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Artspace partnering in 5 NEA 'Our Town' grants

Minneapolis, New Orleans, Memphis, Honolulu, and Hamilton (Ohio) projects among 51 selected for NEA 'creative placemaking' funds

MINNEAPOLIS—Minneapolis-based Artspace Projects, the nation's leading developer for the arts, is a partner in five projects around the U.S. that have been awarded prestigious planning grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) through its "Our Town" program, NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman announced today.

"Communities across our country are using smart design and leveraging the arts to enhance quality of life and promote their distinctive identities," Landesman said in announcing the awards. "In this time of great economic upheaval, Our Town provides communities an opportunity to reignite their economies."

Among 51 total awards made by NEA in the first round of the program, the five projects involving Artspace will advance planning for:

- New Orleans – The **Claiborne Cultural Corridor Plan**, a major planning initiative undertaken by the City of New Orleans for redevelopment along one of the city's major arteries around the arts and culture. Among other things, the $100,000 grant will support planning of an Artspace live/work project and cultural campus on the site of the former school in the Tremé neighborhood.

- Memphis – An **Artspace live/work project** in Memphis, Tennessee. The $100,000 grant, awarded to the Hyde Family Foundations, will be used to help Artspace identify a site and develop plans for a live/work project in Memphis' downtown South Main Arts District. A project of 50 to 70 units is envisioned.

- Honolulu – **Ola Ka 'Ilima (Creative Art Spaces)**, a two-part initiative that will include an Artspace live/work project in Hawai'i as well as engagement activities for visual artists, "kumu hula" (master teachers of Hawaiian dance), and musicians. The PA'I

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Foundation of Honolulu, Artspace's partner in the development of the project, was the recipient of the $150,000 grant.

- Hamilton, Ohio – The **Artspace Hamilton Lofts**, a mixed-use facility that will transform two historic buildings in downtown Hamilton, Ohio, into 36 units of affordable live/work space for artists and their families plus 3,000 square feet of street front space for retail activities. The grant will provide $50,000 for design development for the project, which is a partnership between Artspace Projects and the City of Hamilton, a community in southwestern Ohio about 30 miles north of Cincinnati.

- Minneapolis – The **Hennepin Avenue Cultural Corridor** will physically and programmatically connect the Mississippi riverfront to the Walker Art Center and Minneapolis Sculpture Garden by converting vacant and underdeveloped public and private spaces along Hennepin Avenue to cultural uses. The award recipient is the Hennepin Theatre Trust, the nonprofit that operates the historic Orpheum, State, and Pantages Theatre; Artspace Projects, the Cowles Center for Dance and the Performance Arts, and the Walker Art Center, along with the City of Minneapolis, are partners.

"Our Town" is the NEA's latest investment in "creative placemaking," through which partners from both public and private sectors come together to shape the social, physical, and economic character of a neighborhood, town, city, or region around arts and cultural activities.

ABOUT ARTSPACE

Established in 1979, Minneapolis-based Artspace is the nation's leading developer for the arts. We own and operate 28 major projects in 13 states, providing affordable space for 1,000 artists and their families as well as for 300 arts entrepreneurs, nonprofit organizations and creative businesses. Our projects operate in the black, do not require on-going fundraising, catalyze positive development and have proven sustainable over time.

ABOUT THE NEA

The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than $4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.

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