

Millstone Cooperative

Creativity • Open Communication • Environmental Sustainability
Social Justice • Communal Ownership

Dear Santa Barbara Student Housing Co-op:

Greetings from Millstone Cooperative! We are an eleven member cooperative in Somerville, MA committed to creativity, open communication, environmental sustainability, social justice and communal ownership. We are passionate about exploring the complexities of consensus based decision making and radical democracy, supporting each other in our work to envision human relationships and global economics, and discovering the best way to cook lentils and other vegetarian delights.

We are creating a non-profit corporation, Boston Community Cooperatives (BCC), that will provide technical assistance to local cooperatives (existing and newly forming) and financial assistance to them for the purchase of properties where they can make a permanent home. BCC's first project will be a purchase of a house for Millstone. We then anticipate working with a near-by co-op, Teal House, to purchase the house that they currently occupy. We are raising funds for the down payment for the Millstone House, and hope that you might assist us with a loan or suggestions of other funding sources.

Most of the current Millstone members lived in campus cooperatives previously, and the original idea for Millstone grew out of a group of students who lived together at Princeton's 2D co-op. After college they were seeking a more interconnected and socially responsible way of living, so they moved to Boston and leased the property where we now reside. Since then we have grown to include many other members from abroad and geographic backgrounds. Our efforts at expansion, long-term stability, sustainability and community involvement are hampered by our current renting situation. We hope to find a house where we can welcome new members (we currently have 6 people hoping to join us in our newsite) and serve as a resource for other cooperatives and activist groups. We plan to provide low-cost housing in an out-of-control housing market and promote neighborhood stability and civic engagement.

We have spoken with Tracie Citron of the eCampus Cooperative Development Corporation, and she suggested that your co-op may be able to offer assistance with our project. We anticipate that the down payment for our house will be \$100,000 to \$180,000, and are seeking loans from many different sources toward this down payment. We hope to talk with you about the possibility of a loan or grant, and any other ideas you have for our project. We have enclosed some more information and you can visit our website at www.bostoncoop.net/millstone. And of course, if any of you are ever in the area, please feel free to join us for delicious vegan/vegetarian meals, stimulating conversation, music late into the night and anything else we can dream up together.

Yours in cooperation,

Millstone Cooperative