

Artspace Buffalo Lofts

1219 Main Street | Buffalo, NY 14209 | Opened 2007



Photo by Lukia Costello



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An Economic Engine for Midtown

Like many other American cities, Buffalo has long sought ways to spark economic development in the aging neighborhoods around its central business district. As part of its efforts, in 2004 the City invited Artspace to redevelop the historic Buffalo Electric Vehicle Company factory in the Midtown neighborhood into an affordable artist live/work project. Built in 1911, this five-story factory had once played a leading role in Buffalo's thriving automobile industry. Later it housed a printing business, but it had stood vacant for more than 15 years when it was acquired by Artspace.

Artspace Buffalo Lofts, developed in partnership with the Belmont Shelter Corporation, now provides 60 units of affordable housing for artists and their families. There are 36 units in the historic factory; the remaining 24 units are in six newly constructed fourplexes built on vacant land behind the factory. The \$17.6 million project includes commercial space on the main floor of the factory building as well as a two-level community gallery that is managed by the property's resident artists.

The Manchester Bidwell Corporation recently announced that it would establish a new training facility, the Buffalo Arts and Technology Center, at the Artspace Buffalo Lofts. The new center will offer after-school visual arts programs for at-risk urban high school students as well as health sciences career training for under-employed and unemployed adults.

"This is yet another step forward for Buffalo's flourishing artistic community, and one that is sure to continue the role Artspace has played in the cultural and economic growth of the city."

— U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton

DEVELOPMENT COST

\$17.6 million

TOTAL AREA

118,000 sq. ft.

COMMERCIAL AREA

13,500 sq. ft.

LIVE/WORK UNITS

60

ARCHITECT

Hamilton Houston Lownie Architects

DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

Belmont Shelter Corporation

FINANCING

City of Buffalo Office of
Strategic Planning

Economic Development Initiative

Housing and Urban Development
Appropriation

Empire State Development Corporation

M&T Bank

New York State Housing Trust Fund
Corporation

New York State Division of Housing and
Community Renewal

RBC-Apollo Equity Partners

The Community Preservation
Corporation

FUNDERS

The Baird Foundation

The Cameron Baird Foundation

Community Foundation for
Greater Buffalo

Peter C. Cornell Trust

M&T Charitable Foundation

National Trust for Historic Preservation /
HGTV Restore America Program

The John R. Oishei Foundation

Seymour H. Knox Foundation

Margaret L. Wendt Foundation

Zemsky Family Foundation