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A DOZEN LOCAL ARTISTS CREATE ARTWORK FOR ARTSPACE LOVELAND GROUNDBREAKING

Celebration scheduled for February 14 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

There will be more to celebrate February 14 than simply Valentine's Day. After years of hard work Artspace will break ground on 30 low-income apartments for artists. Please join us from 4:00-6:00 pm, to celebrate the start of construction on Artspace Loveland Arts Campus, a new live/work space for artists and their families, and the renovation of the historic Feed & Grain as a commercial arts hub in downtown Loveland.

To commemorate this moment Arts @ The Loveland Feed & Grain has reached out to 12 local artists to embellish and paint shovels, which will be used during the groundbreaking ceremony.

One of the artists donating his work is Ezra Aste, age 4, who was so inspired by the exhibits at The Loveland Feed & Grain he has become an artist himself. Ezra's father, Benny Aste of Uncle Benny's Building Supply, has supported his son's interests by sponsorships and donations to the Feed & Grain. For the February exhibition, Love + Light, Uncle Benny's is building the warming shed to thaw visitors before and after they tour the Feed & Grain.

For Ezra's contribution his parents have been speaking with him about their past visits to the Feed & Grain, what they did and saw there, and have allowed Ezra to express his thoughts through art. "This is a fun thing for him," his mother, Marissa said. During the Aste's last visit to the Feed & Grain Ezra asked Megan Tracy, Curator, if he could have his own show and

according to Marissa, has been collecting his artwork ever since. "His dream is to one day display his art at the Feed & Grain," Marissa said. Perhaps someday with the Feed & Grain secured his dream will come true.

Another artist donating her talent is Sharon Shuster Anhorn, one of the first artists to start the grass-roots effort to save the Feed & Grain. Anhorn said she saw an article in the paper announcing the Feed & Grain was slated for demolition and "got very upset. I called my friends and said we have to do something. So I loaded up my van with people and went to the City Council meeting, where Erin McLaughlin spoke about the need to save the Feed & Grain. Following Erin's speech we followed her efforts."

Today Sharon is thrilled. "Every time I see a wonderful event at the Feed & Grain it brings tears to my eyes." She said she thinks about how easily the "building could have been torn down, and what a vacant space it would have left in our beautiful down town." To celebrate, Anhorn will embellish "her" shovel with repoussé, a form of metal embossing. Her design will be "very organic, with leaves and flowers," she said.

Ten more artists, including Ali Almquist, Billie Colson, Robin Dodge, Kerri Ertman, Ildanach Studios, Carrie Johansing, Dena Kirk, Anna Maddocks, Erin McLaughlin and Jade Windell will generously donate their gift to mark the groundbreaking of Artspace Loveland and what it means to the community. Following brief remarks and the ceremonial groundbreaking, there will be a reception in the historic Feed & Grain as we celebrate a bright future for the artist community and downtown Loveland. The reception includes a preview of the Feed & Grain's Love + Light Exhibition.

About Artspace

Artspace is the nation’s leader in artist-led community transformation, with 35 projects in operation across the country and another dozen in development, representing a unique, $600 million investment in America’s arts infrastructure. With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Seattle and Washington D.C., Artspace is America’s leading developer of arts facilities and has served as a consultant to hundreds of communities and arts organizations nationwide. To date we have completed more than 1,000 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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