

Space for Change: Building Community Through Innovative Art Spaces PROGRAM FACT SHEET

About LINC

Leveraging Investments in Creativity (LINC) is a ten-year national initiative to improve the conditions for artists working in all disciplines. LINC believes that providing artists with a relevant system of support and resources will enhance their creative output, enabling them to make greater and more meaningful contributions to our communities and society as a whole.

Building on research conducted by the Urban Institute that identified the critical areas of support needed for artists, LINC has developed a program to support exemplary artist spaces that are improving artists' access to affordable live-work space and developing connections to their communities.

About *Space for Change*

Through a funding collaboration of MetLife Foundation and the Ford Foundation, and in partnership with MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning, LINC has launched *Space for Change*—a program created to promote the development of affordable artist spaces through awards, research, and learning. This program includes two funding opportunities: The MetLife Innovative Space Awards (ISA), which launched the total program, and the Ford Foundation Space for Change Planning/Predevelopment Grants (which will begin in 2010) to complement the MetLife Innovative Space Awards. In addition to these funding opportunities the program will facilitate knowledge building and an exchange of ideas about the development of affordable artist spaces across the country by holding two major convenings in 2010, with other smaller workshops through the program.

Through multiple award cycles; the establishment of a shared knowledge network; and by leveraging existing information resources while also commissioning new research, the *Space for Change* program seeks to establish a lasting framework for building sustainable models of affordable, equitable artist space in a wide range of communities across the United States.

Core Goals for *Space for Change* include:

- Identifying and acknowledging leading projects, programs, and/or strategies that result in affordable work or live/work spaces for artists; while further recognizing the contributions artists make to their communities
- Fostering and supporting innovation and learning by providing incentives, resources, and venues for collaboration among applicants, award-winners, and others
- Sharing ideas and knowledge through convenings and a web-based inventory of projects and programs
- Collecting and disseminating information on best practices in Artist Space Development
- Inspiring and informing community stakeholders on the potential impact of artist space on both artists and the communities of which they are a part

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MetLife Innovative Space Awards

In November 2009, the MetLife Innovative Space Awards will announce five awards of \$10,000, as well as one top award of \$50,000.

As a competitive national awards program developed by LINC and MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning in partnership with both the MetLife Foundation and the Ford Foundation, The MetLife Innovative Space Awards program (ISA) has been designed to recognize, reward, and promote successful Artist Space Development projects that are innovative, affordable for artists, sustainable, and have genuine community impact.

The ISA seeks to identify opportunities for developers and urban planners to weave artists into community development strategies, and to enlist artists for projects that contribute to neighborhood revitalization through their concern for communities' environmental well being, economic renewal, and diversity. Through a program of direct support complemented by value-added activities like information sharing and network building, ISA will emphasize the role existing artist space projects have played in community revitalization and socially progressive community development, as well as increase awareness of sustainable models for future replication.

Artist Space Database

Recognizing that lasting change exceeds discreet events or a singular set of conferences, The Artists Space Database is designed to eventually serve as a comprehensive, online resource to establish a national database of artist spaces and encourage the replication of model projects and policies. The increased visibility of these projects and their developers is intended to promote cross-sector collaborations among artists, developers, local municipalities, public agencies, artist-focused organizations, community development corporations, and others.