



For Immediate Release:
January 20, 2016
Release #0048
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ARTSPACE ACQUIRES FORMER BELL SCHOOL FOR ARTIST HOUSING

Groundbreaking celebration set for April 14

Artspace Projects is pleased to announce that it has purchased the former Bell School Campus and its buildings in Tremé from the Orleans Parish School Board. This milestone allows Artspace to begin the physical rehabilitation of the buildings, which will include 79 affordable live work units for artists and their families.

A groundbreaking celebration for the Bell Artspace Campus is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, with construction on the first units to be completed in summer 2017. In addition to artist housing, the project will include space for community, non-profit and creative enterprise partners – Junebug Productions, the New Orleans Master Crafts Guild, and Make Music NOLA.

“We’re so pleased to have taken this major step toward construction of the Bell Artspace Campus,” said Joe Butler of Artspace. “We’re incredibly grateful to our local public partners for their support, including the Housing Authority of New Orleans, the City of New Orleans, the Mayor’s office and the State of Louisiana.”

Private support for the Bell Artspace Campus has been provided by the Kresge Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, ArtPlace America and the Greater New Orleans Foundation

Beginning in spring 2016, Artspace will hold a series of public meetings to provide updates on

the progress of construction and the project timeline. Dates and locations for the first of those public meetings will be announced in early 2016 year and listed on the Artspace website at www.artspace.org/bell.

Artspace will continue working with development partner Providence Community Housing – and community partners including Treme4Treme, St. Peter Claver Church, and the New City Partnership.

About Artspace

Artspace is 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. Over the last three decades, Artspace has led an accelerating national movement of artist-led 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. With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in 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.

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