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Artspace Mt. Baker Lofts Grand Opening Celebration Scheduled for October 1

Event Features Open Studios, Live Performances for Third Artspace Project in Seattle

Artspace announced the schedule for the October 1 grand opening celebration of the new Artspace Mt. Baker Lofts at 2915 Rainier Avenue South in Seattle, Wash. The event marks the official opening of the project, a new four-story building that features 57 units of affordable live/work space for artists and their families on three upper floors, plus non-residential space on the ground floor for arts-friendly businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Take light rail to the Mt. Baker Station for the Grand Opening celebration beginning at 4:00 pm. Representatives from Artspace, City and State officials, and others from the community will offer brief remarks at 4:30 pm.

“Well-designed, affordable places such as Artspace support our vision of vibrant communities where people can rely on convenient transit service to live in the city,” said King County Executive and Sound Transit Chair Dow Constantine.

The celebration continues after the remarks with performances by local artists, open art studios, food and refreshments. Scheduled performers include Rochelle House with Evan Flory-Barnes and Darrius Willrich, The m9, Eurodanceparty USA, and dancers Philippa Myler and Syreeta Banal. Members of the community will have the opportunity to tour Artspace Mt. Baker Lofts from 5:00 to 7:00 pm as resident artists open their studios to guests at the event. In addition, numerous commercial tenants, including Tobya Art Gallery and Casa de Esperanza the Mt. Baker Neighborhood Center for the Arts, will be open for the evening. Food is being provided by

That Brown Girl Cooks! and Purpose: Crumbs & Croutons. This event is made possible in part through contributions from Starborne Sound, and with generous sponsorships by The Boeing Company, JPMorgan and Sound Transit.

Artspace Mt. Baker Lofts is the third Artspace project in Seattle, which is also home to Tashiro Kaplan Artist Lofts and Artspace Hiawatha Lofts. Located adjacent to the Mt. Baker Light Rail Station on Seattle's Central Link light rail line, one of the goals of this Transit Oriented Development is to jump-start the transformation of the Mt. Baker neighborhood from a car-oriented environment into an "urban village" whose residents choose walking, biking or riding mass transit over cars. The project has bicycle storage and a reserved car-share parking space, but no parking garage.

"We're thrilled to celebrate the opening of our third Seattle project," said Artspace President Kelley Lindquist. "Artspace is proud to provide space that helps keep artists in the community, and we're so pleased at the range and diversity of our new tenants, both residential and commercial."

The resident artists at Artspace Mt. Baker Lofts are made up of a wide range of artistic disciplines, including painters, potters, jewelers, photographers, dancers, musicians, writers and more. Many of the artists who call Mt. Baker home participate in the arts in more than one discipline. The ground floor of the Lofts will be a lively center for art, education and retail, featuring a diverse mix of organizations that reflect the neighborhood. In addition to a Vietnamese bi-lingual pre-school, the building is home to galleries, a grocery, café and a Capoeira center, among others.

Artspace is grateful to the resident artists who have assisted in organizing the Grand Opening celebration, including Rochelle House, Mark Wilber, David Torres, Admassu Guessese, Linda Shortell and Jordan Nicholson

About Artspace

Artspace is the nation's leader in artist-led community transformation, with more than 35 projects in operation across the country and another dozen in development, representing a unique, $600 million investment in America's arts infrastructure. Through its Consulting division, Artspace has brought its hard-earned expertise to more than 300 cultural planning efforts from coast-to-coast. With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Seattle and Washington D.C., Artspace has completed nearly 2,000 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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