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EL BARRIO'S ARTSPACE PS109 CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING SEPTEMBER 26

Resident artists and arts organizations open their doors for a community open house

The long-awaited grand opening of El Barrio's Artspace PS109 is scheduled for Saturday, September 26 from 2:30 to 7:00 p.m. at 215 East 99th Street in New York City. Developed by Minneapolis-based non-profit Artspace Projects, in partnership with El Barrio's Operation Fightback, PS109 is the first new affordable housing project for New York City artists developed since the 1970s. It serves the El Barrio/East Harlem community in Manhattan with 89 units of permanently affordable live/work housing for artists and their families and an additional 13,000 square feet of space for arts and cultural activities, including a gallery programmed by the resident artists and two performance spaces. The performance spaces, with capacities of approximately 60 and 100, will be utilized by the resident non-profit organizations and will be available for use by community groups beginning in 2016.

Among those scheduled to speak at the celebration are New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl, Ford Foundation Program Officer for Creativity and Free Expression Margaret Morton, Artspace President Kelley Lindquist and El Barrio's Operation Fightback Executive Director Gustavo Rosado.

"I am thrilled with the opening of Artspace PS109. This innovative project will help solidify El Barrio/East Harlem's place as a cultural destination that celebrates the arts and the incredible contributions that artists make to our community," said Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito. "It has been a long journey to arrive at this moment. This will be a thriving center of cultural activity and an economic engine in our community. Artists not only enrich our communities and help preserve neighborhood identity, but also help drive our local economies. It's location in El Barrio is of great significance as it experiences increasing interest, but is also one that is home to a vibrant cultural sector and strong artist community."

The grand opening celebration begins at 2:30 p.m. with a dance performance on 99th Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues. The building then opens to the public from 3:00 until 5:00 for a gallery exhibition featuring the work of resident artists, along with open studios throughout the building. In addition, there will be multiple arts activities in the outdoor courtyards. The three non-profit arts organizations located at PS109 – Hi-ARTS, El Taller Latino Americano, and the

Shakespeare Forum – will offer open houses, performances, classes and workshops on the lower level. A brief speaking program will take place in the front courtyard at approximately 5:15, followed by performances until 7:00. The celebration is free and open to the public.

“Generations of artists have helped make New York the vital, vibrant place that it is today, and providing them with an affordable place to live and work is essential in order to guarantee that our city remains welcoming to people from all walks of life,” said NYC Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl. “We are proud to have worked with Artspace and a range of community partners to bring this extraordinary facility online. This home for the arts will serve not only the many residents and families that now call it home, but also the neighborhood that now has increased access to this cultural hub for the El Barrio community.”

The grand opening of El Barrio’s Artspace PS109 marks Artspace Projects’ 39th completed project across the country, and its first in New York City. Artspace currently has an additional dozen projects in development or under construction in the U.S.

“Artspace is dedicated to creating and preserving affordable space for artists, and we’re so proud to be the first developer in decades to create new affordable housing for artists in New York City,” said Artspace President Kelley Lindquist. “The need is tremendous and we look forward to working with our partners in the City in the future to help meet that need.”

Along with City Council Speaker Mark Viverito and the City’s Departments of Cultural Affairs and Housing Preservation and Development, El Barrio’s Artspace PS109 assembled an impressive group of supporters for this project, including the Ford Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Bloomberg Philanthropies, ArtPlace America, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Booth Ferris Foundation, Capital One Bank, Raymond James, Deutsche Bank and others.

“This project is a testament to what can happen when nonprofits, foundations and government agencies join forces to improve communities,” said Gustavo Rosado, executive director of El Barrio’s Operation Fightback. “We’re proud to bring this beautiful building back to life for the artists and residents of El Barrio.”

The grand opening celebration is generously sponsored, in part, by Capital One Bank.

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. 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.
www.artspace.org

About El Barrio’s Operation Fightback
El Barrio's Operation Fightback Inc., (EBOF), located in the Northern Manhattan community of East Harlem, was founded in 1983 out of the struggles of tenants and community residents to secure decent affordable housing for neighborhood families in the glaring context of housing neglect, abandonment, arson, crime and drug proliferation. Incorporated in 1986, El Barrio's Operation Fightback Inc. today focuses on the housing, economic development and workforce development needs of East Harlem’s diverse and growing community.

El Barrio's Artspace PS109 Grand Opening Schedule

Saturday, September 29
2:30 – 7:00 p.m.
215 E. 99th Street

2:30 – 3:00

- Sacred Indigenous Dance Ceremony

3:00 – 5:00

- DJ 109
- El Barrio Pinta
- Bomba-Yo
- Fashion Showcase

Hi-ARTS Presents:

- Excerpt from *Sucker Emcee* by Craig "muMs" Grant
- Excerpt from *FAT TALK* by Maya Osbourne, former student in the Journal to Journey Program
- Excerpt from *Peculiar Patriot* by Liza Jesse Peterson
- Special Guest Presentation from upcoming Critical Breaks artist, Malik Yoba
- Break Dancing Demonstration from the Legendary break dancing crew, Full Circle, who are the Artist in Residence

El Taller Latino Americano Presents:

- Special Exhibit: On the Spot: Paintings by Rifka Milder and Arnold Brooks and Permanent Exhibit of Art from the Americas
- New York Style Salsa Class with instructor Yrma Arias
- Pintando en Familia with Angelo Romano (According to international art historian and critic, Juan Ramírez de Lucas, Angelo Romano is "The most prolific artist of this century.") Bring a plate, a shoe, a stone, or anything for a hands-on workshop to create an objet d'arte

The Shakespeare Forum Presents:

- All The World's A Stage?: Have you ever wondered how actors approach a Shakespeare play? Come and find out in just a few easy steps! Learn about the Bard's plays, explore the power of his characters and maybe even perform some of his words with a professional actor!
- Titania's Story Corner: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is one of Shakespeare's most magical and well-known plays. Children are invited to hear the story, maybe even take part, and meet Titania, Queen of the Fairies.
- The Shakespeare Forum Office: Drop by The Shakespeare Forum's brand new office space on the first floor to hear about all of the exciting work we have been doing and what is coming up, and to get more information on how you can get involved!

5:15 - 7:00

- Speaking Program
- PS109 Children's Chorus
- Poet Jesús Papoleto Meléndez with El Taller founder/artistic director Bernardo Palombo and Mario Cancel, Willy Rosado, Miguel Rivera
- #LoveHustle – an original performance written and performed by PS109 resident artists
- From Ola Ka ʻIlima Artspace in Honolulu, Pua Aliʻi ʻIlima o Nūioka, under the direction of kumu hula Vicky Holt Takamine

Continuous Activities; 3:00 – 7:00

- Resident Art Exhibit
- Kid's Art Activities
- Poetry Corner
- Photo Booth

El Barrio's Artspace PS109 Fact Sheet

Ground Breaking: October 2, 2013
Grand Opening: September 26, 2015

Co-Developers
Artspace Projects, Inc.
El Barrio's Operation Fightback

Total Project Cost: $52 million

Residential Units: 89 (50 studios; 18 one-BR; 21 two-BR)

Rent range: $494 - $1022

Original construction: 1898, Charles B.J. Snyder, architect

AWARDS

- 2014 State Preservation Award from New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
- 2015 Renaissance Award from FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts
- The Lucy G. Moses 2015 Preservation Award from the New York Landmarks Conservancy
- 2015 Preservation Award from The Preservation League of New York
- 2015 Preservation Award from the Victorian Society of New York.

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION TEAM
Lead Architect: HHL Architects
Associate Architect: Victor Morales Architects
Interior Design: Roche & Co., Ltd MEPFP
Engineer: Lakhani & Jordan Engineers
Structural Engineer: Robert Silman Associates
Environmental Engineer: Warren & Panzer Engineers
Terra Cotta Advisor: Jablonski Building Conservation
General Contractor: Monadnock Construction

FINANCING TEAM
NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development
Capital One Bank
Deutsche Bank
Raymond James Tax Credit Funds

NYC COMMUNITY SUPPORT TEAM
Manhattan Community Board 11
NYC Housing Authority

NYC FINANCIAL SUPPORT TEAM
NYC Council Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs
Office of the Manhattan Borough President
Congressman Charles Rangel

PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS
Ford Foundation
ArtPlace America
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
Booth Ferris Foundation
Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation
Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Rockefeller Foundation
New York Community Trust
MetLife Foundation
David Rockefeller Fund
Washington Mutual Foundation
La Raza Development Fund

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