



Press Release
May 4, 2015

Contact: Curtis Blessing
(215) 735-6760

Women's Community Revitalization Project Named \$3 Million ArtPlace Grant Finalist

The funds would be used to mesh arts and cultural strategies into community development

(Philadelphia) – The Women's Community Revitalization Project (WCRP), a developer of homes for low-income women and their families, was selected today by ArtPlace America as one of 21 finalist organizations competing for grants of up to \$3 million.

In addition to the grant funding, which would be issued over a three-year period, ArtPlace would also provide access to national creative development experts - a team that will look at the best use of debt capital, a team to advise on federal grant applications and a team focused on research and documentation throughout the program.

"We are honored to have been selected as a finalist by ArtPlace," said WCRP Executive Director Nora Lichtash. "ArtPlace is using these grants to remind all of us that art is a human right and critically important to our quality of life. This initiative will build the capacity of organizations like ours to incorporate arts and culture strategies into neighborhood planning and community development. We believe this kind of expert help will certainly lead the way toward that goal."

The Community Development Investments, as ArtPlace calls them, will be awarded to six organizations nationwide, one each being drawn from six different areas, including Philadelphia. .

"We are thrilled with the quality, depth, and breadth of the 261 applications we received for this program from community planning and development organizations across the country," said ArtPlace Executive Director Jamie Bennett. "The 21 finalists represent extraordinary opportunities to integrate arts and cultural strategies into the work of organizations that serve as long-term stewards for their communities."

WCRP is competing in Philadelphia with three other finalists: Drexel University; Fairmount Park Conversancy; and People's Emergency Center. ArtPlace will announce in August which one of the four gets the award.

About WCRP

The Women's Community Revitalization Project (WCRP) is committed to social and economic equity for low-income women and their families, developing housing; providing supportive services, advocating for policy change and honoring leadership, dignity, and justice in our communities. Learn more at www.wcrpphila.org.

About ArtPlace America

ArtPlace America (ArtPlace) is a ten-year collaboration of foundations, banks, and federal agencies that exists to position art and culture as a core sector of comprehensive community planning and development in order to help strengthen the social, physical, and economic fabric of communities. Visit www.artplaceamerica.org for more information.