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Contact:
Melodie Bahan
Vice President, Communications
Artspace
melodie.bahan@artspace.org, 612.850.8219

Elgin Artspace Lofts Wins MHN Excellence Award

Project Architects BKV Group and Artspace honored for Best New Development: Affordable

Artspace is pleased to announce that Elgin Artspace Lofts has received a 2014 Multi-Housing News (MHN) Excellence Award. The Gold Award for Best New Development (Affordable) was presented in New York on October 16 to Artspace and the project architects BKV Group. MHN Excellence Award winners will be featured in the November issue of MHN's digital magazine available on www.multi-housingnews.com on November 1.

Elgin Artspace Lofts, at 51 South Spring Street in Elgin, Ill. is a $15.2 million mixed-use building with 55 units of affordable live/work space for artists and their families, plus more than 5,000 square feet of non-residential and community space for arts-friendly businesses and nonprofit organizations.

"The Elgin Artspace Lofts project is successful on numerous levels. It reinforces the urban street edge in height and massing, it combines a contemporary expression and material palette with a careful historic restoration of the existing building, it provides excellent and varied amenity spaces for its residents, and it ties nicely into the public realm through walk-up units and retail at the ground floor," said architect Craig Carter. "But what truly makes the project an award-winner is the fact that it's designed specifically for artists, a concept put forth by Artspace, the City of Elgin, and a community group led by Mark Seigle, and a concept that's proven very successful for all involved."

Now in its eighth year, this year's competition was judged by a panel of industry experts comprised of: Robert C. Landis, SVP & Director of Asset Management, Raymond James Tax Credit Funds; Doris Pearlman, MIRM, IIDA, President of Possibilities for Design, Inc.; Jeffrey Resetco, Vice President of Development and Construction Services, EdR; and Nancy J. Ruddy, Founding Principal, CetraRuddy.

"We're very proud of the work our team did in Elgin to create a truly excellent project," said Artspace President Kelley Lindquist. "This building is now full, active and serving the community of Elgin as well as the artists who now call Elgin Artspace Lofts home."

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.

About BKV

BKV Group is a full-service architectural, engineering, interior design and construction administration firm founded in 1978. The firm's mission, "Enriching Lives and Strengthening Communities" is the foundation of our work practices and design efforts in both the public and private sector. With offices in Chicago, IL, Minneapolis, MN and Washington, DC our combination of insight, innovation, and inspiration provides successful solutions for all of our clients' projects.

BKV utilizes and encourages energetic participation throughout the collaborative process. This creates not only the building but also offers opportunities for our clients and the community to see their goals and perspectives come to life. This process provides for enduring designs that enhance our environment while being responsive and flexible to our clients' needs. BKV Group maintains an attention to detail and commitment to quality, which has earned national recognition, numerous awards, and citation for design excellence.

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