ARTSPACE RECEIVES $3.75 MILLION GRANT FROM FORD FOUNDATION

Five-year grant will allow Artspace to build capacity, restructure assets, launch fellowship program

Artspace is pleased to announce a major grant from the Ford Foundation that will provide $3.75 million for the organization to build internal capacity; restructure a number of aging properties to ensure their long-term affordability for low-income artists; and launch a new fellowship program to support emerging leaders of color working at the intersection of arts and community development.

“The importance of the Ford Foundation to the growth and stability of Artspace is impossible to overstate,” said Artspace President Kelley Lindquist. “We’ve been honored by the support and encouragement of the Ford Foundation since 2009, and this grant will allow Artspace to continue the work of providing sustainable affordability for underserved artists, and help us explore new programs that will have a long-term impact on the future of art space development.”

The work proposed by Artspace under this grant will encompass a number of activities over the five-year grant period. Major initiatives include: working at a policy and field-leadership level to expand opportunities for arts-centered community development across America; the advancement of more than 20 new capital projects in diverse regions and communities; the financial restructuring of approximately 10 existing projects for an additional 30-years of affordability for low-income artists; and the design and launch the Rafala Green Fellowship Project to help cultivate the next generation of diverse leaders working at the intersection of arts and community development.
“Artists can inspire people and drive social change, but the infrastructure for arts production in many communities remains fragile,” said Elizabeth Alexander, Ford Foundation’s Director of Creativity & Free Expression. “Artspace is an unparalleled leader in developing affordable space and empowering thousands of artists and arts organizations across the country, from Hawaii to Native and Indigenous territory to El Barrio in New York City.”

Artspace’s long-term goal with this funding is to ensure that the organization has the strength and capacity to fulfill its role as a field leader in systematically expanding opportunities for equitable, sustainable, arts-centric community development work in America. Progressive goals include the emergence of more individual leaders with the capacity to advance this work; the emergence of more organizations with the capacity to support this work; the emergence of more government partners with the ability to integrate this work into their development agendas; and a broader, more replicable network of model projects that guide future endeavors.

**About Artspace**

Artspace is a non-profit organization that uses the tools of real estate development to create affordable, appropriate places where artists can live and work. We consistently develop these projects in ways that also support more stable, healthy communities anchored in existing assets. Because Artspace owns each of the projects it develops, we are able to ensure that they remain affordable and accessible to artists in perpetuity. With 42 projects developed over the last three decades, Artspace has led an accelerating national movement of artist-led community transformation, representing a $500 million investment in America’s arts infrastructure. 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. With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in Denver, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Seattle and Washington D.C., Artspace is America’s leading developer of arts facilities and has served as a consultant to hundreds of communities and arts organizations nationwide. Additional information is available at [www.artspace.org](http://www.artspace.org).

# # #