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**ARTSPACE TO HONOR ARTISTS AND
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
AT BREAKING GROUND – THE ARTSPACE CELEBRATION**

May 18 event in Minneapolis features performances and the Artspace Artist Awards

Artspace is pleased to announce the performers and honorees for Breaking Ground – The Artspace Celebration, scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 18, at The Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts in Minneapolis. Tickets for Breaking Ground are priced at \$20 and \$50 and are now on sale to the public through the Cowles Center Box Office (<http://www.thecowlescenter.org>). The event will be streamed live to Artspace’s national network of resident artists, partners and supporters. Information on the live stream can be found at artspace.org/breakingground.

This year’s Celebration features performances by artists affiliated with Artspace and the presentation of the Artspace Artist Awards, honoring three resident artists and one arts supporter who have shown a commitment to advancing the arts and enriching their communities. Each Artspace Award is named for an artist or an Artspace supporter who dedicated his or her life, in part, to making a difference in the arts community and in the larger community as well. This year’s award recipients are:

Paul Brawner Award for Support of the Arts

New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito – New York, New York

Speaker Mark-Viverito was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico and represents the 8th District, which includes East Harlem. She worked for more than a decade in local activism, nonprofit organizations and labor before being elected to the City Council in 2005, as the first Puerto Rican woman and Latina to represent her district in the Council.

Speaker Mark-Viverito was instrumental in making El Barrio's Artspace PS109 a reality, providing affordable homes for 89 artists and their families in El Barrio. For her unwavering support throughout the decade-long development of this project, Artspace is proud to honor her with the Paul Brawner Award for Support of the Arts, which will be presented by **Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges**.

Dejunius Hughes Award for Activism

Jacqueline Romano – Sailboat Bend Artist Lofts, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

www.jacquelineromano.com

As a photographer and graphic designer, Romano has channeled her time and talent into a number of causes, including HIV testing and treatment, and anti-bullying campaigns. Through her work as creative director of Blindfold Magazine, a socially conscious lifestyle magazine focusing on courage, strength and giving back, Romano has promoted people and organizations making positive change in the world.

Su Job Award for Education

Austin Williams – Artspace Mt. Baker Lofts, Seattle, Washington

<https://www.facebook.com/WG206>

As Producing Director of WG206, Williams has provided a place for young aspiring journalists, storytellers and media makers to network, build a solid portfolio and learn about their community. Still a college student himself, Williams' mentorship of high school students has helped many to earn scholarships, internships and other pre-career opportunities and honors.

Steve Kramer Award for Community Service

Tracy Todd Hunter – Patchogue Artspace Lofts, Patchogue, New York

<https://www.facebook.com/ofcolorscollective>

Hunter is the co-founder of "Of Colors: A Creative Collective," whose mission is to organize artists and creatives and to mentor, teach, encourage and promote cultural history and the arts. Hunter regularly creates and curates events and programs that bring artists and the community together. His annual Black History Exhibition and Diversity Celebration attracts hundreds to Artspace Patchogue and has been honored by elected officials both locally and on the state level.

“We’re so proud to honor these tremendous individuals who have done so much for their respective communities,” said Artspace President Kelley Lindquist. “The Breaking Ground Celebration is the one night of the year we devote to celebrating our achievements as an organization and the best way to do that is by putting the spotlight on the artists and supporters who make our cities great.”

PERFORMANCES

Breaking Ground – The Artspace Celebration, now in its third year, is the annual celebration of the work we do and the artists we serve. The Celebration unites the national Artspace community of nearly 2,000 artists and 250 creative enterprises affiliated with Artspace’s 37 completed projects in 24 cities coast to coast.

This year’s Breaking Ground features the talents of a number of Artspace resident artists, including the hosts for the event: award-winning Twin Cities-based actor **Ansa Akyea** (an Artspace resident artist) and Springboard for the Arts Executive Director **Laura Zabel** (an Artspace commercial tenant). Performers include Chicago blues phenomenon **Ivy Ford** (Artspace resident artist) and the Ivy Ford Band; Nuyorican Poetry Movement founder and spoken word artist **Papoleto Melendez** (Artspace resident artist), with guitarist **Bernardo Palombo** (Artspace commercial tenant); and the **DLS Onyx Step Team**.

The evening begins with a ticketed VIP reception at 5:30 p.m. in the Target Education Studio. The U.S. Bank Lobby opens at 6:00, with hands-on art activities and a cash bar. The show and awards ceremony starts at 7:00 and is followed by a reception in the Lobby.

Breaking Ground – The Artspace Celebration is generously sponsored by J.P. Morgan Chase, TCF, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Eide Bailly LLP, UrbanWorks Architecture LLC, The Line, and Arts ink.

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, \$500 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 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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