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ARTSPACE HAMILTON LOFTS GROUNDBREAKING SET FOR MAY 2

Celebration from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. followed by after party at the Fitton Center for Creative Arts

Artspace and Neighborhood Housing Services of Hamilton are pleased to announce the groundbreaking ceremony for Artspace Hamilton Lofts, scheduled for Friday, May 2, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in Hamilton, Ohio. The ceremony will take place in the historic Mercantile Lofts Atrium at 236 High Street, next door to the site of the Artspace Hamilton Lofts. Brief remarks will be followed by a reception. The Fitton Center for Creative Arts will host a Roaring Twenties themed after party, featuring live music, cash bar, and more, beginning at 9:00 p.m. at 101 S. Monument Avenue.

Among those scheduled to appear at the ceremony are Hamilton Mayor Pat Moeller; City Council Member Tim Naab; Lorie DiStaola, Executive Director of Neighborhood Housing Services of Hamilton; Kelley Lindquist, President of Artspace, Greg Handberg, Senior Vice President of Artspace, and representatives from the Hamilton Community Foundation and Fitton Center for Creative Arts.

Brief remarks are scheduled for 6:15, followed by a performance by the Miami Valley Ballet Theater and a ceremonial groundbreaking with shovels embellished by local artists, an Artspace tradition. A reception with light refreshments will follow.

“We’re tremendously grateful to everyone in Hamilton, particularly our local community partners,” said Artspace President Kelley Lindquist. “The City of Hamilton, the Hamilton Community Foundation, the Fitton Center for Creative Arts and the Hamilton Vision Commission members have all been instrumental in helping move this project toward construction.”

Artspace Hamilton Lofts, an $11.8 million project, will create 42 artist live/work units, plus 3,000 square feet of ground floor commercial space for arts groups and arts-related businesses. The project will rehabilitate two internally connected historic buildings, a 1900 French Renaissance masterpiece originally known as the Mehrum Building, and the 1913 Lindley Block. A 1970s remodel covered the original storefronts with a metal screen that was removed in Spring of 2013, thereby restoring these century-old edifices to their original appearance.

Construction on the project begins in April is expected to be completed by March 2015.

Project funding sources include the City of Hamilton, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Development Services Agency, the Hamilton Community Foundation and US Bank, as well as generous donations from individuals.

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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