

Switching Station Artist Lofts

15 S. Homan Avenue | Chicago, IL 60624 | Opened 2003



Photo by Christopher Leake

West Side Success Story

In 1999, inspired by Artspace's work in Minnesota, officials from Chicago invited Artspace to consider an artist live/work project in the Garfield Park neighborhood on the West Side. One of the sites considered was the Roentgen School, built in 1906 as a telephone switching station. With its high ceilings, large windows and central courtyard, the Roentgen was an ideal candidate for Artspace's first Chicago project.

Four years and \$5.3 million later, the Roentgen School reopened as the Switching Station Artist Lofts, a 24-unit affordable live/work community. The four-story building wraps entirely around its courtyard, which serves residents as a private gathering place and a safe play area for children.

Other amenities include off-street parking, a fenced-in play area on the building's sunny south side and a lower level suitable for meetings and other events. Apartments on the building's upper floors afford fine views of nearby Garfield Park and the downtown Chicago skyline to the east.

“Cities all across the country have become aware of why it's important...to provide artists with decent space for their business and craft.”

— *The Chicago Reader*



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DEVELOPMENT COST

\$5.3 million

TOTAL AREA

36,522 sq. ft.

LIVE/WORK UNITS

24

ARCHITECT

Architects Enterprise, Ltd.

FINANCING

Apollo Housing Capital, LLC

City of Chicago

Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines

Illinois Housing Development Authority

FUNDERS

Chicago Community Trust

Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs

Fannie Mae Foundation

Richard H. Driehaus Foundation