

## Artspace Hastings River Lofts to Open to Public with Grand Opening Celebration 5 - 7 p.m. Thursday, May 3

*Minneapolis, April 4, 2018*— Artspace invites the public to celebrate the Grand Opening of its new, mixed-use artist housing building, **Artspace Hastings River Lofts**, located at 121 Tyler Street in Hastings, Minnesota, 20 miles southeast of downtown Saint Paul. The special evening will begin at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 3, kicking off with a short program featuring remarks by Artspace staff, Hastings resident artists, and community and financing partners. Highlights of the event will include the unique chance to tour artist live/work studios, and an exhibition on view at the community gallery, showcasing work by the artist residents. Live performances and make-and-take art projects will round out the evening's festivities. Complimentary appetizers and a cash bar will also be available. RSVPs are encouraged via <http://artspace.org/hastings>.



“The Artspace Hastings River Lofts represents a new gem in Artspace’s home region,” said Kelley Lindquist, Artspace President. “We look forward to welcoming the community to this striking, riverfront building, which will support Hasting’s creative community and increase Artspace’s services in Minnesota.”

Heidi Zimmer, Artspace Senior Vice President of Property Development, added: “The confluence of history and nature along the river in Hastings is remarkable, and adding a dense hub of artists at the Artspace Hastings River Lofts will expand the town’s cultural landscape. We hope that artists and makers will be inspired at the Lofts, and that neighbors and visitors will enjoy exhibitions and performances here for years to come.”

Hastings is a picturesque Mississippi River town with a historic center, burgeoning art scene, and extensive trail systems. The \$12.6-million, mixed-use Artspace facility is located on an industrial site that sat vacant for years at the east end of downtown. The new construction, designed by Urban Works Architecture and overseen by Loeffler Construction & Consulting, includes 37 affordable live/work units for artists and their families; 2,060 square feet of ground-floor retail space; 1,600 square feet of gallery space; and 3,000 square feet of programmable

outdoor community and event green space. In addition to a hub of artists and their families living and working in the building, the ground floor of the Artspace Hastings River Lofts is also animated by the presence of internationally renowned plein air painter Andy Evansen's working studio; a studio shared by artists Karen Green Jung and Connie Misener; and Locals' Corner, a general store and market.

Modern in design, the Artspace Hastings River Lofts are respectful of the nearby historic buildings, complementing them with elements including the massing, scale, and tall and narrow windows. The Lofts are part of a larger redevelopment effort throughout downtown Hastings and its accompanying Riverfront Renaissance movement, which incorporates streetscape improvements and—just steps from the Lofts—Levee Park, which includes an amphitheater pavilion, children's music area, a walking labyrinth, and picnic areas.

### **Grand Opening Program & Activities**

A wide range of family friendly activities will take place throughout the Grand Opening celebration. Details are listed below.

#### Program, 5:30 p.m.

A brief program will feature speakers connected to the Artspace Hastings River Lofts:

- Hastings resident Estrella Flores, culinary artist
- Hastings Prescott Area Arts Council president Dick Graham
- Citibank Community Development director Greg Goldberg
- Hastings Mayor Paul Hicks
- Hastings resident Joni Jurek, plein air painter
- RBC Capital Markets vice president Aaron Krasnow
- Artspace president Kelley Lindquist
- U.S. Bank vice president, Twin Cities Community Relations, Kenna Poppler
- Hastings City Commissioner Mike Slavik
- Metropolitan Council Member, District 16, Wendy Wulff

#### Exhibition Reception, 5 – 7 p.m.

A new exhibition at the Artspace Hastings River Lofts will feature a wide variety of work solely created by the artist residents. Works on view will range from plein air paintings and digital art, to ceramics and photographs.

#### Make-and-Take Aerosol Art Activities, 5 – 7 p.m.

Hands-on arts activities, designed and led by a talented team from Juxtaposition Arts, will be free for the public to participate. Maker stations will include backpacks and tote bags that can be spray-painted utilizing stencils of a river bridge, and the phrase "Here in Hastings." Guests can keep their creation as a memento.

### **Artspace Hastings River Lofts Credits**

Artspace gratefully acknowledges the following lead contributors to the Artspace Hastings River Lofts: Dakota County Community Development Agency; Citi Community Capital; RBC Capital Markets; Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development; Metropolitan Council through the Livable Communities Fund; City of Hastings; F.R. Bigelow Foundation; McKnight Foundation; The Saint Paul Foundation; The Saint Paul & Minnesota Community Foundations; Mardag Foundation; and U.S. Bank Foundation.

Corporate support for the Grand Opening is provided by Citibank, RBC Capital Markets, MetroPlains, Spiral Brewing, and UrbanWorks Architecture.

**About Artspace Projects, Inc.**

Artspace's mission is to create, foster, and preserve affordable and sustainable space for artists and arts organizations. Artspace was founded in 1979 to support artists being displaced by rising costs--the unintended consequences of the positive community changes that they inspired. Through both the adaptive reuse of historic buildings and new construction projects, Artspace creates affordable places for artists, as well as moderately scaled arts organizations and other creative enterprises, and retains ownership to ensure that the buildings remain permanently affordable, mission focused, and high quality. Today, Artspace's unique portfolio includes 50 projects nationwide, many of which are located in culturally distinct communities, representing more than \$600 million invested in America's infrastructure. Artspace properties ensure that creative communities flourish, benefitting the neighborhoods where they reside. With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in Denver, New Orleans, New York, Seattle, and Washington D.C., Artspace is renowned as America's leading nonprofit real estate developer for the arts and arts-based community development. Artspace also leverages its expertise to support the next generation of transformative art spaces, with a robust consulting division that has worked on more than 250 projects coast to coast, including city-wide planning projects, arts districts, and more. Embracing the value that the arts bring to individual lives, Artspace champions the once-radical idea that the arts can leverage fundamental social change. For more information, please visit [www.artspace.org](http://www.artspace.org).

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Artspace Communications Director Tio Aiken:  
[tio.aiken@artspace.org](mailto:tio.aiken@artspace.org) or (612) 321-1841