

NATIONAL CULTURAL DISTRICTS EXCHANGE



Artist Spaces in Cultural Districts

Cultural districts often include spaces for individual artists who are interested in locating in a district. These spaces may include artist spaces such as gallery spaces, exhibit spaces, and artist live/work spaces.

GALLERY AND EXHIBIT SPACES

Gallery and exhibit spaces within cultural districts can be either for-profit or nonprofit and often enliven a cultural district by taking an empty spaces and activating them. They provide a place for artists to gather and display their work for the public.

The Historic Paseo Arts District in Oklahoma City, OK

<http://www.thepaseo.com/galleries.html>

This is the oldest Arts District Community in Oklahoma City. The Paseo is now home to 25 galleries and more than 75 artists. The Paseo galleries act as a catalyst for local restaurants, art schools, boutique, gift shops, and other local businesses.

Canyon Road Arts District in Santa Fe, NM

The Canyon Road Arts District is located in an historic neighborhood in Santa Fe, NM. Historic homes have been converted into world-class art galleries. There are more than 80 for-profit galleries that attract art collectors from around the world. The Canyon Road Arts District also hosts a Friday gallery walk.

LIVE/WORK SPACES

A **live/work space** is a residential building in which each unit has extra space that the artist can use as a studio. Other design elements—such as high ceilings, large windows, durable surfaces, and wide doorways—accommodate a wide variety of creative processes. Many live/work projects also include common spaces that encourage cooperation and community involvement

Artist live/work spaces have contributed significantly to the revitalization of communities. Recognizing the positive effects of contact with artists in a community, municipal leaders and nonprofit developers are converting older buildings into affordable, long-term housing for low-income artists. Mixed-use facilities are also commonly converted, as they can potentially be used for artist housing and work space, exhibition and/or performance areas, and retail areas.

LowerTown Art District in Paducah, KY

www.paducahalliance.org/lowertown-arts-district

The LowerTown Art District was developed as part of an artist relocation program and was the result of collaboration between Paducah Arts Alliance, the City of Paducah, and

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Paducah Main Street. This live/work program provides artists with a community space in which to learn, create, and collaborate, while inspiring growth in the local arts community. Artist incentives include:

- Zoned for live/work spaces. This enables residents to have gallery/studio, restaurant/café, living, and other mixed uses of the spaces;
- Properties available for as little as \$1 to qualifying proposals; and
- Coordinated marketing and promotional opportunities for the artist within the Art District. These may include printed directories, activities, and events such as Friday night art walks, etc.

In order to be considered for this program, artists must have a sustainable business model and be “open to the public” by maintaining a number of open hours and contributing to the community by teaching, conducting workshops, etc.

Artists Apartment Lottery in the Downtown Brooklyn Cultural District, Brooklyn, NY

The Downtown Brooklyn Cultural District is a development project spearheaded by a rezoning law. The New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, the Department of City Planning, and the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership are all collaborating to create this new cultural district. When completed, the Brooklyn Cultural District will be home to more than 400,000 square feet of cultural space, more than 1,200 units of new housing, and 52,000 square feet of public space. As part of this project, NYCEDC is creating a state-of-the-art, 32-story, mixed-use facility that will include approximately 50,000 square feet of creative and cultural space, 23,000 square feet of ground level retail, and 300 to 400 apartments, 20 percent of which will be affordable housing units. At least 50 percent of the units will be reserved for local residents. Artists can take advantage of these affordable spaces by applying through a lottery process. There will also be other artists spaces developed as this cultural district continues to grow.

Redeveloped Spaces for Artists in Pawtucket Arts and Entertainment District, Pawtucket, RI

<http://www.experiencepawtucket.org/bWorkbPawtucket/ArtsEntertainmentDistrict/tabid/212/Default.aspx>

There is a redeveloped mill in the Pawtucket Arts and Entertainment District that now has affordable live/work lofts for arts and design professionals. The Arts and Entertainment District also offers several incentives for artists including the elimination of sales tax on artworks if the work is purchased within the arts and entertainment District.