Leading up to its 50th anniversary, Anthology Film Archives is undertaking a capital campaign to restore, upgrade, expand — and complete — its century-old East Village courthouse building to better meet the needs of the film-going public, visiting students and scholars, and its expanding collections and programs.
Anthology Film Archives is an international center for the preservation, study, and exhibition of film and video, with a special emphasis on independent, avant-garde, and classic cinema. Fueled by the conviction that the index of a culture’s health and vibrancy lies largely in its margins, Anthology strives to advance the cause and protect the heritage of a kind of cinema that is in particular danger of being lost or overlooked.
For nearly 50 years, Anthology has been committed to the preservation and restoration of work by the most important American independent and experimental filmmakers. To date, Anthology has preserved more than 1,000 works through modern preservation techniques — both photochemical and digital. Visited regularly by scholars, curators, writers, students, and aspiring filmmakers, Anthology works to make important titles accessible to the general public through screenings, archival loans, on-site research, and online access. Anthology’s programming is among the most diverse of any repertory cinema in the United States, encompassing its Essential Cinema series, as well as premieres, revivals, retrospectives, and survey screenings of contemporary and classic works of cinema from around the world. Anthology features important and under-recognized filmmakers and artists working in a wide range of styles and genres, and presents more than 1,000 programs each year, often with the filmmakers appearing in person. Anthology remains deeply devoted to screening works on their original formats, in particular 35mm, 16mm, and 8mm/Super-8mm film.

“I am awed by what Anthology Film Archives has accomplished over the years. Anthology’s commitment to the history of avant-garde cinema, as well as its role in showcasing new artists, makes it essential to the intersecting spheres of art, culture, and education. The freedom of expression and creativity housed within Anthology is boundless.” Martin Scorsese

IMAGES FROM FILMS PRESERVED BY ANTHOLOGY
(TOP TO BOTTOM): MESHES OF THE AFTERNOON, MAYA DEREN AND ALEXANDER HAMMID; EARLY ABSTRACTIONS, HARRY SMITH; CHEWING, MADELEINE GEKIERE; ZORNS LEMMA, HOLLIS FRAMPTON; GLIMPSE OF THE GARDEN, MARIE MENKEN; AN ALGORITHM, BETTE GORDON
Known for its engaging work on culturally and historically significant buildings in New York City, Bone/Levine Architects has completed designs for the expansion, which were unanimously approved by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and Manhattan Community Board 3.

LIBRARY:
The one-story addition will be home to a new library to house Anthology’s unparalleled collections of paper materials and make them more accessible than ever before. The new library will provide more storage space so Anthology’s holdings can continue to grow, and will also incorporate – for the first time – dedicated research and reading spaces allowing visitors to interact with the collections, which include thousands of books, journals, film stills, original correspondence, artist notes, and production documents, including invaluable materials relating to Harry Smith, Maya Deren, Joseph Cornell, Kenneth Anger, Jonas Mekas, and many others.

FILM VAULTS:
An infill expansion into Anthology’s adjacent alleyway property will create space for new cold-storage film vaults, built to the highest archival standards for the environmentally-controlled conservation of film and videotape, improving on Anthology’s current storage, as well as increasing vault capacity for the expansion of its collections in the future.

CAFÉ:
The ground floor of this alleyway expansion will be devoted to a public café, creating an important new gathering space for the community that will also help to offset Anthology’s operating costs.

ROOFTOP TERRACE:
A rooftop terrace for special events and performances will expand public programming opportunities and generate revenue to help offset operating costs.

INTERIOR RENOVATION:
A complete interior renovation will improve public areas, gallery space, and research facilities – to include digitization suites – expanding public programming opportunities and improving accessibility.

ELEVATOR, MECHANICAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL UPGRADES:
A new elevator will make the entire building ADA accessible. New film vaults and a complete upgrade of mechanical equipment will improve building circulation and environmental management for optimal film preservation conditions.

RESTORATION:
The exterior architectural details of Anthology’s historic 1919 courthouse building will be restored, ensuring the proper preservation of this landmark building as part of the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District.

ANTHOLOGY’S COURTHOUSE BUILDING WILL EXPAND FROM 20,000 TO 35,000 SQUARE FEET
Cinema, like any other art, is like a big tree with many, many branches. Some are bigger, some are smaller, but all of them are important, and the smallest ones sometimes are more important than the big ones — because they catch the light, the sun, they feed the big lump of the tree. The function of Anthology Film Archives is to help and protect those little branches of the big tree.”

JOHNS MEKAS, FOUNDER, PICTURED BELOW
Please join our capital campaign.

For more information about supporting Anthology’s expansion, including naming opportunities, contact Emma Levine, Director of Development for the Completion Project at:
emma@anthologyfilmarchives.org

Anthology Film Archives is a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are tax-deductible as provided by law.

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