



CORAL STREET ARTS HOUSE

A \$7.5 million investment in this community, this former textile mill sat vacant for decades and was prone to illegal dumping, graffiti and nuisance activities. Today, it provides quality, affordable live-work spaces for artists and it's residents have infused new life into this formerly desolate corner of the neighborhood. Part of the NKCDC strategy of community-based improvements through the arts, the project was conceived as part neighborhood stabilization catalyst, part economic development, part affordable housing. What was unanticipated, was the impact it had on the social and cultural fabric of the neighborhood.

Immediately, new residents became part of the community. They became hosts to gallery shows in the community room and pet clinics on the weekend. People from all over the city were introduced to this former no-mans-land and suddenly there was renewed life on the streets. Resident painters, actors, writers, photographers and graphic designers became community participants, activists and mentors. Their efforts are complemented by an in-house service coordinator who organizes exhibitions, artists related career workshops, and community outreach events, while helping them to grow their businesses and establish equity.

Acting both as a model and catalyst, the Coral Street Arts House has spurred rehabilitation of over 40% of the surrounding vacant industrial buildings are undergoing renovation. There is a new sense of pride and civic duty in the neighborhood. This past year alone has seen a 300% increase in membership of the local civic association and this summer, local artists and residents will provide daily arts programming for youth at a newly reclaimed playground.