



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Art-Speak and The Housing Partnership present a
Homeward Bound, a first-time homebuyer education seminar**

Artists: Do you love Portsmouth, but fear high housing costs are causing you to consider alternatives? Do you want the stability that home or studio ownership can give, but are worried about your credit history or having enough money saved? The Homeward Bound program will help you answer all your home-buying questions.

In the past year, Art-Speak, the City of Portsmouth Cultural Commission, has hosted many seminars for artists on such varied topics as business promotion, estate planning, and website development. Now, Art-Speak is excited to announce its collaboration with The Housing Partnership to host Homeward Bound, The Housing Partnership's first-time homebuyer education seminar. Homeward Bound is the only HUD-certified homebuyer education course in the region.

In the hands-on, eight-hour seminar, participants will learn the tools necessary to successfully purchase a home, even in today's tight housing market. The program will consist of four sessions lasting two hours each. The sessions will be held February 6th, 8th, 13th & 15th from 6 to 8pm at Portsmouth High School.

The program shows participants how to access traditional bank financing, as well as many special loan programs. Participants who complete the course will receive a Homebuyer Education Certificate, which may help them satisfy some special loan program requirements. The Homeward Bound program is FREE and open to the public.

At the seminars, you will learn the steps to becoming a homeowner. These steps include: Renting vs. Owning, Benefits and Responsibilities of Home Ownership, Budgeting and Credit, Affordable Mortgage Options, Qualifying for a Mortgage, Mortgage Terms and Procedures, Working with REALTORS, Legal Issues of Buying and Owning, Property Inspections, Making an Offer on a Home, Repairs, and Maintenance and Insurance.

To register for the session starting February 6, 2006, held at Portsmouth High School, or for more information, contact Terry Spires by email at terry@housingpartnership.org or phone (603) 766-3120.

Art-Speak is the City Cultural Commission, an agency created as a direct result of the Portsmouth Cultural Plan. Art-Speak exists officially on behalf of the City of Portsmouth to represent and promote the arts and culture, and to act on all related matters. For more information visit www.art-speak.org.

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