

THE
ARTSPACE

QUARTERLY

OUT THERE



This edition, we bring you stories from *out there*: innovative, expansive regions; small towns with strong identities; and a future-focused Native American reservation. These rural communities are working to show that small populations don't equal small ambition. They are putting art and creatives at the forefront of their identities. They see the arts as indispensable, enhancing commerce, tourism, and cultural preservation.

Out There highlights these communities and their aspirations. There are new, trailblazing projects, like Space to Create, a state-wide initiative in Colorado (page 2), and the Oglala Lakota Artspace on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota (page 4). There are long-standing cultural beacons like the Franklin Arts Center, which celebrated its ten-year anniversary (page 6), or the collective towns of Northwest Arkansas (page 7). Near or far, deep-rooted or brand-new, ultimately it is the spirit of the people there who make these rural spaces come alive.

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MORE FEATURES INSIDE!

Photo of Loveland Artspace Campus, by Lucky Brake.

The wide open spaces of Colorado inspire equally expansive thinking, and room to implement innovative approaches.



SPACE TO CREATE

by Dana Mattice

When Colorado's government officials sought to address work force affordability and economic development in their small towns, they found inspiration in Artspace's first Colorado project: the Artspace Loveland Arts Campus. The Loveland project, which opened in 2015, turned a neglected city block into a thriving creative hub, and showed potential to be implemented elsewhere. Thinking big, Coloradans envisioned transforming other rural and mountain towns into booming centers for creativity, with similar projects scattered state-wide.

To bring this vision into reality, the State of Colorado spearheaded Space to Create Colorado, a multi-agency, public-private partnership to drive economic development in rural and mountain communities through the arts. Governor Hickenlooper announced the \$45 million program, which is the nation's first state-driven initiative for affordable housing for artists and creatives. Planned to span eight regions across all of Colorado, one town in each will receive an arts facility, with Artspace involved as the lead nonprofit consultant and development partner. Private funders are also contributing, with the visionary Boettcher Foundation taking the lead by investing \$250,000 per project, adding up to a \$2 million commitment. Unique to Colorado is an arts agency embedded right within the state's

economic development department, the Colorado Creative Industries (CCI), which advocates for the state's creative individuals and businesses, and pushes state resources out to greater Colorado through their initiatives. They are dedicated to managing Space to Create's selection criteria and application process, working hand-in-hand with the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Another uniquely Coloradoan agency, DOLA is dedicated to serving its rural areas, which are often extremely isolated from the metropolitan centers by literal mountain ranges standing in between.

To kickoff Space to Create, Artspace began pre-development work in 2015 on a demonstration project in Trinidad, a former mining town near the New Mexico border. Bustling with some 30,000 people a century ago, today just over 8,000 live among the cobblestone streets and historic buildings, including the largest concentration of Victorian houses west of the Mississippi. Now known for its funky character and annual ArtoCade art car event, the community is devoted to downtown revival efforts, including animating many of the beautiful, historic buildings that have sat unoccupied for decades. Trinidad Artspace will transform the entire 200 block of downtown Main Street into a dynamic complex that will combine three historic structures with distinct exteriors, linking the second stories of all three with 13 affordable, live/ work

apartments for creatives. Street level amenities will feature a "dirty" makerspace for tenants to utilize, and the city's own, 25,000-square-foot cultural facility. Six blocks away, next to a historic train depot and across from a park, Artspace will construct a brand-new building with 28 more units of affordable live/work apartments. This building, just one block off of Main Street, boasts views of the mountains and Purgatory River to provide plenty of inspiration to its residents. The Colorado Housing & Finance Authority and History Colorado partnered with Artspace on tax credit financing and adaptive re-use, to make this project possible.

Trinidad is informing the eight Space to Create projects that will follow, with towns to be selected for projects via a competitive, state-wide process. First and foremost rural, with communities under 50,000 people who are geographically distant from urban areas, Space to Create sites will also have a concentration of creative sector workers, a demonstrated ability to execute community-based initiatives, and a commitment of resources made by the local governing body. The first of the eight to be selected is Ridgway, known as the gateway to the San Juan Mountains, in southwest Colorado; and the second mountain town, Paonia, is a center of organic farming and brewing in the West region. The final six are yet to be determined.



Coloradoans envisioned transforming other rural and mountain towns into booming centers for creativity, with similar projects scattered state-wide.



Photo of the 2013 Sculpture Games at Loveland Artspace Campus, by Lucky Brake.

Other states are taking note of the Space to Create Colorado program, which has emerged as a replicable model. The state of Washington, specifically, has made the most progress in designing their own version of the program with Artspace: The head of Washington's state arts agency wrote and passed legislation that will develop a certified Creative District program; and they have funded a staff position. Unlike Space to Create Colorado, which is focused on rural areas, the state of Washington is interested in including communities of various sizes.

The Artspace team is honored to have built a program with the State of Colorado that will have an expansive ripple effect, enabling practitioners in other states to implement their own solutions across the country.

Dana Mattice is the Copywriter and Grants Specialist for Artspace Projects. This article was originally written for the 2017 Artspace Annual Report.

SPACE TO CREATE BY THE NUMBERS

- **9:** Projects to be created containing affordable live/work space— the pilot, and one in each of the 8 regions across the state.
- **924:** The population of Ridgway, Colorado, a small southwestern town and the second Space to Create site.
- **3,000:** The square footage of creative commercial and community space planned for Ridgway's property, along with 28 units of live/work housing.
- **1,451:** The population of Paonia, in northwestern Colorado; the third Space to Create community selected. Consulting will launch an Arts Market Study in Paonia this September.
- **0:** The number of other state-driven initiative like Space to Create- it is the first of its kind.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SPACE TO CREATE

- **READ** the project overview on **Colorado Creative Industries website:** coloradocreativeindustries.org/opportunities/space-to-create
- **SEE** images of the **Trinidad Space to Create Ground Breaking**, on page 8 of this issue.
- **VISIT** colorado.gov/pacific/ridgway to learn about Ridgway's pre-development progress.
- **VISIT** northforkcreative.org/space-to-create to learn about how Paonia was selected, and its plans to progress through the initiative.



FIRST OF ITS KIND

The following article is provided courtesy of the First Peoples Fund—a partner in the development of Oglala Lakota Artspace.

by Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer (Choctaw Nation)
First Peoples Fund Artist in Business Leadership Fellow 2015

The kind of place everyone dreams of. That is how artist and First Peoples Fund staff member Bryan Parker (White Mountain Apache, Muscogee Creek, Mississippi Choctaw) describes the Oglala Lakota Artspace, a first of its kind space slated to break ground this fall on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

A collaboration between Lakota Funds, First Peoples Fund, and Artspace, this 8,500-ft² Native arts and cultural center will provide not only a home-base for the work of the Rolling Rez Arts Bus, but an expanded opportunity for nurturing the creative economy and arts ecosystem on the reservation.

“Oglala Lakota Artspace has been years in the making,” says First Peoples Fund President Lori Pourier. “It’s incredibly exciting that through our strong partnerships we are now poised to break ground this September.”

The Oglala Lakota Artspace will be located in Kyle, South Dakota. The \$2.75 million project is scheduled for completion near the end of 2019 and will be located in close proximity to the Pine Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce, the Lakota Prairie Ranch Resort, Oglala Lakota College, and Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation.

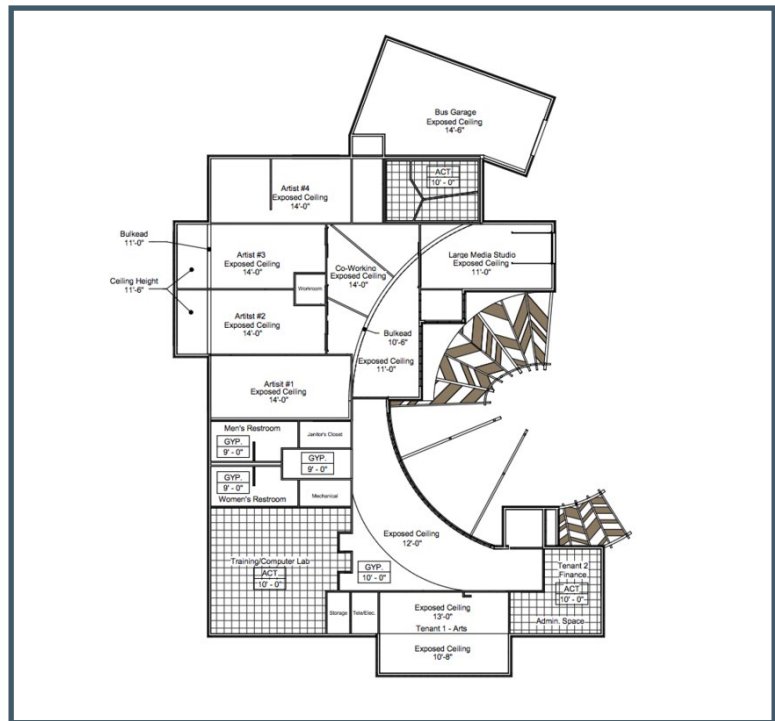


Rolling Rez Arts in Pine Ridge.

FEATURE: Oglala Lakota Artspace

Oglala Lakota architect, Tammy Eagle Bull and her Omaha-based firm, Encompass Architects, have incorporated Indigenous artistry from the start, with the team turning to Lakota star knowledge in designing Oglala Lakota Artspace. Community engagement sessions have also helped shape the building's design and function, with more community engagement sessions happening in the future to help guide programming and events for the space. As a result, the mixed-use facility itself will be a reflection of the community it is serving. The facility will provide:

- Individual artist studios.
- Shared workspace for group collaboration that can double as a small performance space.
- A recording and sound studio.
- A computer lab and classroom space.
- Commercial space for arts-related businesses.
- A Native art gallery and gift shop, including a place to buy art materials and for visitors to shop.
- Storefront for Lakota Federal Credit Union.
- Home base for First Peoples Fund's youth development spoken word program, Dances With Words, and a garage for the Rolling Rez Arts Bus.



"We're all coming together to do something for the greater good of the community," Bryan says. He is the Rolling Rez Arts coordinator, a painter, and a filmmaker. "It is a space that is going to help support existing artists in our community and hopefully inspire new ones as well."

The new art space is designed to provide access to the six resources identified in First Peoples Fund's 2013 market study as the primary resources that artists need to create their work and develop as entrepreneurs... Project partners at Lakota Funds and Lakota Federal Credit Union see the building as an exciting step forward in helping artists thrive.

"Lakota Funds and Lakota Federal Credit Union have been strong partners with First Peoples Fund and Artspace, from coming up with the concept of this building to seeing it through to fruition," says Tawney Brunsch (Oglala Lakota), executive director of Lakota Funds. "Designs for the building allow for Lakota Federal Credit Union to have a designated space, like a miniature version of their only location in Kyle. Think of the benefit that will be to the artists who are already in the space working with First Peoples Fund — potentially doing a class or using the lab — if they had the ability to make a sale or purchase. We would have the credit union right there to provide access to those services."

Additionally, artists will also be able to rent the studio spaces, setting them up to share their art with visitors, including tourist traffic through the busy corridor.



Think of the benefit that will be to the artists who are already in the space working with First Peoples Fund— potentially doing a class or using the lab— if they had the ability to make a sale or purchase. We would have the credit union right there to provide access to those services."

Tawny Brunsch (Oglala Lakota), Lakota Funds executive director, on having a Lakota Federal Credit Union storefront in OLAS



"The studios give them a more professional setting," Bryan says. "It gives the artists more exposure and helps them develop ways to talk to clients — people like gallery owners and managers. It's good training."

Bryan is especially excited to see how the space impacts the work the Rolling Rez Arts Bus does on Pine Ridge. The precursor to everything the Oglala Lakota Artspace will be, the Rolling Rez Arts bus has already logged over 8,000 miles and served more than 400 artists by providing art and business training, financial resources, banking services and art buyers to the vast reservation.

Now it hopes to bring those artists, and new ones, to the Oglala Lakota Artspace.

"It's almost like the bus is going to be a moving billboard that is going out and investing in the community," says Bryan. "It will help show people what is going to take place in the building. It's like, 'Wow, you think this bus is great — come to the building and see what we've got going there.'"

To learn more about Oglala Lakota Artspace, visit [Artspace.org/oglala-lakota](https://www.oglalalakota.org). Learn more about First People's Fund, visit [firstpeoplesfund.org](https://www.firstpeoplesfund.org).

RECAP: FRANKLIN TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

by Laura Moran

On Thursday, August 9th, over 120 people attended the Artspace Franklin Arts Center's 10th Anniversary Celebration to commemorate the first decade of an arts community which provides creative programming, education, live/work artist apartments, creative retail, and performance opportunities in Brainerd, Minnesota. Guests enjoyed a plethora of arts activities in every nook and cranny of the three-story, converted Junior High School. Open artist studios and an art exhibition in the gallery showcased the diversity of visual arts practices in the building. Musical performances by Sean Costos and Scott Shardin serenaded the crowds, while an exhibit from the Cuyuna Rock, Gem and Mineral Society and complimentary caricature portraits from Caricatures by Greg provided tactile experiences. Visitors noshed on free appetizers and cake, enjoyed after a cake-cutting ceremony complete with a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday." Evelyn Matthies, the prominent Brainerd artist who pioneered Artspace's subsequent purchase and redevelopment of Franklin Junior High, was remembered and honored at this event through remarks from her friends and students.

The Artspace team is thankful to all who celebrated with us, and we look forward to the next decade of arts activities in Brainerd. To see more photos from Artspace Franklin Art Center's 10th Anniversary Celebration, visit the Franklin Art Center Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FranklinArtsCenter.

All photos below by Jeff Mozey.

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EVENT: Franklin Arts Center 10-Year Anniversary



FEATURE: Northwest Arkansas

by Dana Mattice

The thriving economy of Northwest Arkansas (NWA) has positioned the region as one of the fastest growing in America—but has also driven a shortage of affordable space in downtown Bentonville, Fayetteville, Rogers, and Springdale (the four major cities in the area). The Walton Family Foundation has partnered with Artspace to examine the creative space needs, specifically, of each of the four. Hosted by Core Groups comprised of local leaders, Artspace Consulting conducted 12 focus groups and four public meetings this past winter as part of its Preliminary Feasibility Study. The team returned this summer to launch a regional Arts Market Survey that is open for eight weeks. The next Artspace visit will be August 28 to host an additional focus group targeting the robust local Marshallese community.

In a complex history, the U.S. occupied the Marshall Islands and tested nuclear weapons there from 1946–58, signing the Compact of Free Association afterwards to sanction the Marshallese to travel and work freely in the U.S. as compensation. An estimated 6,000 Marshallese are now located right in Springdale, and this thriving cultural hub contributes much, including textiles and handicrafts. Melisa Laelan, founder of the Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese (ACOM), is working with Artspace to promote the survey so that all NWA voices are adequately reflected; and the Artspace team has also introduced her to Core Group member Robin Wallis Atkinson, Northwest Arkansas Fashion Week CEO, with a

Artspace Consulting visits the Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese and views a traditional Marshallese canoe.



resultant Marshallese fashion show scheduled Sept. 20 at Drake Field in Fayetteville.

Artspace's entire scope of work will be completed December 2018, including an executive summary and cultural asset map in addition to the market study and feasibility studies. Based on this data, Artspace will make recommendations for the types of cultural facilities most needed

in NWA for artists and arts organizations and explore the potential of developing art spaces to meet that need.

To learn more about the Artspace Consulting team's work in Northwest Arkansas, please download a copy of the 2017 Annual Report via our website, Artspace.org.

RECAP: TRINIDAD SPACE TO CREATE GROUND BREAKING

by Lucas Koski

On a sunny day June 11th, hundreds lined historic Main Street in downtown Trinidad to witness the Ground Breaking of the Space to Create Trinidad project—the first project for the ambitious, statewide Colorado Space to Create initiative. The occasion was intended to honor the years of hard work by project partners to establish long-term, affordable space for the creative sector, as well as mark the moment that the project transitions from planning and due diligence to implementation and construction.

Remarks were made under a blue sky by project partners, including representatives from the City of Trinidad, Colorado's Department of Local Affairs, Colorado Creative Industries, the Boettcher Foundation, Artspace, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, and History Colorado. After remarks, city officials, project partners, and residents of Trinidad lined up to ceremonially break ground with 12 different shovels designed by local artists. The entire afternoon was filled with entertainment from local performing artists. Businesses up and down Main Street opened their doors earlier than usual to welcome Trinadians and out-of-towners alike, who came into town to celebrate this momentous occasion.

To see more photos of the Ground Breaking and to learn more about the Space to Create Trinidad project, please visit www.Artspace.com/trinidad

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Photos on this page, clockwise: A crowd gathers for the Artcade parade; Main Street was full of Trinidad residents and visitors; A future developer poses with colorful construction gear; Mayor Phil Rico chatting with an attendee; Wendy Holmes, Shannon Joern and other Trinidad Space to Create supporters talking under the program tent. All photos by Raven Paiz of the City of Trinidad.

EVENT: Trinidad Groundbreaking



Photos on this page, clockwise: Trinidad Space to Create supporters participate in the shovel ceremony; FloBots and 2XM performed; Crowds along Main Street; A lineup of supporters, funders, and Artspacers with their ceremonial shovels. All photos by Raven Paiz of the City of Trinidad.

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RAFALA GREEN fellowship program

Artspace Announces 2018 Rafala Green Fellows For Inaugural Fellowship Program

by Tio Aiken

Artspace welcomes Amanda Cortés and Jeremy Staab to the 2018 Rafala Green Fellowship program. Both Fellows will relocate to Minneapolis in September to work at Artspace headquarters for the fellowship program's inaugural year. The mission of the Rafala Green Program is to promote equity and inclusion among cultural communities often underrepresented in the real estate development field. The program, made possible by the Ford Foundation, fulfills that mission by training the next generation of leaders from underrepresented communities in the core competencies of real estate and artist-led community development. Rafala Green Fellows will work full-time at the Artspace headquarters in Minneapolis, MN, and support current projects in the Artspace development pipeline; work with mentors connected to Artspace's national network; and attend a series of professional development opportunities aligned with nonprofit real estate development. Fellows will work at Artspace for two years.

Amanda Cortés hails from Chicago, Illinois, where she works with a myriad of artistic, housing, and community organizations including Chicago ACT Collective, Instituto Grafico de Chicago (IGC), and the City of Chicago supporting the work of Alderman Ricardo Muñoz in the 22-Ward.

Her interest in community development and real estate, although informed by various touchpoints in her professional background, are most directly linked to her work with Pilsen Housing Cooperative (PIHCO) Steering Committee. PIHCO is a limited-equity, scattered-site housing cooperative for longtime residents of Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. She describes the committee as artists and families with deep community



When our contemporary housing practices acknowledge housing as a human right, we shift our paradigm, our relationships to our earth and how we see the future of our humanity. The Rafala Green Fellowship at Artspace is an opening for me to learn logistics, laws and bureaucracy so that community and kinship shape the physical spaces we inhabit.

— 2018 Rafala Green fellow Amanda Cortés on what the program means to her



ties, and points to the cooperative as a model to stand against gentrification and displacement. Cortés sees the Rafala Green Fellowship as an opportunity to “explore the practicalities of creating housing where kinship and community are situated before profit.”

Cortés also has experience with grant writing, strategic planning, and creating dialogue across communities through artistic and political collaboration. She holds a Bachelor's of Science in Communications from Southern Illinois University Carbondale; and a Juris Doctorate from Southern Illinois University School of Law Carbondale.

Jeremy Staab is an enrolled member of the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, but calls Sioux City Iowa home. He has served in many management roles at First Peoples Fund (FPF), a national Native-led nonprofit organization that puts artists and culture bearers at the center of community development. In 2015, he oversaw programming and community outreach of the Rolling Rez Arts (RRA), a state-of-the-art mobile arts space, business training center, and mobile bank on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. He also managed First Peoples Fund's Indigenous Arts Ecology Grant program, and grantees from across the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii.

FEATURE: Rafala Green Fellows 2018

His deep interest in community development and real estate was sparked by a mentorship opportunity at Ho-Chunk Community Development Corporation (HCCDC), one of the nation's most prestigious tribal community development corporations.

Staab hopes that his time as Rafala Green Fellow will lead him to new opportunities "to continue to create systemic change within social economic sectors through arts and culture to grow a more equitable future for the next generation."

Staab also has previous experience in commercial management, property management, and construction oversight. He holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Haskell Indian Nations University, and a Master's in Business Administration through Baker University.

Artspace celebrates both Fellows preexisting commitment to racial equity, and social change, and looks forward to seeing how each Fellow will leverage the skills and knowledge obtained after their completion of the program.

The Rafala Green Fellowship Program is named in honor of the late Rafala Green, an African-American artist, community activist, and former Artspace board member who helped Artspace make enduring bridges into the Twin Cities African American community in the 1990s. The mission of the Rafala Green Program is to promote equity and inclusion among cultural communities often underrepresented in the real estate development field. The Rafala Green Fellowship Program seeks to fulfill that mission by training the next generation of leaders from underrepresented communities in the core competencies of real estate and artist-led community development.

The Rafala Green Fellowship Program is named in honor of the late Rafala Green, an African-American artist, community activist, and former Artspace board member who helped Artspace make enduring bridges into the Twin Cities African-American community in the 1990s. During her tenure on the board, Artspace President Kelley Lindquist developed a life altering friendship that still informs Artspace culture today. When asked about Rafala Green's impact, and his hopes for the fellowship program, Lindquist said, "In my work at Artspace, I am reminded daily of the truths and insights shared with me by the late Rafala Green as we worked together. Her impact was incredibly significant, both as a Twin Cities artist-activist and as an Artspace board member. This program allows Artspace to continue to honor her legacy by expanding the toolkit of these passionate Fellows. Artspace celebrates both Fellows' commitment to racial equity and social change. We look forward to seeing how each Fellow will leverage the skills and knowledge obtained after they complete the program."

The mission of the Rafala Green Program is to promote equity and inclusion among cultural communities often underrepresented in the



“As Native American man, I’m familiar with the challenges and opportunities in creating equity in diverse communities... It has been my passion and my wish through the Rafala Green Fellowship to continue to create systemic change within the social economic sectors through arts and culture to grow a more equitable future for the next generation.”

— 2018 Rafala Green fellow Jeremy Staab on his vision for the program

real estate development field. The Rafala Green Fellowship Program seeks to fulfill that mission by training the next generation of leaders from underrepresented communities in the core competencies of real estate and artist-led community development.

Subscribe to our mailing list at artspace.org, or follow Artspace on Instagram @artspaceusa to get announcements and updates regarding the Rafala Green Fellowship Program.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

OUT NOW

VISIT ARTSPACE.ORG TO VIEW THE DIGITAL VERSION

The graphic features a background image of a large, classical-style building with many windows. Overlaid on this is the text 'ANNUAL REPORT 2017' in large, white, sans-serif font. To the right of this text is a green circle containing the words 'OUT NOW' in white, slanted font. At the bottom, a white horizontal bar contains the text 'VISIT ARTSPACE.ORG TO VIEW THE DIGITAL VERSION' in black, sans-serif font.



PROGRAM: Immersion Program

CALLING ALL MEMPHIS ARTISTS!

Applications for Artspace Immersion: Memphis Due September 12

by Dana Mattice

Applications are now open for the newly expanded Artspace Immersion: Memphis program. The program is seeking six to 10 arts organizations based in Memphis or Shelby County. The organizations will participate in an 18-month cohort program, designed to build local capacity for creating and maintaining affordable space for arts, cultural, and creative pursuits in Memphis, TN. The original launch date was postponed as Artspace worked to secure resources to expand the free program, which now include a \$5,000 stipend for each organization that successfully completes the program; as well as a two-day learning tour to Artspace's headquarters in Minneapolis, MN.

Applications to Artspace Immersion: Memphis are available at www.artspaceimmersionmemphis.org. Groups that are not traditionally represented—including those led by people of color and indigenous peoples—are strongly encouraged to apply. Applications are due Sept. 12, with participants to be selected by Oct. 2. The first Memphis workshop will take place Oct. 17, 2018, and will run through March 2020.

MORE ABOUT THE IMMERSION PROGRAM

Artspace is committed to serving arts, creative, and cultural organizations in various stages of facility planning. Previously hosted in Detroit, MI, and currently running in Minneapolis and Saint Paul, MN, the program provides invaluable insights for arts administrators seeking to address their space-related goals – from relocating to buying a building to expanding an existing space. Curriculum will include:

- Workshops that feature presentations from experts in the field, collaboration with other cohort participants, and small group discussions
- Individualized technical assistance consulting from Artspace
- Access to templates and documents created by Artspace
- Mentorship throughout the duration of the program

- An all-expenses paid roundtrip to Artspace headquarters in Minneapolis to meet real estate experts on Artspace staff, tour Artspace commercial buildings, and share experiences and knowledge with the Artspace Immersion: Twin Cities cohort
- A \$5,000 planning stipend per organization to advance their project goals, provided at the conclusion of the program

The program covers topics such as project management, concept refinement, budgeting for space, site assessment, financing and loans, fundraising strategy, partnerships, marketing and communications, and navigating city resources.