



City of Santa Fe
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VITAL SPACES

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VITAL SPACES SIGNS LEASE ON SANTA FE'S MIDTOWN CAMPUS

Artists Can Make And Show Work At Interim Venue

SANTA FE, NM, February 13, 2020--Vital Spaces today announced that they have taken on a one-year lease of the SW Annex building on the Midtown Campus in Santa Fe. The building will be used to provide affordable studios for six to eight artists as well as space for public art exhibitions, community art workshops, and events.

"I see the lack of affordable space in Santa Fe as the greatest threat we face if we want to sustain a diverse cultural environment and long-term vibrancy for the city," says Vital Spaces founder and executive director Jonathan Boyd, "Vital Spaces is a city vitality organization as much as an arts organization. By moving onto the midtown campus, we will not only support the arts community, but also engage directly with the midtown neighborhood, seeking local proposals for activating an area that has been largely dormant and inaccessible for the last three years."

Vital Spaces's move onto the campus is a win for both the organization and the city, which currently owns the property. Vital Spaces will bring activity to the space during this interim period before the campus is redeveloped and will then move onto other temporarily empty buildings elsewhere in the city when redevelopment gets underway. Vital Spaces currently has two other buildings: a storefront exhibition space just outside the entrance to the campus at 1604 St. Michael's Drive and a large studio and event space downtown at 220 Otero Street. The former is actively for lease while the latter is slated for redevelopment. This is how the organization takes advantage of otherwise underutilized spaces to the benefit of artists who gain access to much needed work and exhibition space, property owners who see their buildings cared for, and the community who is invited to attend the performances, exhibitions, and programs held in these interim venues.

"Vital Spaces is the perfect partner for the city on the midtown campus at this point in time. We are delighted to have more public programming happening there as well as seeing a city property go towards supporting local artists. We know that Vital Spaces will be excellent stewards of the SW Annex until its long-term role in the Midtown Campus Project is decided," says Santa Fe City Manager Jarel LaPan Hill.

Vital Spaces plans to begin holding public programming at the SW Annex and to invite artists who applied for studio space to move into their studios in the next few weeks. See: www.vitalspaces.org/events and www.vitalspaces.org/exhibitions for more details. They also encourage community submissions and suggestions for events, programs, workshops, and exhibitions. Reach out to contact@vitalspaces.org for more information.

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About Vital Spaces

Vital Spaces is a Santa Fe-based 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to transform underutilized real estate into opportunities for artists to create, present, and connect. We believe that affordable studio space and equitable access to exhibition, educational, and performance opportunities are critical to the health and diversity of Santa Fe's economy and creative culture, as well as the long-term vibrancy of the city at large.