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Artspace receives $3 million grant from The Kresge Foundation

MINNEAPOLIS (January 11, 2012) – The Kresge Foundation has awarded a three-year, $3 million grant to Artspace Projects, Inc. This transformative grant will help Artspace reach a new level of organizational stability and impact as it works to build better communities through the arts on a national scale.

Of the $3 million total, $2 million will be used over the next three years to help expand Artspace's consulting services to organizations that are seeking to engage artists in sustainable community transformation. It will also strengthen Artspace's capacity to remain deeply engaged in communities where Artspace has projects in operation. The final $1 million of the grant will be used to create an operating reserve.

"Although we have received major grants in the past, this scale of support for the core operations of Artspace is a terrific step forward," said Artspace President Kelley Lindquist. "At a time when there is an incredible demand for our expertise in arts-driven community transformation, this grant will substantially build our capacity to share what we have learned over the past 30 years with artists, community leaders, and organizations around the country."

"Artspace enjoys a richly deserved reputation for being the gold standard in developing affordable live/work spaces for artists," says Kresge Foundation President and CEO Rip Rapson. "In community after community in America, Artspace has developed facilities that anchor arts districts, contribute to a community's broader revitalization, and provide necessary supports to deserving individual artists and arts organizations. Our grant will help support Artspace's existing operations and permit them to expand their efforts. Kresge is proud to play a small part in their ever-more-ambitious, and important, activities."

Over the last 30 years, Artspace has led an accelerating national movement of arts-driven community transformation. While embracing the value the arts bring to individual lives, Artspace has championed the once radical idea that artists living on the edge of poverty and chronically underfunded arts organizations can leverage fundamental social change. A generation later, leaders across disciplines are recognizing that the arts can advance public agendas from job creation and transit-oriented development to cultural and historic preservation.

Building on that conviction, Artspace has contributed its expertise to more than 50 affordable arts facilities from coast to coast, 30 of which are owned and operated by Artpsace. Driven by a robust, diverse pipeline, Artspace expects to significantly add to its portfolio over the next decade – including some of its largest and most culturally complex projects ever.

"We are excited to continue to broaden the scope of this vital work," Lindquist said. "This generous grant from The Kresge Foundation helps us strengthen our foundation as we work to secure existing properties through strategic reinvestments; advance the next generation of projects that maximize their community-transforming potential; and share what we know with a broad network of partners that aspire to build better communities through the arts, while continuing to learn ourselves."

With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in New York, Seattle, and Los Angeles, Artspace is America's leading developer of arts facilities with 30 projects in operation in 13 states. To date it has completed more than a thousand affordable live/work units for artists and their families as well as more than a million square feet of non-residential space for artists and arts organizations. Additional information is available at www.artspace.org.

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