

BELL ARTSPACE CAMPUS

1010 North Galvez, New Orleans, LA 70119

artspace.org/bell



PROJECT DETAILS

Owner Artspace Projects, Inc.

Development Partner Providence Community Housing

Partners The City of New Orleans; New City Partnership; Greater New Orleans Foundation; Fauborg Laffite Residents Association; Providence Community Housing; St Peter Claver Community; Junebug Productions; Tremé4Tremé; New Orleans Master Crafts Guild; Creative Alliance of New Orleans; Arts Council of New Orleans; Ashe Cultural Center

Type of Development Mixed-use non-profit arts campus

Number of Units 79

Type of Units Studio, one- and two-bedrooms

Affordability Units range from 30% to 60% of area median income

Total Project Cost \$36M

OVERVIEW

Artspace is working to advance a shared, community vision to transform the abandoned six-building, two-block former Bell School campus into a thriving cultural center perpetuating the indigenous history of Tremé. This project includes 79 affordable live/work units for artists and culture bearers, 5,000 square feet of space for community, non-profit and creative enterprise partners, and 20,000 square feet of green space. Lead partners include Junebug Theater, the New Orleans Master Crafts Guild, Treme4Treme, and Providence Housing.

Construction is expected to begin in September 2015, just after the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, a literal barricade ran between New Orleans' French Quarter and Tremé. This "rampart" was designed to keep marauders, unwanted free people of color and all associated undesirables from the infant city. There, just beyond city limits, Tremé developed into one

of America's most significant cultural districts, and arguably North America's oldest community of free people of color.

Tremé's early residents were the builders, architects, merchants, bankers, and artisans who defined the unique style of New Orleans. It was here that a young Louis Armstrong delivered coal in the Storyville red light district, while Jelly Roll Morton played piano and invented jazz. Tremé's history includes the first printing press operated by free people of color in North America, as well as the civic organizations that planned the Homer Plessy desegregation of public transportation, which led to the landmark civil rights case Plessy v. Ferguson. Tremé's activist political tradition crystallized in the 1960s and helped elect New Orleans' first African American mayor in the late 1970s.

Today Tremé is a place where music is ubiquitous, where second line parades are a part of everyday life, and where families often run six or seven generations deep. But rapidly rising prices drive a prevalent concern that the "people who make Tremé Tremé" are at genuine risk of being priced out, which would severely cripple a community that has been defined – invigorated, inspired, and sustained – by its cultural traditions. The twoblock Bell campus is the last large undeveloped space in the neighborhood; once complete, only in-fill projects will remain.

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AMERICA'S LEADER IN ARTIST-LED COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Artspace is a nonprofit organization that uses the tools of real estate development to create affordable places where artists can live and work. Artspace consistently develops these projects in ways that support stable, healthy communities, anchored in existing assets. Because Artspace owns each of the projects it develops, they are able to ensure that the spaces remain affordable and accessible to artists in perpetuity. With 50+ projects developed over the last three decades, Artspace has supported artist-led community transformation, representing a \$653 million investment in America's arts infrastructure. While embracing the value the arts bring to individual lives, Artspace has championed the once-radical idea that both artists living with financial hardship, and chronically underfunded arts organizations, can leverage fundamental social change. With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in Denver, 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.

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