



Artspace Accepting Applications for Immersion Cohort in New Orleans

10 New Orleans-based organizations will be selected to participate in a year-long program designed for the creative sector

New Orleans, LA, November 30, 2022 – **Artspace Projects**, America's leading developer for the arts, announced the opening of their application for **Artspace Immersion: New Orleans**, a year-long capacity-building program that celebrates and supports organizations as they build impactful creative spaces. Designed for groups in the planning stages of a space-related initiative, the program brings together the guidance, tools, and networks that advance small and large-scale projects. Funding for this cohort is made possible by the generous support of the Mellon Foundation.



“New Orleans is more than a place. It’s a portal of important history and unique, unapologetic culture,” said **Crystal C. Mercer**, Program Manager of Artspace Immersion. “Being a native of Arkansas, NOLA is a place I frequented as a child with my family to visit relatives, and I couldn’t be happier that our work with Artspace Immersion to support the creative community is calling us there. This upcoming cohort will be a homecoming for my soul.”

“Artspace gave us the tools to empower ourselves to dream bigger and plan better for our company’s future,” said **Alix Rhode**, a member of Artspace Immersion: Chicago. “Each month we were connected with insightful and generous professionals who were always happy to answer our questions, big and small. In a world of money, building codes, grants proposals, and regulations it was such a joy to hold space with this group of people who were looking for answers just like you, but also cheering on your dreams every step of the way.”

Janis F. Kearney, a member of Artspace Immersion: The Rocks reflected, “In a matter of one year, after monthly workshops, amazing presentations, and work sessions; we are now property owners and on the cusp of launching our Capital Campaign to rehabilitate a home inside the Central High School historic district.”

The Artspace Immersion curriculum supports building a learning community, developing new ways for organizations to tell their story, experiencing unexpected partnerships, and connections to broader discussions of community development and social justice. The New Orleans cohort will be the 9th focus city for the program. Each participating organization brings a clear and unique vision of how space ownership, development, or accessibility will create ripple effects in the communities they serve.

Applications are now open and must be completed through the online portal. Information Sessions will be held on December 6, 2022 and January 5, 2023. The cohort will meet virtually every month and use *Howspace*, an e-learning platform that contain the program curriculum, social elements, and a library of resources. The program is free of cost and a \$5,000 planning stipend is awarded to each organization upon completion of the program.

For more information, to view the eligibility requirements, or to submit your online application, visit www.artspace.org/ImmersionNOLA.

Application Timeline

Nov 30, 2022 – Application Opens
Dec 6, 2022 – Information Session #1
Jan 5, 2023 – Information Session #2
Jan 12, 2023 – Application Closes
Feb 2023 – Program Begins
Jan 2024 – Program Ends

Previous and ongoing iterations of Artspace Immersion include **Minneapolis, MN** (2022-23); **Washington D.C.** (2022-23); **Chicago, IL** (2021-22); **Little Rock & North Rock, AR** (2020-21); **Detroit, MI** (2019-20 and 2015-16); **Memphis, TN** (2018-19); and **Minneapolis & Saint Paul, MN** (2018-19).

About Artspace Projects, Inc.

Artspace is a 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 ensure that they remain affordable and accessible to artists. 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 individual artists experiencing financial hardship, and chronically underfunded arts organizations can leverage fundamental social change. With headquarters in Minneapolis, and offices in New York 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. For more information, visit www.artspace.org.

Media Contacts

Kevin Duong
Manager, Communications & Community Engagement
kevin.duong@artspace.org, 320.250.9398

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