



Press Release
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Contact: Curtis Blessing
(215) 735-6760

Women's Community Revitalization Project a National Finalist for \$500,000 Grant

Philadelphia's only women-led community development organization is a finalist for a grant to help improve community relations in Point Breeze through artistic collaboration

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Women's Community Revitalization Project (WCRP), a community group committed to affordable housing development for low-income women and their families, was named today as a national finalist for a grant of up to \$500,000 by ArtPlace America. If awarded, the group says it will use the funds to work with artists to help solve community development challenges in the city's Point Breeze and Gray's Ferry neighborhoods.

"We are humbled to have been selected as a finalist for ArtPlace," said WCRP Executive Director Nora Lichtash. "This grant could support community engagement that would simultaneously welcome newcomers and respect the feelings and dignity of long-term residents. We are also hopeful that this could lead to more opportunities for sustained affordability in the neighborhood."

WCRP's ArtPlace grant proposal includes working with a local theater arts group, Applied Mechanics, to help bridge cultural divides in Point Breeze created by gentrification.

"We have created over a dozen original performance pieces over the course of the past ten years and are excited to work with Women's Community Revitalization Project to tackle this important social justice issue," said Applied Mechanics Artistic Director Rebecca Wright. "We use theater and performance to explore civic engagement and transformation. WCRP's goal of theatrical dialogue surrounding gentrification is a project we are excited to be part of."

ArtPlace sought applicants committed to community planning and development who will use art and culture to strengthen the social, physical or economic fibers of communities. WCRP is currently building new affordable housing in Point Breeze and is committed to strengthening relationships between new and long-term residents of the neighborhood.

ArtPlace received more than 1,000 applications from organizations nationwide. As a finalist, WCRP has placed among the top 70 who remain under consideration. Awardees will be announced in December.

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

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.

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