



For Immediate Release:
April 22, 2014
Release #0027

Artspace Contact: Melodie Bahan
612.850.8219 – melodie.bahan@artspace.org

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING SYMPOSIUM EXPLORES THE RESULTS OF LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Author Carolyn Holbrook joins Kelley Lindquist, Tom Borrup and Polly Nyberg at Artspace Jackson Flats on Thursday, May 15, 2014 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm

What happens when we establish spaces for everyday leaders to think bigger and bolder? In this informal symposium, internationally acclaimed place makers, Tom Borrup and Kelley Lindquist will discuss the literal and not so literal spaces they have created for artists who live and work in the Twin Cities and beyond.

The two will be joined by Polly Nyberg, founder of The St. Paul Companies Leadership Initiatives in Neighborhoods (LIN) program, and Carolyn Holbrook, author of *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Journeys: How The St. Paul Companies Leadership Initiatives in Neighborhoods (LIN) Program Changed Lives and Communities*. Both will discuss how LIN enabled them to design and expand on innovative programming inside established spaces, the challenges that came along with that, and the long-term effects LIN had on their work and the Twin Cities community.

The symposium will be moderated by Adaobi Okolue, Director of Strategy and Innovation, Coloring Circles, and take place at Artspace Jackson Flats (901 18½ Avenue N.E., Minneapolis 55418) on May 15 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. This event is free and open to the public.

From 1987 to 2002, The St. Paul Companies (now St. Paul Travelers) sponsored a unique leadership program, Leadership Initiatives in Neighborhoods (LIN). Over the course of 16 years, more than 180 local activists and artists received a combined \$4.5 million in funding to pursue opportunities to augment their skills in a variety of meaningful ways.

Now, a decade after the last grant was provided, this revolutionary program has come to life once more in an inspiring book *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Journeys: How St. Paul Companies Leadership Initiatives in Neighborhoods Program Changed Lives and Communities* (<http://ordinarypeoplejourneys.org>), by writer, educator and life-long arts advocate Carolyn Holbrook, featuring profiles of 20 LIN recipients who founded Twin Cities nonprofit agencies.

On May 15, 2014, Holbrook will join two of those individuals, internationally acclaimed place makers, Tom Borrup and Kelley Lindquist, along with Polly Nyberg, founder of the LIN program, in an informal symposium about the long term effects the LIN Program has had on the ways the three of them have created both literal and not so literal spaces for artists who live and work in the Twin Cities and beyond.

About the Panelists

Carolyn Holbrook is the proud mother of five and grandmother of eight. She is a writer, educator, and long-time advocate for the healing power of the arts. Her passion for providing grassroots accessibility to the literary arts inspired her to create The Whittier Writers' Workshop in 1981 and to serve as its Director until 1989, and then to found SASE: The Write Place in 1993, and to lead as its Artistic/Executive Director until 2006, when she spearheaded the organization's merger with Intermedia Arts. She was Program Director at the Loft Literary Center from 1989-1993, where she managed the organization's signature programs, and she designed the Givens Foundation for African American Literature's writers-in-the-schools program in 2005. She was awarded a LIN grant in 1996 and developed and coordinated LIN alumnae activities from 1999 until the program ended in 2002.

Her other awards include the MN Book Awards Kay Sexton Award, 2010; Black Poetic Fusion Community Service Award, 2002; and a YWCA Leader Lunch Award, 1984. In 2000, she was named one of "100 Rising Stars" by Minneapolis/St. Paul magazine. She was a finalist for the Audre Lorde Legacy Award, Union Institute & University, 1997, where she earned her Ph.D. in Creative Writing and Creative Arts Leadership in 2002. Her book *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Journeys: How The St. Paul Companies Leadership Initiatives in Neighborhoods Program Changed Lives and Communities* was published in 2013 (North Star Press/MN Council of Nonprofits). Her essays have been published in numerous publications including *A Poverty, Equity and Education Reader in Many Voices* (2013) *The Black Body* (2009), *Black Renaissance/Renaissance Noir* (2008), *White Teachers/Diverse Classrooms* (2006, 2011), *Teachers as Collaborative Partners* (2005) and *Water~Stone* (2001), and a collection of her essays will be published in 2014. In 2004, The Twin Cities Women's Choir composed and premiered "I Want To Know My Name," a choral piece based on her memoir-in-progress. She is an adjunct assistant professor of English and Creative Writing at Hamline University, St. Paul, MN and an adjunct instructor at Minneapolis Community & Technical College. She lives in Minneapolis.

Polly Nyberg serves as a consultant to a number of national non-profits and funders. She currently a senior consultant to the Neighborhood Development Collaborative, and, is working as a senior editor for *The Real Estate Review*. Under the auspices of the University of Maryland and the Neighborhood Development Collaborative, she organized and managed a 2005 symposium on the future of senior housing design. She has served on the advisory board of the schools of architecture at the University of Minnesota and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Prior to becoming a consultant, Ms. Nyberg was Midwest Regional Director for the Fannie Mae Foundation, and served for 17 years as the Community Affairs Manager for The St. Paul Companies (now Travelers Companies, Inc.).

Tom Borrup is a leader and innovator in creative community building and creative placemaking – leveraging cultural and other assets to advance economic, social, civic, and physical regeneration of place-based communities. He consults with cities, foundations, and nonprofits across the U.S. to integrate arts, economic development, urban planning and design, civic engagement, and animation of public space. His 2006 book *The Creative Community Builders' Handbook*, remains the leading text in the field. It profiles communities that have transformed their economic, social, and physical infrastructures through the arts. From 2003 to 2009 he consulted with the Ford Foundation's *Shifting Sands Initiative* to assist community-based cultural organizations to take leading roles in local revitalization.

As Executive Director of Intermedia Arts in Minneapolis from 1980 until 2002, Tom helped transform a diverse urban neighborhood while building a nationally recognized multidisciplinary, cross-cultural organization. He has served as a member of many nonprofit boards and funding panels for public and private agencies, and was a trustee of the Jerome Foundation in Saint Paul from 1994 to 2003 where he served as Chair from 2001 to 2003. With the National Endowment for the Arts, Tom served on a variety of funding and policy panels over 25 years in the media arts, visual arts, presenting, design, and advancement program categories.

Tom is a Ph.D. Candidate in Leadership and Change at Antioch University researching the role of social and organizational networks in the planning and management of cultural districts. Tom has an M.A. in Communications and Public Policy from Goddard College and was a 2001-2002 Fellow in the Knight Program in Community Building at the University of Miami School of Architecture. He serves in an administrative capacity as Director of Graduate Studies for the University of Minnesota's Masters in Arts and Cultural Leadership and teaches in Graduate Programs in Arts and Culture Management at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and online for the Arts Extension Service at the University of Massachusetts and for Drexel University's Arts Administration Graduate Program. He also teaches Creative Placemaking for Ohio State University's Knowlton School of Architecture's Urban and Regional Planning Graduate Program.

Kelley Lindquist has been president of Artspace Projects since 1987. Under his leadership, Artspace has grown from a staff of one and an annual budget of \$40,000 into the nation's leading nonprofit developer of space for artists, with a staff of 75, a budget of \$18 million (2013), with a total revenue of more than \$30 million on its annual consolidated financial statements. The amount of consolidated annual revenue continues to increase as additional development projects are added to the Artspace portfolio. Artspace's portfolio of properties includes 35 major completed projects, all of which operate in the black. More than 1,500 affordable live/work residences for artists and their families are part of more than two million square feet of space Artspace has developed, owns and operates. This residential, studio, office and performance space represents an investment of more than half a billion dollars in America's arts infrastructure. During Lindquist's tenure, Artspace has received a number of significant awards, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Honor Award for contributing to the revitalization of inner-city communities and the University of Illinois at Chicago's Best Practices in Affordable Housing Award. Lindquist was recently named one of the 75 Most Influential Minnesotans by *Minnesota Monthly*.

Lindquist's expertise has made him much in demand as a consultant and speaker, and he frequently speaks at national and international conferences and on college and university campuses on the role of artists and arts facilities in community revitalization. Recent appearances include "On Cities and Creativity" at Cal Art's REDCAT; "The Economic State of Major Arts Organizations" at The Cowles Center in Minneapolis; and "Art Works: A Discussion About Art Spaces and Communities" at the Times Center as part of *The New York Times'* Times Talks series. While he remains actively involved in Artspace's day-to-day operations, with particular emphasis on serving many causes from historic preservation to community revitalization, he is increasingly focused on serving the artistic community directly through programming initiatives, and on serving the space needs of culturally distinct communities nationwide. Lindquist is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, with a degree in European history and an emphasis on Russian and German languages. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

About Artspace

With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Seattle and Washington, DC, Artspace is America's leader in artist-led community transformation with 35 projects in operation in 13 states. Artspace Minnesota properties include the Northern Warehouse Artists' Cooperative, 653 Artist Lofts and the Tilsner Artists' Cooperative in St. Paul; the Traffic Zone Center for Visual Art, Grain Belt Studios, Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center and The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts in Minneapolis; Washington Studios in Duluth; Franklin Arts Center in Brainerd; and Kaddatz Artists Lofts in Fergus Falls. To date Artspace has completed 35 projects with more than 1,500 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.

#