



For Immediate Release

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MOUNT CLEMENS ARTSPACE FEASIBILITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The Anton Art Center, in partnership with the City of Mount Clemens, Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority, and the Mount Clemens Foundation, is excited to announce the availability of the Mount Clemens Artspace Feasibility Report. In April 2019, more than 100 community members participated in a Preliminary Feasibility Study which included series of focus groups and a public meeting which were intended to gather information and begin the process of determining whether Mount Clemens would be a likely community for a new Artspace development. Artspace is the nation's leading nonprofit developer specializing in creating, owning, and operating affordable spaces for artists and creative businesses. These spaces include live/work apartments for artists and their families, working artist studios, arts center, commercial space for arts-friendly businesses, and other projects.

A key finding in the Feasibility Report is that "based on the information gathered during this study, Artspace recommends the exploration of a downtown mixed-use, live/work artist housing development as the priority project concept for Mount Clemens." With this determination, the Artspace Steering Committee will be undertaking a market survey, made possible with generous funding from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and DTE Energy Foundation. This survey will help determine what size development and types of creative spaces and amenities will make sense for Mount Clemens, and will be administered electronically. The Steering Committee anticipates the survey will be launched in mid-January, 2020.

"During Artspace's Preliminary Feasibility Study visit, we experienced a warm reception and heard from leaders across disciplines that the arts are generally a bit isolated, but Mount Clemens has the opportunity within Macomb County to be that arts community that helps to connect the dots and bring creative people together. Many creative people spoke of their desire to have more places and spaces to convene, work on projects together with affordable rents to live and work that allow them to grow their arts businesses and careers, especially in



and around downtown Mount Clemens,” commented Wendy Holmes, Senior VP for Consulting and Strategic Partnerships with Artspace.

“We see an Artspace project as a unique way to further develop the Macomb County arts ecosystem and infrastructure in a sustainable and meaningful way. This type of opportunity will really help to build the creative class, and include art and artists as important components of the area’s economic development strategy,” shared Phil Gilchrist, Executive Director of the Anton Art Center.

"Our city is experiencing a renaissance and the response from our community is tremendous! It is an exciting time to live and work in our great city of Mount Clemens. The Artspace feasibility study documents the importance for artists and creatives to affordably live, work and play in the City of Mount Clemens. I am thrilled to see the future unfolding for our city," said Mayor Barb Dempsey.

More information, including the feasibility report from this initial visit is available online now on the following websites:

- www.theartcenter.org
- www.cityofmountclemens.com
- www.downtownmountclemens.com

About Artspace Projects, Inc. — Artspace is a nonprofit organization that uses the tools of real estate development to create affordable places where artists can live and work. Artspace consistently develops these projects in ways that support stable, healthy communities, anchored in existing assets. Because Artspace owns each of the projects it develops, they are able to ensure that the spaces remain affordable and accessible to artists in perpetuity. With 50+ projects developed over the last three decades, Artspace has supported artist-led community transformation, representing a \$653 million investment in America’s arts infrastructure. While embracing the value the arts bring to individual lives, Artspace has championed the once-radical idea that both artists living with financial hardship, and chronically underfunded arts organizations, can leverage fundamental social change. With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in Denver, New York, Seattle, and Washington D.C., Artspace



is America's leading nonprofit developer of arts facilities; and has served as a consultant to hundreds of communities and arts organizations nationwide. www.artspace.org

About the Anton Art Center – The Anton Art Center is a Macomb County's premier community art center, located at 125 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens, MI 48043. Our mission is to enrich and inspire people of all ages through the arts, which we achieve through exhibits, educational programs, outreach activities and more. The Anton Art Center is open Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00am – 5:00pm. Admission is free and open to the public. We are handicap accessible with handicap parking and elevator access. Metered lot and street parking available; free after 6pm and on weekends. For more information about the Anton Art Center, visit www.theartcenter.org, call (586) 469-8666, or connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

About the Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority – The Mount Clemens DDA was established in April 1983 by the City of Mount Clemens to revitalize the central business district. Through various activities, the DDA works to strengthen the economy and vitality of the downtown core. A lively downtown increases property values throughout the city while improving the quality of life for all residents. To accomplish this task, the DDA is engaged in a variety of development projects while producing and/or sponsoring over 25 events annually Downtown.

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