



THE ARTSPACE TEAM

ABOUT ARTSPACE

Artspace is a 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 and operates every project it develops, we ensure that they remain affordable and accessible to artists in perpetuity.

Artspace was founded in 1979 to address a deceptively simple question: how could Minneapolis relocate artists who were being displaced by the gentrification of its warehouse district? Working at the intersection of the arts, urban planning, and real estate, Artspace pioneered a new approach to an age-old problem. Rather than seeing artists as barriers to economic growth, we recognized unique partners in building better communities: individuals low in income but rich in creativity, entrepreneurialism, and resilience.

By bringing together an unusual coalition of city, community, financial, philanthropic and artistic partners, we were able to convert a deserted warehouse in St. Paul into the

Northern Warehouse Artists' Cooperative, with 52 units where artists and their families could affordably live and work. The lower two floors provide commercial space for a coffee shop, gallery, studios, and several non-profit organizations. With the Northern as a spark, this once desolate neighborhood has emerged as one of St. Paul's most dynamic, and it remains — through all of its changes — a neighborhood anchored in a thriving arts community.

Artspace has gone on to develop a \$500 million portfolio of more than 35 projects providing millions of square feet of affordable space for artists and creative enterprises. Our unique portfolio benefits thousands of artists, strengthens neighborhoods, and has helped inform and inspire a national movement of arts-centered community transformation. In addition, our consulting team helps scores of arts organizations and communities plan for and implement place-based strategies every year. With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Seattle and Washington, DC, Artspace is the nation's leader in artist-led community transformation.



THE ARTSPACE TEAM



Heidi Z. Kurtze

*Vice President,
Property Development*

As Vice President of Property Development for Artspace, Ms. Kurtze oversees the development process for new Artspace projects including finance, community engagement, architecture, construction and government relations. She led the development of several successful Artspace projects, including the award winning Brookland Artspace Lofts in Washington, DC, and Elgin Artspace Lofts in Elgin, IL. She currently leads development for Artspace in Memphis, Tennessee, Dearborn, Michigan, and Mesa, Arizona.

She has a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota and has been working in the field of affordable housing, real estate development and urban planning for over 19 years.

Before joining Artspace, Ms. Kurtze managed the private development of over \$220 million in real estate in the Twin Cities. She received her BA in Political Economy from Michigan State University, Phi Beta Kappa. She is a member of the Urban Land Institute and serves as President, Board of Directors of Zenon Dance Company in Minneapolis, MN and Advisory Board for Dance Place in Washington, D.C.



THE ARTSPACE TEAM



Naomi Chu

*Director,
Properties*

Naomi Chu is currently Director of Properties. Naomi began working with Artspace Projects, Inc. in 1997 through a local property management company handling Artspace's Twin Cities commercial properties. In 1998, she was hired to create Artspace's first for-profit subsidiary, Performance Property Management Company, which allowed Artspace to take their local commercial property management in-house. In 2005, Naomi took leave from Artspace to work as the Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Cultural Center, a nonprofit organization focused on developing a Pan-Asian center to celebrate, promote and foster understanding of Asian Pacific cultural heritage in Minnesota. This position provided her the opportunity to explore the Artspace model within one specific project.

In 2008, Naomi returned to Artspace in the role of Finance Manager. Currently, she is working in Hawai'i, South Dakota, North Dakota and Mesa with community leaders to advance projects in these regions as well as working nationally with arts social justice organizations to explore using telepresence technology for artistic collaboration.

Naomi graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology and Saint Paul Technical College with an Associate of Applied Science degree as an American Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterater.

Naomi brings a unique skill set to the Artspace team from her managerial skills to financial expertise to government relations to development work and community engagement.



THE ARTSPACE TEAM



Shannon Joern

*Senior Director,
National Advancement*

Shannon has been a member of the development team Artspace Projects since 2004. In her time at Artspace she has helped raise more than \$30 million philanthropic and private sector funds for the organization's general operations and its affordable live/work and other arts facilities projects in communities across the country. In her position as Senior Director, Shannon is responsible for: leading project-based campaigns in communities where Artspace is at work developing arts spaces; funder/donor relations; proposal writing; oversight and execution of the organization's annual fund campaign; event planning; and support to the National Advancement Senior Vice President and Artspace's consulting team.

Shannon received a Masters of Public Policy in 2004 from the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota where she specialized in nonprofit management. She received BA degrees in Women's Studies and Philosophy from the University of Wisconsin in 1995.

Before joining Artspace Shannon worked for the Minneapolis YWCA as a youth specialist in the Discovery leadership-development program for 10 – 12 year old girls.

Before joining the YWCA she was program coordinator for the Minneapolis South High School Women's Resource Center. She is a native of Minneapolis and has participated in many local professional and community-volunteer efforts including conference and workshop planning, freelance writing, and fundraising consulting.



THE ARTSPACE TEAM



Jean Kramer-Johnson

Asset Manager

Jean Kramer-Johnson joined Artspace in February of 2002, as Executive Assistant to the President. She joined the asset management team in 2005 and currently oversees seven Artspace properties, including the Northern Warehouse Artists' Cooperative in Saint Paul; the Traffic Zone Center for Visual Arts and Grain Belt Studios in Minneapolis; Kaddatz Artist Lofts in Fergus Falls, Minnesota; Riverside Artist

Lofts in Reno, Nevada; Minot Artspace Lofts in North Dakota; and the Artspace Loveland Arts Campus in Colorado. In addition to her asset management duties, she is responsible for arranging travel for Artspace staff.

Kramer-Johnson received a BA in Child Psychology from the University of Minnesota in 1983.



THE ARTSPACE TEAM



Melodie Bahan
*Vice President,
Communications*

Melodie Bahan joined Artspace as its first Vice President of Communications in January 2012. Since then, she has led the creation of a new website, developed consistent branding, managed press relations and increased social media presence for the organization and its projects in development.

Prior to joining Artspace, she served as the Director of Communications at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, overseeing all media relations, publications and the Guthrie website. During her 10 years at the Guthrie, she supervised press relations for all aspects of the Theater, including the work on the stage as well as the build up to and opening of the new Jean Nouvel-designed theater complex on the banks of the Mississippi River.

Before moving to Minnesota, Melodie spent 10 years in New York, where she served as the president of the New York chapter of the National Organization for Women. She worked in community relations for New York City Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman as well as on several political campaigns.

Melodie has worked as a freelance journalist and a columnist in the Twin Cities. She has served on the Minnesota News Council and the advisory board of Pillsbury House Theatre, and is currently on the board of the Film Society of Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Melodie attended MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois as a theater major and obtained a BA in journalism from the University of Minnesota.