

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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HOUSING AWARDED TO JERSEY CITY ARTISTS THROUGH LOTTERY DRAWING HELD TODAY AT CITY HALL

JERSEY CITY, NJ – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council, and the Department of Housing, Economic Development & Commerce (HEDC) today awarded seven artists housing through a lottery drawing for work live units at 159 Second Street, Waldo Lofts, in the Powerhouse Arts District in downtown Jersey City.

Mayor Healy presided over the lottery for the units to artists whom the Jersey City Artist Certification Board has certified and who met the qualifications for the program set by the **City of Jersey City** and the **Department of Housing, Economic Development & Commerce**.

“Jersey City has one of the most thriving artist communities in the state,” said **Mayor Healy**. “A thriving **Powerhouse Arts District** will serve to nourish the artists’ endeavors here, which ultimately adds to Jersey City’s allure as a destination location.”

“The 159 Second Street Project has allowed the City of Jersey City, with the cooperation of Fields Development Group and 159 Second Street Urban Renewal to offer these work live units for well below market rate to certified artists. This project is another facet of the brilliant diamond that is our Great City and the Powerhouse Arts District,” said **Rose Wagner, Project Manager for the HEDC**.

The City obtained the units from **Fields Construction**, and is selling them to the artists below market rate. As a result, the sale of these units will create a new revenue stream for Jersey City’s general budget. Approximately 40 applicants were included in the drawing, with preference given to certified artists who reside in Jersey City. The seven winners are: **Raymond McAnally (Actor), Unit 205; Arcady Kotler (Sculptor), Unit 302; Edward Fausty (Photographer), Unit 303; Peter Mann (Sculptor & Furniture Designer), Unit 407; Jeff Lunger/William Miller (Filmmaker), Unit 504; Leonid Gervits (Painter), Unit 605; and Jasmine Hsu (Photographer/Computer Art), Unit 201.**

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Waldo Lofts is a warehouse building that features loft style spaces with modern amenities that cater to the artists needs. The seven work live units are located on the second to sixth floors, and average about 930 square feet each. The building also contains a gallery on the first floor that hosts art work from local Jersey City artists.

In addition to its historic designation and its appeal to the artistic community, the **Powerhouse Arts District** offers many enticing characteristics, including its close proximity to New York and convenient access to public transportation. It is within walking distance to other downtown historic residential neighborhoods and the Hudson River waterfront walkway and financial district. As the area continues to grow and develop, several commercial and retail spaces, including eateries, boutiques and art galleries will expand its allure.

A total of fourteen artists have been housed since the first **Powerhouse Artist Lottery** drawing took place in 2005; six in purchased units at 140 Bay Street and eight in rentals located at 150 Bay Street.

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