



d.b.a. of Annual Gowanus Artist Studio Tour)
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HISTORIC AGREEMENT REACHED TO SECURE SUBSIDIZED ARTIST STUDIOS AND COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER AS PART OF GOWANUS REZONING

Brooklyn, NY— As the Gowanus rezoning nears approval, Arts Gowanus has been working with Councilmember Brad Lander to secure a community benefits agreement (CBA) for subsidized artist studios and a Community Arts Center with several developers to ensure the Gowanus creative community continues to thrive in the neighborhood.

This agreement provides about 180 subsidized artist studios at over a dozen development sites, with a negotiated cost dramatically below existing median artist studio prices in the area, starting at \$20 per sq. ft. (per year, or \$1.66 per month per sq ft). Also included in this agreement are 10 studios that are further subsidized for low-income artists in the community.

This CBA also includes a 2,000 sq. ft Community Arts Center run by Arts Gowanus. It will serve as an art exhibition space and as the organization's headquarters which will include 3 residency studios.. The CBA will provide the art studios and the art center in perpetuity even if the properties or future buildings are sold, creating long-term affordability for artists.

"We are thrilled that this rezoning will allow artists to continue to thrive in Gowanus. We have been actively fighting artist displacement in the community for years and there is a great need for affordable artist workspaces. The CBA, which goes into effect November 10, 2021, will ensure Gowanus continues to be a vibrant and creative neighborhood for artists of all income levels," said Arts Gowanus Executive Director Johnny Thornton. "We are extremely thankful for Councilmember Brad Lander's support and Land Use and Budget Director, Julia Ehrman, for making our creative community a priority in this rezoning."

"There is a long history in New York City and in other places throughout the world where artists have been pioneers in making neighborhoods cool and desirable -- and then being forced to leave as renewal occurs and prices rise. This landmark agreement will not allow that to happen in the Gowanus neighborhood," said Arts Gowanus Board Chair, David Kutz. "Beyond the amazing multi-year support from Comptroller elect Lander, we could not have accomplished this extraordinary agreement without the help of Sally Davis with the law firm Ropes & Gray and the support of our neighborhood artist advisory group."