiscal sponsorship fee, per agreement
 6. Move in!
 7. Have your members consider joining an [Omni Working Group](#).
-

Internal Considerations for Deciding upon New Resident Organizations

- Does the group meet the member collective requirements?
 - Groups consisting of affected people doing liberatory organizing should be recruited and given priority.
 - The ratio of Member Collectives to non-member collective resident organizations should stay above 4:1.
 - Does the group understand the way OC works, especially the concept of the commons, space sharing, limitations on locked space, and consensus process?
 - A new collective is more likely to succeed at Omni if they have previously existed, are well established, have experience with consensus/participatory decision making, have spent time at OC (eg by holding events or meetings), and/or the members have worked together previously.
 - Consider if a new tenant or member collective should have a trial period and get settled before doing any construction.
-

Below this line is information and notes from the discussions around this proposal; not part of the proposal.

Current New Member Collective Application Process (from the wiki)

If you would like to formally join the Omni Collective as a member-group, we have created this short sheet to facilitate the procedure:

- Please read about our [vision / governing principles](#) to determine if your collective is willing and able to collaborate within the structure and culture we have co-created so far.
- Attend a meeting of the Omni delegates Omni [Meeting](#) 7–9pm 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 4799 Shattuck Ave.
- Present your collective to the group. This should include ***IN WRITING*** answers to the questions in [the proposal guidelines below](#).
 - We seek an understanding of what you do, points of synergy with the Omni Commons, some thoughts as to how we can help one another (i.e. what can you provide to the community? what do you need?), as well as what relationship you seek to have with the greater community.
- After your presentation, the Delegates will take the information to their respective groups for a week of deliberation. We will make a decision at the next Delegates meeting, in a closed vote.

If approved, the following:

- Choose a delegate to represent your collective in Omni Delegate meetings
- ATTEND Omni general meetings and participate in/contribute to the ongoing evolution of the project!

In preparing a membership proposal for your group to join Omni, please make sure to include the following points. You can answer using these questions directly or incorporate them into a format that suits your style.

1. Mission statement

- What do you do? What happens in the world because you exist? (1-3 sentences)

2. Origin and group history

- How did you start? What have you done? (1-3 sentences)

3. Participation in the Omni

- Why are you interested in becoming a member? How does your group intend to use the space? What are your needs? (less than 5 sentences)

4. Group finances and paying rent

- Omni Commons currently pays about **\$15,000** per month. We take our finances seriously for all member collectives.
- What does your group do to support itself financially? What is your best plan for contributing your potential share of rent to the Omni?
 - Please include relevant financial statements, especially documentation of sufficient income (e.g. balance sheet, bank statement, profit & loss statement). (less than 5 sentences)

5. Dedicated space

- If your group would like some dedicated space at the Omni, what square footage and what features are you looking for? Which specific rooms do you feel might be suitable? (1-3 sentences)
 - Prepare to present ALL possible, desirable spaces with some sort of [drawing or physical in-person markings \(like painter's tape\)](#).
 - Please also create a "pros and cons" list for EACH possible space.

6. Other contributions to the Omni

- This question should inspire some imagination. We are exploring ideas to pay rent and purchase the building in the long-term. The basic plan is for each group paying a share of rent. Potential plans include groups sharing profit from their activities, producing Omni events, and booking other events. What is the best-case scenario for using the Omni space to further support your group? (less than 5 sentences)

7. Additional

- Is there any other information that you think would be useful for us to know about your group? (as many sentences as you like)

This section needs expansion

- What kind of groups?
 - Donation-based
 - Volunteer-led
 - Non-profit
 - Worker Owned
 - Offer value to the public for free or sliding scale
- What core values do groups share?
 - Standing in solidarity with all oppressed people
 - Cultures of consent, against rape, violence & exploitation
 - The survival & thrival of our communities and neighborhoods
 - Striving for social, economic & environmental justice
 - Maintaining an active, publicly accessible commons
 - Fostering radical discourse and education
 - Removing barriers to technical innovation and scientific inquiry by providing needed equipment and space for individual and group learning.
 - Providing a venue for innovative cultural production

Process comments:

Too long, too many meetings

Takes a while to figure out things have been going. - Give handbook early in process.

Need an official navigator thru the process.

Need groups to stick around long enough to get a sense of how the space works - encourage group to be here as much as possible, have their meetings and events here, come to diff Omni meetings. Give clear ways to be in the space. Show calendar and get them to agree to come.

Different people at each delegates meeting means a lot of stuff gets rehashed or new issues raised.

Timeline for 3 meeting goal:

Proposal sent out and given 2 weeks review time. Delegates are supposed to discuss with collectives during that time.

Then it is presented and discussed at the next delegates meeting. (meeting 1)

Collectives discuss responses to their concerns. Potential collective communicates with Omni people re their concerns.

Further discussion and possible agreement at next meeting (2).

Further discussion and final decision at next meeting (3).

Additional considerations:

Collective is much more likely to succeed if they have previously existed, well established, and have worked together.

Tenants and member collectives should have a trial period and get settled as collectives before doing any construction.