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CITY OFFICIALS JOIN 122 COMMUNITY CENTER TO BREAK GROUND ON HISTORIC RENOVATION

\$35 Million City-funded Project Will Enhance Space for Lower East Side Nonprofit Organizations and Upgrade 19th Century Building

NEW YORK, NY / NOVEMBER 20, 2013 — On November 20, Council Member Rosie Mendez, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Kate D. Levin, and NYC Department of Design and Construction Commissioner David J. Burney along with leaders from the four arts and service organizations that comprise 122 Community Center (AIDS Service Center NYC, Mabou Mines, Painting Space 122, and Performance Space 122) will break ground at 122 Community Center, a former public school located at 150 First Avenue. The event signals the beginning of Phase II of a \$35 million city-funded construction and renovation project that will upgrade and enhance the 19th century historic building and increase the space from 35,000 sq. ft. to 43,000 sq. ft.

The \$31 million, Department of Design and Construction-managed (DDC) phase II of the project, designed by Deborah Berke & Partners Architects, began this past winter 2013 and construction is expected to last two years. The project will include two permanent public art installations, *Independent Lines* and *Inhale/Exhale* by artist Monika Goetz, commissioned by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art program. Funding for the project is provided by the City of New York through the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Council, and the Office of the Manhattan Borough President. The project is being managed by the NYC Department of Design and Construction.

The groundbreaking ceremony will take place Wednesday, November 20th at 11:30am at 150 1st Avenue (entrance on 9th Street). Guest speakers will include Council Member Rosie Mendez, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Kate D. Levin, and NYC Department of Design and Construction Commissioner David J. Burney. Entertainment and light refreshments will be provided.

“The rehabilitation of this historic building will help its tenants fulfill their potential to serve diverse audiences from the Lower East Side and beyond,” said Cultural Affairs Commissioner Kate D. Levin. “Deborah Berke & Partners’s innovative plan for modernizing this building, and the inspired Percent for Art commission by Monica Goetz, will improve and enhance this community resource.”

“We are thrilled to have managed the design process with Deborah Berke Architects,” said Department of Design and Construction Commissioner David J. Burney, FAIA. “This award-winning design will expand the programming capacity for the tenant organizations and bring an extraordinary 19th century structure into compliance with modern codes. We look forward to working with the contractors to complete these renovations on time and within budget.”

“The renovations now underway for 122 Community Center are sorely needed—for the vital community and arts organizations that call this building home and for the residents they serve--and I am glad my office helped support this worthy project,” said Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer. “These organizations provide the Lower East Side community with an array of important services and programs, and I am pleased that they will have a safe, modern and appropriate space in which to carry out their mission.”

“The 122 Community Center is grateful to the City of New York — particularly the Department of Cultural Affairs and the Department of Design and Construction— for this expansive renovation of the Center which will greatly increase the capacity of resident institutions in the work they do, the programs and services they offer,” said 122 Community Center Board Chair Anne Dennin. “The Phase I restoration of the Center’s façade has had a significant impact on the neighborhood. When complete, the total rehabilitation of the Community Center will offer amenities to visitors making their stay all the more enjoyable and gratifying.”

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The Phase II renovation will bring the building into compliance with present day code requirements and improve the interior spaces to maximize the programming of tenant organizations. The project will also upgrade the building's mechanical and electrical systems and increase its energy efficiency.

The announcement of Phase II follows the May 2010 completion of a \$4 million building façade restoration. The one year, nine month phase I of the project cleaned and repointed the brick and the portico that served as the building's original entrance, dramatically enhanced the exterior, and replaced all existing windows in the building.

The renovation and Percent for Art commission received a Design Commission award from Mayor Bloomberg at the 29th Annual Awards for Excellence in Design at the Museum of the Moving Image on June 20, 2011. Since 1982, the Design Commission has recognized outstanding public projects at this annual event; the winning projects are selected by the Commission from the hundreds of projects it reviews each year.

Located in the East Village, the 122 Community Center is a City-owned former public school building, designed by C.B.J. Snyder and completed in 1894. The building operated as a public school until 1976. In 1977 Mabou Mines, Painting Space 122, and Performance Space 122 took residency; AIDS Service Center NYC became a tenant in 1992.

About the Tenants

The building is managed by the 122 Community Center, an umbrella organization that serves the following resident arts and service organizations:

- **AIDS Service Center NYC**, a multi-service organization that provides comprehensive programs to help individuals and families in NYC to achieve and maintain the highest quality of life and health in the face of HIV/AIDS.
- **Mabou Mines**, an avant-garde theater company that develops and performs award-winning original works and adaptations of classics to a global audience, as well as, Mabou Mines/Suite an artist residency program for emerging artists.
- **Painting Space 122**, a visual artist collective/studio organization that provides rotating project studios, as well as not-for-profit exhibition spaces including PS122 Gallery, The Classroom and PS122 Project Studios.
- **Performance Space 122**, a hub for contemporary performance dedicated to supporting and presenting artists whose work challenges the traditional boundaries of dance, theatre, music, and performance. For over 30 years, PS122 has been steadfast in its search for pioneering artists from a diversity of cultures and points of view.

The 122 Community Center is used by approximately 65,000 people per year.

Phase II Overview

Deborah Berke & Partners designed the Phase II project that will bring the building up to code, reorganize the building's primary spaces, create a new public entry and 'path' through the building, and provide new sustainably-designed systems.

"We feel we were a uniquely appropriate team to do this project," said Maitland Jones, AIA and Partner at Deborah Berke & Partners. "We have deep experience in providing functional and lasting spaces for arts institutions, but we also saw the opportunity for the bold unifying gesture that will give this institution a future identity."

Each of the resident organizations will receive specific improvements:

- AIDS Service Center NYC's renovated space will expand their operational capacity from a single room to a suite of meeting and counseling spaces specifically designed to their immediate needs and adaptable to future purposes.

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- Mabou Mines will receive a large column-free rehearsal studio that will double as a 96-seat performance space. The new space will have a sprung floor, retractable seating, and tall ceilings. The second-floor studio will have abundant natural light.
- Painting Space 122's 17 studios as well as not-for-profit exhibition spaces including PS122 Gallery, The Classroom, and PS122 Project Studios will have appropriate ventilation.
- Performance Space 122's two performance venues are relocating to the top floor where the roof framing is being raised to allow high ceilings. One venue, a multi-configurable experimental theater, will have 199 seats and state-of-the-art sound and projection capabilities. The other, smaller, venue will have 87 seats and a fixed stage.

The building's code upgrades will include the installation of a new sprinkler system; a new fire alarm and electrical system; access and egress; the addition of an ADA-compliant elevator; and upgraded, ADA accessible restrooms and dressing rooms. Upon completion, the project is anticipated to achieve a LEED Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The project has enabled the tenants to collectively realize their goals: a unified street presence, a lobby and ticket booth, wide hallways on each floor, and a rooftop gathering space. The renovation will provide an opportunity for interesting cross-affinities to emerge: for example, the gallery may serve as an evening amenity to theater audiences and the rooftop could be used as event space for all of the tenants.

Percent for Art Commission Overview

Monika Goetz's Percent for Art installations play against the 122 Community Center building. *Independent Lines* consists of narrow strips of stainless steel embedded in the courtyard in radial patterns that create a sense of movement toward the entrance of the building. *Inhale/Exhale* animates parts of the building's lighting, causing the cornice, canopy, and lobby lighting to "breathe" with life.

About Deborah Berke & Partners Architects

Established by Deborah Berke FAIA LEED AP in 1982, and based in New York City, Deborah Berke & Partners Architects is recognized for an interdisciplinary roster of projects, which includes a mix of institutional buildings for the arts, boutique hotels, high-end custom residences, retail concepts, and art galleries as well as art-focused community spaces for non-profit organizations.

DBPA's work is recognized for its distinctive balance that mixes subtle and refined composition with a bold design vision. In addition to the 122 Community Center rehabilitation, current and recent projects include: an addition to and renovation of the Rockefeller Arts Center at SUNY Fredonia; a Dining Hall for the European College of Liberal Arts in Berlin – an outcome of a Master Plan completed by DBPA in 2010; 48 Bond Street, an 11-story ground-up residential building in Manhattan's NoHo neighborhood; a new building for the Marianne Boesky Gallery; the School of Art building at Yale University; and two current projects in Bentonville, AK and Cincinnati, OH for 21c Museum Hotel, following the award-winning 2006 21c Museum Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky completed in 2006.

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