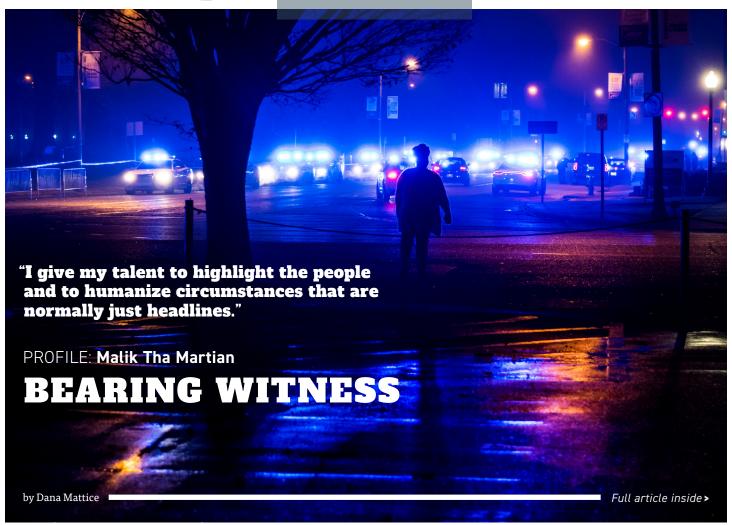


# THE ARTSPACE QUARTERLY



PROGRAM NEWS

# NOTES FROM THE FIELD

A NEW COLUMN FROM THE ARTSPACE CONSULTING TEAM SPECIAL FEATURE



ON THE SCENE

# ART & OPPORTUNITY

KATYANA DANDRIDGE WITH ARTUP MEMPHIS

SPECIAL FEATURE

**HOLIDAY EVENT ROUNDUP** 



On the Scene is a recurring feature where Artspace affiliated artists, project partners, and community members share their stories in their own words.

In the article, Art and Opportunity, guest writer Kaytana Dandridge reflects on the impact of South Main Artspace anchor tenant, and Artspace Community Partner ArtUp.

n 2018, I was a sophomore at Amherst College considering my career options. I had been an on-campus activist, passionate about issues that affected low-wealth communities of color, when I heard about the innovative work an Amherst alum, Linda Steele, was doing in my hometown of Memphis, Tennessee. I knew that I wanted to be involved in whatever way I could.

Memphis is one of the poorest cities in the country, and Linda was among the first to introduce creative placemaking and creative entrepreneurship there. I was lucky enough

to spend the next two summers of my college years as an intern under her guidance. I learned what genuine engagement with residents marginalized neighborhoods could accomplish. Now, I am the Project Coordinator at the organization, ArtUp, that grew from her early work. The main goal of ArtUp is to launch creative entrepreneurs, especially those who may not otherwise have access to the opportunities we can provide.

When I began, one of the major projects at the time was Orange Mound Gallery (OMG), a creative flex space located in one of America's oldest neighborhoods built by and for African Americans. I received a crash course in grassroots community development at OMG, and witnessed an outpouring of talent, teamwork, and dedication to improving the livability of this historic but disinvested area. It was inspiring to see neighbors train each other to be gallery docents, and youth take their artistic contributions seriously as burgeoning artists and curators.

ArtUp had embarked on a journey to make economic prosperity possible for artists, with no time or use for mere platitudes about diversity and inclusion. We created a Fellowship for artists, residents, and arts administrators, wherein they attended workshops and went on site visits across the country to learn how creative enterprises drive social change. ArtUp planted seeds within that group of nine artists by providing startup funds and encouraging them to envision possibilities for their idea. The Fellows were chefs, muralists, hip hop artists, and holistic gardeners, just to name a few. They were diverse in background, ages and areas of artistic concentration—but all of them worked hard to prepare pitch decks, which they presented to a panel of local funders and investors. One Fellow even received an on-the-spot offer, and has not slowed down since.

I can clearly see the direct correlation between the skills they learned in the program and their professional and business growth in real time. They are a testament to ArtUp's mission. While nurturing ideas that advance social change, we are effectively breaking down barriers to entering the creative economy.

The partnership between ArtUp and Artspace adds a new dimension to the scope of opportunities, networks, support, and collaboration that we can provide creative entrepreneurs.

The partnership between ArtUp and Artspace adds a new dimension to the scope of opportunities, networks, support, and collaboration that we can provide creative entrepreneurs. Particularly, occupying two suites on the first floor of the South Main Artspace Lofts in Memphis positions ArtUp within an eclectic mix of artists, and allows for more face time with the people who fit squarely into the core of what we do. We can also provide opportunities for them in a great synergistic relationship.

Since graduating from Amherst College in 2018, I still have the same passion for serving my people. I have seen lives change through strategic investments in property, people, and ideas, solidifying my belief that we are capable of building a sustainable and equitable future for all.

ArtUp continues to tap into the ingenuity and vitality laying dormant in communities where people live, work, and play. We will be seeking applicants for a new Fellows cohort in 2019, as well as launching a creative startup accelerator.

Orange Mound Gallery was the lab, but ArtUp at South Main Artspace Lofts is ground zero.

Opposite page: Attendees in front of a piece by Lester Julian Merriweather at ArtUp. This page, top: The 2017 ArtUp Fellows take a break to en-courage each other during their site visit to the Center for Urban Entrepreneurship and Economic Development at Rutgers University in Newark, NJ. Below: ArtUp Founder and CEO, Linda Steele leads discussion in ArtUp Exhibtion Space.

# **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Katyana Dandridge is a recent graduate of Amherst College where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Sexuality, Women's, and Gender Studies. When she's not attending arts and culture events in her favorite city in the world (Memphis), she enjoys writing poetry and short fiction that speaks to the Southern Black woman's experience.









# BEARING WITNESS

by Dana Mattice

ohnathan Martin, known as Malik Tha Martian, always wanted to be a film director, but "society chipped away at the dream." Born and bred in South Memphis, he was sitting on his grandmother's porch one tranquil day when a gust of wind swayed all the tree branches simultaneously, and he felt a strong urge to "document poetry." His lease was coming due, and he made a decision: rather than sacrifice his salary to housing, he would invest in his photography goals. He bought a tent and camped and couch surfed for six month while saving money, eventually purchasing a camera, software, memory card, and MacBook to launch his career as an underground concert photographer.

Martin's primary art form today is capturing movement—including A-listers such as football player Odelle Beckham, and rappers 21 Savage, Future, and Yo Gotti—as well as photojournalism for the Tri-State Defender. One notable assignment had him covering the protests and eventual removal of a downtown Confederate statue—Memphis history that Martin feels "lucky to be able to present to the world." Through this investment of his time and talents, Martin feels fortunate to give back to the community. "I use my time to be allocated to the stories that often get overlooked," he said. "I give my talent to highlight the people and to humanize circumstances that are normally just headlines."

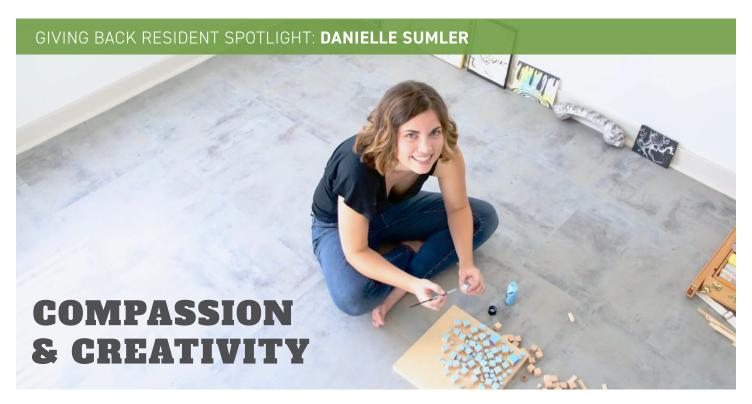
Martin next hopes to open a photography studio where he can explore controlled light and indoor portraiture, in addition to his field work with natural light. Living in an affordable live/work apartment at the South Main Artspace Lofts empowers him to continue saving to finance his professional, artistic aspirations, while affording proximity to downtown action where he can arrive quickly to capture history in the making.

To see Malik's work, follow him on Instagram, @malikthamartian, or on Facebook, at facebook.com/MalikThaMartian.

Front cover: "Deep Blue Sea," 2017, depicts onlookers and "an overwhelming police presence to witness history" the night two Confederate statues were removed in Memphis. Top left: 2018 reenactment of the iconic I AM A MAN photo on the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination (MLK50:). Top right: Malik shot by SB50. Bottom left: A crowd gathers at the removal of a Confederate statue on December 20, 2017. Referred to as "Nathan Bedford Forrest's last stand" by Malik, this image was taken just before its removal, ushering in a new era in Memphis. Bottom right: Rap artist Future performing during his Nobody Safe tour at the FedEx Forum, 2017. All photos by Malik Tha Martian unless stated otherwise.







by Tio Aiken

outh Main Artspace Lofts resident Danielle Sumler is an emerging curator and visual artist who constantly dabbles in new mediums: painting, sculpture, and various forms of installation. She also works as an outreach instructor for the Dixon Gallery and Gardens and as a teacher for Art to Grow, a free program used by schools, libraries, community centers, and other educational organizations. "We create lesson plans that relate to the exhibitions or gardens at the Dixon, and provide all materials needed for the students to complete their project. With my job, I get to visit elementary- and middle school- aged children all over the city." Her work with children, and collaborations with educators and coworkers. are one of the many points of inspiration for her art—but the impact of her work is why she loves showing up every day. Expanding their worlds with the power of imagination, "I get to make art with them and watch their creativity blossom."

Sumler grew up in Shelby County in a single parent household, but credits her mother for her giving spirit. "I was fortunate enough to be raised by an amazing single mother. My mom always taught me to be considerate of and look out for other people." She describes her mother as the type of person who would bring a coffee and hash browns to the guy selling Sunday papers, "just because it's a little cold outside." Sumler learned through her mother's example that small gestures can make all the difference, and in her own life has sought out ways to help others where she can, when she can.

In 2016 she co-curated her first major exhibition, Nasty Women Memphis, where 50% of proceeds were donated to the local Memphis Planned Parenthood. The exhibition was the first time she intentionally infused a philanthropic spirit in her shows by identifying local causes where she could donate a portion the sales. The exhibition was so successful that Sumler was inspired to co-curate an exhibition, Vital Ingredients, the following year. The show featured the work of eight local artists, and 20% of sales were donated to Dorothy Day House Memphis, a homeless shelter that keeps families together. This year, Sumler was invited to host a second iteration of her 2016 exhibition, titled Nasty Women Memphis: Still Here. Still Fighting., in the ArtUp gallery in South Main Artspace Lofts. Half of the proceeds were again donated to the Memphis Planned Parenthood.

Whether it's through inspiring the creativity in a child or raising awareness for local causes, Sumler is living her beliefs: that it is important for everyone to find ways to give back to the world around them—especially for artists. "Creativity is a powerful tool—one that artists use frequently to problem solve and think outside the box. When artists decide to help others, they usually come up with ways to do so which have an incredible impact."

Top: Danielle photographed by Matteo Servente. Below: Works from the Nasty Women Memphis: Still Here exhibition, ArtUp gallery at South Main Artspace Lofts, 2016.

**See more of Danielle's work at** <u>daniellesumler.com</u> **or on Instagram at** @thedailysum.







by Tio Aiken

ctor Princeton James—a current resident of South Main Artspace Lofts—was raised 30 minutes from Memphis in Coldwater, Mississippi. He remembers the day when he was nine years old and realized his dream could be a job. "I was inspired to start acting because someone brought to my realization that the people on TV were pretending and creating stories for a living," he said. He knew then that he was a creative at heart, and continued developing his skills writing and acting to support his dream to succeed on stage and on screen.

That dream was challenged, however, when he was preparing for college. His favorite teacher encouraged him to "be realistic" instead of pursuing an acting career. He knew that this teacher's advice came from a well-intentioned place of protection. "She did not want me to chase pipe dreams instead of investing in skill sets that would lead me to steady, respectable work," James said. In hindsight, he admits that "on a deeper level, it signaled to me and to others that creative arts and performance was not intended for black youth or adults – for people like us."

James decided to follow his teacher's advice, and pursued a degree in accounting and finance from the University of Mississippi—but found himself feeding his creative spirit by auditioning for theater, landing roles, and traveling to Memphis to perform.

James eventually moved to Memphis, but decided to move to Atlanta soon after, once he noticed the lack of consistent opportunity for black actors and theater artists. He lived in Atlanta for three years. In 2016 he returned to Memphis to create acting opportunities for

himself and others like him by establishing his own production company, Princeton James Productions. To date, James has produced 70 shows throughout the city of Memphis, and south east region. His biggest joy comes from creating opportunity and fostering community through his work for actors, and film and theater professionals--most notably youth.

In March of 2018 James established The Arts Enrichment Camp (TAEC). The program's mission is to foster the development of performing arts skills in children ages seven to 18. Youth participants are presented with opportunities to perform and work with theater and film professionals; artistic and musical directors; and choreographers. Through their resultant performances, an alternative solution is provided to the absence of performing arts programming in underserved areas of the Mid-South.

The first TAEC camp met some challenges, as theater arts were foreign to a lot of the neighborhoods that James tried to work in. He recalls, "93% of the children I encountered in the schools had never been exposed to the performing arts in that form [production and acting]." In his very first workshop, he was reminded of the importance of his mission when he asked students to decorate their folders in a way that represented them. "There were a few kids in that camp who decorated their folders with guns and other weapons," James said, which was an eye-opening moment. After speaking to them about why they chose that imagery, he found a way to positively engage them. "I redirected that energy to an area that could be utilized with production. I asked them to be security, with the responsibility of protecting our guests, cast, and crew." The young men took their

roles seriously, and James knew he was creating something that would impact their lives for generations to come.

Today, The Arts Enrichment Camp has impacted 350 children in the Mid-South to discover new skills, talents, and ways of seeing themselves on and off the stage. James's life as an actor has also reached a new level (he is being cast in a minor role for a Netflix movie that will start production early 2019, and lives in a beautiful Artspace artist loft in the heart of the South Main Arts District). But James is most excited to keep cultivating pathways to success for the folks in his community, and to be a model of possibility for kids who have big dreams, like him.

Above: James speaking at The Arts Enrichment Camp (TAEC). Below: Producer, actor and playwright Princeton James.

Check out Princeton's website <a href="mailto:princetonjames.net">princetonjames.net</a> or find him on Facebook at facebook.com/PrincetonJames1.



# RECAP: SOUTH MAIN ARTSPACE LOFTS GRAND OPENING

by Laura Moran

"Where do we go from here?" asked resident artist tobacco brown, quoting Martin Luther King, Jr. during remarks at the South Main Artspace Lofts Grand Opening. She paused, then gestured to the building and answered: "This is where we go from here."

This Is Where We Go From Here, the theme of the November 8th, 2018 celebration in Memphis, Tennessee refers to the already close-knit creative community who welcomed 350 guests at the Grand Opening. Paul Thomas produced an original fashion show featuring his recycled material designs, which attendees watched in awe before they enjoyed bites catered by Chef Eli Townsend. Danielle Sumler and Kytanna McFarlin led a plexiprint art activity; exhibits were on view in the community gallery; spoken word artist Timothy Moore performed; and Davy Ray Bennett, Eli Townsend, and Tonya Dyson with the Chinese Connection Dub all played live music. Open artist studios, including the Artspace Unplugged open mic hosted by April Collins, completed the event. The Artspace team thanks everyone who attended—especially the resident artists and community partner, ArtUp, who made the event possible.

The South Main Artspace Lofts Grand Opening celebrations began on November 7th, 2018 with an exclusive Progressive Dinner catered by Chef Eli Townsend for Artspace Builders Circle members. We thank resident artists Herbert Joyce, Jr., Matteo Servente, Princton Echols, Tonya Dyson, and Sarah Bishop for hosting. Curious about joining the Builders Circle? Visit artspace.org/support

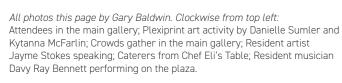














# **EVENT: South Main Artspace Lofts Grand Opening**









All photos this page by Malik tha Martian. Clockwise from top left: Resident artist tobacco brown speaking; Paul A. Young, director of DHCD for the City of Memphis, and Barbara Hyde, chair and CEO of Hyde Family Foundation; Resident performer Timothy L. Moore (Urban Thoughts); Resident fashion designer Paul Thomas with his models; Attendees gather in the plaza.



# RECAP: OGLALA LAKOTA ARTSPACE GROUND BREAKING

Despite blustery weather, the atmosphere was warm for guests gathered outdoors on a late September day for the Oglala Lakota Artspace Groundbreaking on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The moment recognized a major turning point for the development of a \$2.75 million Native art center, visibly emotional while speaking about the impact that the new art center would have for them and their communities. Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribal President, Scott Weston, summed things up perfectly, stating: "Oglala Lakota Artspace is about sustainability for our tribe, for our traditions, our ways, and our culture. It's my honor to be here, because this is what we as tribal leaders push for."

(Oglala Lakota) President, First Peoples Fund, being interviewed. Alex Smith; Mary Bordeaux (Sicangu Lakota), Vice President of Operations & Programs, First Peoples Fund; Lori Pourier; Kelley Lindquist, President, Artspace; Dennis Alvord, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs, EDA; Greg Handberg, Senior Vice President, Properties, Artspace; Bryan Parker (Muscogee Creek/Apache), Rolling Rez Art Coordinator,













# **EVENT: Artspace Silver Spring Ground Breaking**















# RECAP: ARTSPACE SILVER SPRING GROUND BREAKING

by Tio Aiker

On September 25, 115 members of the Silver Spring community and the East Silver Spring Citizens' Association (ESSCA) gathered to celebrate a true benchmark in community-led development: The Silver Spring Arts Campus Ground Breaking ceremony. The event highlighted the collaborative vision and commitment of community partners and local government to transform the Third District Police station and adjacent land into an arts center anchored by affordable workforce housing for artists and veterans. County Executive Ike Leggett presented ESSCA Chair of Zoning & Land Use, Karen Roper, with a plaque to honor her commitment to keeping the community's vision for the project alive until the formal RFP process began. Artspace's Senior Vice President of Property Development, Heidi Zimmer, emceed the event with remarks by Leggett and Roper, as well as: Kenneth C. Holt, Secretary, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development; Brian Tracey, Senior Vice President, Community Development Executive; Michael Ball (USAF Ret.), Director of Serving Together (a program of EveryMind); and Erin Bland.

All photos by Jack Gordon. Top row, left to right: Project development team members from Artspace, BKV Group, Bozzuto Construction, and JDC Management ceremoniously breaking ground with locally-designed artist shovels; Ceremonial shovel designed by Vicki Jones. Middle row: Musician Jules Bland performing; Senior Vice President of Property Development, Heidi Zimmer, and Artspace Board of Directors member Cree Zischke; Crowd enjoying the event. Bottom row: Karen Roper, East Silver Spring Citizens Association chair of Zoning and Land Use, discussing the project with Erin Bland and her mother Julie Bland; Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett and civic leaders praising the benefits to the community the Silver Spring Artspace Lofts will bring.



# NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Artspace is pleased to present a new column, "Notes from the Field," that shares stories from Artspace Consulting. The Consulting division is often invited new places to advise arts organizations and cities in their work developing or expanding places for the arts. The Artspace Consultants are frequently on the road, where they meet fascinating artists and community leaders while exploring unique places. "Notes from the Field" presents quarterly highlights from their work-this month featuring Wendy Holmes, Senior Vice President of Consulting & Strategic Partnerships, discussing a very special artist she met in Arkansas: Octavio Logo.

Artspace Consulting had the opportunity to conduct a feasibility study in four communities in Northwest Arkansas: Springdale, Bentonville, Fayetteville, and Rogers. We began our work in Springdale, and one of the first artists we met was Octavio Logo. We could tell from the very beginning that this is a guy who is not only very talented, but also very connected in the community.

Everywhere we went, from Springdale on, Octavio would appear. When we first met, he lived in Fayetteville and had a working studio space at 1 Seventeen Create in downtown Springdale. He was working on a mural adjacent to a Marshallese church, integrating Marshallese imagery into the work, as well as creating paintings for exhibitions—all with a social justice focus. When we returned for an Arts Market Study, Octavio had moved to a new shared studio space in an industrial garage in Fayetteville, where he created a spectacular mural of Civil Rights leaders and Native Americans on the side of the building. He plans to wrap the entire building on three sides. He and his studio mates also have a couple of Airstreams that they are converting into Airbnbs on the property. Octavio is always on the move.

Recently, Octavio won an award from the Midwest Arts Alliance's 360 program, and received a Walton Family Foundation grant. He is utilizing part of his grant to explore Artspace's headquarters in Minnesota and find out if there



are connections he can make to the community spaces in our buildings, including traveling his "Exodus" exhibit with immigration-themes to one of our community galleries. Octavio didn't know that there was anything like Artspace in the country, and wants to connect to the larger artist community through us. He is a great example of the special people that we have the privilege of meeting in cities where Artspace consults: People who want to make their communities better places to live, and care deeply about giving back.



Top: Octavio Logo's installation of works at the Artspace Hastings River Lofts gallery in Hastings, MN. Middle: Recently completed mural by Octavio, located in Fayetteville, AR. Bottom: The artist and Wendy Holmes during his visit to Artspace headquarters in Minneapolis, MN.

To see more work by Octavio Logo, follow him on Instagram at @octavio logo or visit his website at www.blasphemarte.wix.com/logo

# SPECIAL FEATURE •

Artists make our communities better. They beautify our shared spaces, drive economic prosperity, and build bridges for crosscultural connection.

So, let's give back to those that make our communities special. Getting out to a performance, participating in a family-friendly art activity, and doing your holiday shopping locally are fantastic ways to support the artists that brighten up our world. Artspace properties across the country are hosting holiday markets and events. A selection of them are listed below; we hope you find one to add to your calendar.

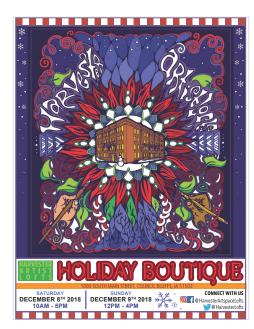
# **HOLIDAY EVENT ROUND**

# **EXHIBITIONS** •

- NOW-DEC. 1: Dimensions: Community Interactive Display of Cardboard, Paper and String!
  - Strauss Gallery, 220 High Street, Hamilton, OH 45011
- NOW-DEC. 29: Bonita Roberts Kaddatz Galleries, 111 W Lincoln Ave, Fergus Falls, MN 56537 kaddatzgalleries.org
- NOW-DEC. 29: Myron Sahlberg Kaddatz Galleries, 111 W Lincoln Ave, Fergus Falls, MN 56537 kaddatzgalleries.org

# HOLIDAY MARKETS

- DEC. 8+9: Harvester's 7th Annual **Holiday Boutique** 10:00am - 6:00pm & 12:00 - 6:00pm Harvester Artist Lofts, 1000 S Main St., Council Bluffs, IA 51503
- DEC. 15: Everett Art Walk 4:00 - 7:00 pm Artspace Everett Lofts, 2917 Hoyt Ave., Everett, WA 98201
- DEC. 15: RedHot Art Market 10:00am - 6:00 pm Chicago Ave Fire Arts Center, 3749 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis MN 55407



## HOLIDAY MARKETS

## • FRI+SAT, NOW-DEC. 22:

# **Holiday Gift Shop**

5:00 - 8:00pm & 12:00 - 5:00pm Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360

 DEC. 1: Over the River **Holiday Art Crawl** 

12:00 - 5:00pm Kaddatz Galleries

111 W Lincoln Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537

• DEC. 1: Snow Place Like Home 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Art Show 11:00am - 5:00pm

Washington Studios,

315 Lake Ave. N, Duluth, MN 55806

• DEC. 1+2: Winter Art Market at the **Tannery Arts Center** 

11:00am - 7:00pm & 11:00am - 5:00pm Tannery Arts Center,

1050 River St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060

# OTHER



 DEC. 3: Meet Diego Rivera's Last Living Student Rina Lazo 6:00pm - 8:00pm El Barrio's Artspace PS109

215 East 99th St., New York, NY 10029

To stay up to date on property events, follow Artspace Projects at facebook.org/artspaceprojects or any of the individual property pages.

# IT UP!

ots of people attended "AMP it Up!" Oct. 23, an Artspace fundraiser to "amp up" support for artist housing and creative community space with art, mimosas, and pancakes at Artspace Jackson Flats. An Artspace building in Northeast Minneapolis, Jac-Flats provides affordable live/work space for 35 artists and their families. Guests enjoyed exploring open artist studios, the annual "Gods & Monsters" exhibition, and live music by resident musicians. Ultimately, more than \$30,000 was raised for the Artspace Annual Fund.

We sincerely thank the Artspace board members, creative tenants, volunteers, and generous donors for their time, talents, and financial backing-both at this event and all year round, coast to coast. Your support makes our work possible.

If you were unable to attend "AMP it Up!" but would like to help fund Artspace's mission to create, foster, and preserve affordable and sustainable space for creative communities, there is still time. A generous \$20,000 one-toone matching gift from TCF Bank, launched at "AMP it Up!," will double the impact of your donation to Artspace! The match will be available through the end of the year (Dec. 31). To make a donation, visit artspace.org/support.

Clockwise from top left: Performance by singer/songwriter Ashley DuBose; Attendees hit the pancake bar; Artwork from the annual Jackson Flats exhibition, Gods & Monsters 2018, covered both galleries and the hallway; President Kelley Lindquist and board member Herman Milligan, Jr.

# **PROPERTY NEWS**

**NOW LEASING:** 

### **OLA KA 'ILIMA ARTSPACE LOFTS**

Ola Ka'Ilima Artspace Lofts is under development in the vibrant creative community of Kaka'ako in Honolulu. Information sessions will be happening soon; to learn more, visit artspace.org/hawaii or get added to the EAH Housing rental interest list at 808-439-6286.







**150** 

**ATTENDEES** 

\$30,000+

RAISED AT EVENT





### **GRAND OPENING: MESA ARTSPACE LOFTS**

Join us for the Grand Opening of Mesa Artspace Lofts on Wednesday, January 23rd to celebrate the new live/work space for artists and their families in downtown Mesa. Following a brief program, we will have lively entertainment and art that the whole family can enjoy. Mesa Artspace Lofts is at 155 S Hibbert, Mesa AZ 85210. RSVP for the event at artspace.org/mesa.

QUARTERLY

ARTSPACE QUARTERLY **SPRING 2019:** 

LEGACY