

Tashiro Kaplan Artist Lofts // Tashiro Arts Building

115 Prefontaine Place S. | Seattle, WA 98104 | Opened 2004

101 Prefontaine Place S. | Seattle, WA 98104 | Opened 2004



Photos by Greg Handberg



Photo by Barry Connelly

A Neighborhood of Artists

Seattle's Pioneer Square Historic District has long been a neighborhood of artists. In the 1990s, market forces began driving artists out of the area at an alarming rate. Hoping to preserve Pioneer Square's status as an arts district, the Pioneer Square Community Development Organization invited Artspace to transform two turn-of-the-century buildings, the Tashiro and the Kaplan, into facilities for artists.

The mostly residential Tashiro Kaplan Artist Lofts created 50 affordable live/work apartments, each with 800 to 1,800 square feet, plentiful light and flexible floor plans to accommodate artists of many disciplines. The Tashiro Arts Building is the home of 4Culture, King County's cultural agency.

The two projects also house 15 independent galleries, a coffee shop and several studios for individual artists. Together they have created close to 130,000 square feet of permanently affordable space for the arts, and by preserving these two historic buildings for artists and arts-friendly organizations they have helped maintain Pioneer Square's distinctive character. Tashiro Kaplan is now at the heart of Seattle's legendary First Thursday Art Walk, drawing thousands of visitors to Pioneer Square each month.

"The TK filled the first floor with active businesses and sidewalk life. You felt safer because now there were people moving into and out of the businesses after dark.... Before, that part of Pioneer Square had very little activity except for people passing through — going through it to get from A to B."

— Nora Liu, City of Seattle, Department of Planning and Development

DEVELOPMENT COST

\$16.5 million

TOTAL AREA

129,624 sq. ft.

COMMERCIAL AREA

58,885 sq. ft.

LIVE/WORK UNITS

50

ARCHITECT

Stickney Murphy Romine Architects

DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

Pioneer Square Community Association

FINANCING

City of Seattle Office of Housing

Glaser Financial Group, Inc.

Impact Capital

Paramount Financial Group, Inc.

RBC Dain Rauscher, Inc.

U.S. Bancorp

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Washington State Housing Finance Commission

Washington State Housing Trust Fund

FUNDERS

4Culture

The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation

Building for the Arts

Raynier Institute & Foundation

Seattle Foundation

South Downtown Foundation

U.S. Bancorp Foundation

Washington Mutual Foundation