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Melodie Bahan, V.P. Communications

612.850.8219 melodie.bahan@artspace.org

BELL ARTSPACE CAMPUS BREAKS GROUND APRIL 14

Former Bell School to be transformed to affordable artist housing

Artspace Projects will join with community partners, including Providence Community Housing, on April 14 at 5:00 p.m. to celebrate the groundbreaking for the Bell Artspace Campus. The event is free and open to the public and will take place in front of the main building at 2100 Ursulines Avenue in New Orleans.

Brief remarks begin at 5:15, followed by a ceremonial groundbreaking. Scheduled speakers include a representative of Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu, City of New Orleans; Councilmember LaToya Cantrell, New Orleans City Council; Terri B. North, President & CEO, Providence Community Housing; Patrick Forbes, Executive Director, Office of Community Development, Disaster Recovery Unit; Jerry Maldonado, Senior Program Officer, Ford Foundation; Regina R. Smith, Interim Managing Director, Arts & Culture Program, Kresge Foundation; Fabian Ramirez, Senior Vice President, Capital One Bank, Community Finance; Kelly McCollum, Acquisitions Analyst, Raymond James, Tax Credit Funds, Inc.; Michelle Thomas, Interim Executive Director Louisiana Housing Corporation; Gregg Fortner, Executive Director, Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO); and Kelley Lindquist, President, Artspace Projects.

Construction will begin this spring to transform the former Bell School in New Orleans' Tremé neighborhood into an arts campus, which will include 79 affordable live work units for artists and families. In addition to artist housing, the project will include space for community, non-profit and creative enterprise partners – Junebug Productions, the New Orleans Master Crafts Guild, and Make Music NOLA. Construction on the first units will be completed in summer 2017.

Private support for the Bell Artspace Campus has been provided by the Kresge Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, ArtPlace America, and the Greater New Orleans Foundation. Additional community partners include Tremé4Tremé, St. Peter Claver Church, and the NEWCITY Neighborhood Partnership.

Beginning in 2016, Artspace will hold a series of public meetings to provide updates on the progress of construction and the project timeline. Dates and locations for the first of those public meetings will be announced soon and listed on the Artspace website at www.artspace.org/bell.

About Artspace

Artspace is non-profit organization that uses the tools of real estate development to create affordable, appropriate places where artists can live and work. We consistently develop these projects in ways that also support more stable, healthy communities anchored in existing assets. Because Artspace owns each of the projects it develops, we are able to ensure that they remain affordable and accessible to artists in perpetuity. Over the last three decades, Artspace has led an accelerating national movement of artist-led community transformation. While embracing the value the arts bring to individual lives, Artspace has championed the once-radical idea that artists living on the edge of poverty and chronically underfunded arts organizations can leverage fundamental social change. 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. Additional information is available at www.artspace.org.

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