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 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
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.

RESTORATION AND EXPANSION:
Exterior architectural details of Anthology’s historic 1919 courthouse building will be restored. New lighting, exterior signage, and a Second Avenue monumental entrance (in addition to the existing Second Street entrance) will improve Anthology’s street presence. Anthology will add an additional 5,000 square feet by expanding south into its adjacent alleyway.

INTERIOR RENOVATION:
A complete interior renovation will improve public lobbies, restrooms, and other spaces; staff offices and work areas; temporary collections storage; and add a new public art gallery and research facilities, which will include digitizing suites, resulting in dramatically improved access and expanded public programming opportunities.

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

LIBRARY:
Two spaces on the building’s second and third floors will be home to a new library to house Anthology’s unparalleled collections of paper materials and make them more accessible than ever before. Dedicated research and reading spaces will allow 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.

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.
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.”

JONAS MEEKAS, 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.

Anthology Film Archives
32 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003
anthologyfilmarchives.org
completionproject.org