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## **ARTSPACE RECIEVES \$2.7 MILLION CREATIVE PLACEMAKING GRANT FROM FORD FOUNDATION**

**Grant will fund sustainable, just and replicable models of  
arts-driven community development throughout the U.S.**

(*Minneapolis*) Artspace is pleased to announce a major creative placemaking grant from the Ford Foundation that will advance multiple projects united by a single vision of sustainable, arts-led community revitalization. The \$2.7 million grant is one of the largest in Artspace's history.

"This generous grant represents an important step down the path that Artspace and the Ford Foundation have been walking together since 2009," said Artspace President Kelley Lindquist. "We are excited by the prospect of creating new arts facilities to serve culturally distinct communities in New Orleans and Pine Ridge, advancing Artspace projects in Washington, DC, Seattle and Minot, and strengthening the national network of arts organizations served by the Foundation's Supporting Diverse Art Spaces (SDAS) initiative. There is much good work to be done here, and we are honored to be doing it in partnership with our friends at the Ford Foundation."

While this grant has six distinct strands, they are united by a single overarching theme: the creation of a sustainable, just and replicable model of arts-driven community change. Over the last four years, there has been a dynamic blending of Artspace's expertise in arts-focused real estate development with the Ford Foundation's vision of arts and culture as essential elements of a just society. This partnership has coincided with, and helped catalyze, a larger national movement of creative placemaking, which in turn has elevated the arts as a driver of economic and community development.

"Advancing arts is an essential element of a just, inclusive society and the chosen Artspace projects hold the promise of bringing vibrancy and creativity into these communities to engage its citizens," said Darren Walker, vice president of the Education, Creativity and Free Expression program at the Ford Foundation. "Supporting the arts, both as a tool of economic growth and as the fullest realization of the human imagination, is a critical component of our larger efforts as a foundation."

Over the coming years, tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent on creative placemaking projects – work that leverages cultural assets to strengthen the social fabric of a

community. The successful implementation of this grant, and the translation of its core activities into best practices and models, will build the emerging national field of creative placemaking's capacity to create more just and livable communities by putting culture at the heart of sustainable planning and change.

## **The Projects**

**Bell School Arts Campus, New Orleans** - The Bell School project will celebrate and build on Tremé's distinctive history and cultural heritage by transforming a six-building, two-block campus – a traditional neighborhood gathering place abandoned after Hurricane Katrina devastated the area in 2005 – into an vibrant, multi-faceted arts facility with affordable live/work space for artists and their families, green space to be shared by the entire community and nonprofit incubator space that will allow partner organizations to engage the neighborhood in opportunity-creating programming. The old Band Room will be restored to its historic role as a training ground for New Orleans musicians. The Chapel will be used as a job-training site, in partnership with the African-American Museum, for workers in traditional artisan crafts – wood, plaster, and metalworking. The result will be a community asset where the arts are a common thread weaving together affordable housing, education and job training opportunities.

**Artspace Mt. Baker Station Lofts, Seattle** - Artspace's third project in Seattle will be a mixed-use arts facility containing 57 rental units of affordable live/work space for low-income artists and their families. Located adjacent to the Mt. Baker Light Rail Station, this project will be a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) consisting of three levels of live/work space. The ground floor will include a community room and 12 commercial spaces for nonprofit organizations, creative enterprises, and related businesses.

**Artspace Minot Lofts, Minot, ND** - Over the last decade, an oil boom has brought many new arrivals, generating a severe shortage of affordable housing. This shortage was compounded in 2011 by a flood of the Souris River, the worst in Minot's history, which damaged more than 4,000 homes, many beyond repair. This flood left a third of Minot without homes. Minot is committed to engaging its arts community as a core asset in rebuilding, deploying creativity and sweat equity to spur complementary development. The Artspace Minot Lofts – the first new building in downtown Minot in 30 years – will be an arts anchor with 34 units of affordable units for artist families, where artists can create, increase their income and put down roots in the heart of Minot. The project will include a gallery operated by the Turtle Mountain Tribal Arts Association for the exhibition and sale of Native American arts, including regalia, beadwork, quillwork, and baskets made by artists from area tribes (Chippewa, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, and Sioux).

**Pine Ridge Arts Lab, South Dakota** – Artspace and the First Peoples Fund have recently completed an American Indian Creative Market Study Project, a first-of-its-kind study of the arts economy of the area. Through this study and working with other local partner organizations, a concept has emerged that involves the development of a fixed-location Arts Lab supplemented by a small "Mobile Arts Lab" that could provide service throughout the reservation. The Pine Ridge Arts Lab model represents an innovative approach to a unique set of circumstances – a community of artists widely scattered across a large geographic area – and clearly expands the

Artspace and creative placemaking models in a number of ways. This project will serve as an opportunity to create a “demonstration model” that can be replicated in other rural areas.

**Dance Place** – Artspace partnered with Dance Place in Washington, DC to create the Brookland Artspace Lofts in 2011. Phase 2 of this project will include a renovation and expansion of Dance Place’s existing theater.

**SDAS Distance Learning Program** – Phase 2 of this project will expand the use of Distance Learning technology to foster artistic exchange. Partnering with CultureHub in New York, Artspace will develop a “best practices” guide for current and future Distance Learning participants.

### **About Artspace**

With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York and Seattle, Artspace is America’s leader in arts-driven community transformation with 32 projects in operation in 13 states. To date Artspace has completed more than 1,000 affordable live/work units for artists and their families as well as a million square feet of non-residential space for artists, arts organizations and creative enterprises. Additional information is available at [www.artspace.org](http://www.artspace.org).

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