

City Hall Artspace Lofts in Dearborn Celebrates Development of Connector Building and Announcement of New Arts & Technology Learning Lab

Minneapolis, November 6, 2018— On Nov. 13, Artspace, the national arts nonprofit developer, and four partners will celebrate a milestone moment for the development of the City Hall Artspace Lofts (13615 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, MI, 48126): The announcement of a new Arts & Technology Learning Lab within the Connector building and the memorializing of a community leader, Russell J. Ebeid.



The Lab, which is funded by Ford Motor Company Fund and the Ovation television network and supported by Comcast, will be used by Pockets of Perceptions (POP) student design teams, as well as artists who live and work in the City Hall and West Annex buildings on either side of the Connector.

The William Davidson Foundation has funded the build-out of the Connector building, which will offer additional office space that will be leased in coming months as artists' studios and as commercial space for creative entrepreneurs and nonprofit arts organizations. With its support of the Connector, the foundation is honoring Russell J. Ebeid, a trusted partner and long-time professional associate of William "Bill" Davidson.

Artspace will host a private reception for its partners to celebrate the new lab space and the overall arts hub growing within the building, which currently includes the East Dearborn Downtown Development Authority office and the Arab American National Museum's artist residency unit. The buildout of additional creative commercial spaces within the Connector, made possible through the support of the William Davidson Foundation, will continue in coming months and will be leased as working studios to artists, and as commercial space for creative entrepreneurs and arts nonprofit organizations.

"Opened in 2016, the City Hall Artspace Lofts has already become an anchor arts institution for Dearborn. More than 50 artists and their families reside within the former City government

offices, adding so much positive energy and creativity to the community,” said Kathleen Kvern, Senior Vice President of National Advancement, Artspace. “It is inspiring to see the promise of the Connector space coming to fruition with support from our amazing partners, and as more artists and arts organizations continue to find a place here, we anticipate an even greater impact on the vitality of Dearborn.”

The Arts & Technology Learning Lab will be filled with technology equipment such as iPads, computers, software, and a smart television, and will be utilized by City Hall Artspace Lofts artist residents and the Dearborn Community Fund’s Pockets of Perception (POP) student design team. The POP program works with some 12 to 15 students to design and install permanent public art projects around Dearborn. Two POP-created works of art are located within the Dearborn Artspace campus. The Lab will provide the POP team a fresh new permanent space to brainstorm, create design concepts, share project concepts, and practice presentations.

“We are pleased to partner with Artspace, the Ford Motor Company Fund, Ovation and Comcast to help transform East Dearborn along Michigan Avenue and support the city’s creative economy,” says George Jacobsen, senior program officer for Cultural and Civic Vitality at the William Davidson Foundation. “We’re also pleased to be honoring Russell J. Ebeid, who worked with our founder, William “Bill” Davidson, at Guardian Industries for 41 years, beginning his career as a plant maintenance supervisor to chairman of the Board of Directors. We hope his story will inspire all who work at and visit the Connector.”

The private reception on Tuesday, Nov. 13, will announce the Arts & Technology Learning Lab, and will recognize partners who made the Lab and overall Connector space possible. The event will also feature the unveiling of a plaque created by the William Davidson Foundation to honor the late businessman and philanthropist, Mr. Russell J. Ebeid (1940 - 2017), who worked closely with William “Bill” Davidson, the founder of the family foundation.

Credits

Artspace gratefully acknowledges the following contributors:



About the William Davidson Foundation

The William Davidson Foundation is a private family foundation that honors its founder and continues his lifelong commitment to philanthropy, advancing for future generations the economic, cultural and civic vitality of Southeast Michigan, the State of Israel, and the Jewish community. For more information, visit williamdavidson.org.

About OVATION

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About Artspace Projects, Inc.

Founded in 1979, Artspace is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to create, foster, and preserve affordable and sustainable space for artists and arts organizations. To fulfill that mission, Artspace uses the tools of real estate development to construct or restore places where artists can affordably live and work. Artspace buildings also support healthy communities, anchored in existing assets. With a commitment to affordability, Artspace ensures that the spaces remain accessible to artists and their families in perpetuity. Artspace's unique portfolio, developed over three decades, includes 50 projects nationwide and represents more than \$650 million invested in America's infrastructure. Beyond developing places, Artspace has also served as a consultant to hundreds of arts communities coast-to-coast, helping others advance their visions. While embracing the value the arts bring to individual lives, Artspace champions the once-radical idea that artists and arts organizations can leverage fundamental social change. Artspace's headquarters are located in Minneapolis, with additional offices in Denver, New Orleans, New York, Seattle, and Washington D.C. For more information, please visit www.artspace.org.

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