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Two Artspace Projects Among Finalists Named for \$15 Million in Creative Placemaking Grants

(MINNEAPOLIS, January 24, 2012) Two projects under development by Artspace Projects, the nation's leader in arts-driven community transformation, have been named finalists for support from ArtPlace, an unprecedented private-public collaboration of nine of the nation's top foundations, eight federal agencies including the National Endowment for the Arts, and six of the nation's largest banks. ArtPlace supports creative placemaking with grants and loans, research and advocacy. Artspace joins 128 other organizations in 68 cities working to transform their communities by driving vibrancy through investments in the arts.

Artspace has previously received ArtPlace support for two of its projects, **Artspace Hawaii** in Honolulu and **El Barrio's Artspace PS 109** in New York. Once again, Artspace is the only organization with two projects among the finalists. This year ArtPlace has chosen **Artspace Minot Lofts**, a 32-unit residential building designed to meet the space needs of creative individuals and their families. Each unit will have sufficient additional space – about 200 square feet – for an artist's studio. The project will also contain 4,476 square feet of non-residential space that will be designated for commercial arts-related uses. In addition, **Artspace's Bell School Campus** project in New Orleans is among the finalists. This project will convert the vacant, dilapidated, seven-building, two-block Bell School campus in the heart of Tremé into an arts facility with 73 units of affordable live/work residences for artists and their families and 25,000 square feet for multiple nonprofit partners.

The selected projects represent the best of the more than 2,000 applications from across the country. Finalists were chosen for their potential to have a transformative impact on community vibrancy. Proposed projects run the gamut from temporary art spaces to permanent performance venues, from music festivals to art walks and from streetscaping to artist residencies.

“This new round of applications shows that there is serious momentum building for creative placemaking in the U.S.,” says Carol Coletta, president of ArtPlace. “These artists and designers are an undervalued asset for kick-starting momentum in our communities. And in this economy, it's hard to imagine why any community wouldn't deploy every asset it has for success.”

ArtPlace expects to distribute \$15 million in 2012. This year's grant recipients will be announced in May. Last year, 34 organizations received a total of \$11.5 million.

The full list of finalists can be found at <http://www.artplaceamerica.org/2012finalists>

Participating foundations include Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Ford Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, The McKnight

Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, The Robina Foundation and an anonymous donor. In addition to the NEA, federal partners are the departments of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Education and Transportation, along with leadership from the White House Office of Management and Budget and the Domestic Policy Council. ArtPlace is also supported by a \$12 million loan fund capitalized by six major financial institutions and managed by the Nonprofit Finance Fund. Participating institutions are Bank of America, Citi, Deutsche Bank, Chase, MetLife and Morgan Stanley.

About Artspace Projects, Inc.

With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in New York, Seattle and Los Angeles, Artspace is America's leading developer of arts facilities with 30 projects in operation in 13 states. To date it has completed more than a thousand affordable live/work units for artists and their families as well as more than a million square feet of non-residential space for artists and arts organizations. Additional information is available at www.artspace.org.

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