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Jair Lynch Partners with Studio PAUSE to Bring Community Art Space to Columbia Pike

Studio provides free art and writing mentoring and culture expression for Barcroft residents

ARLINGTON, (August 16, 2023) – Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners (“Jair Lynch”), today proudly announces the signing of a lease with locally-based Studio PAUSE to bring a community art space to the Columbia Pike Corridor in a space that formerly housed a check cashing location.

[Studio PAUSE](#) expects to bring art programming, cultural education and art exhibits to the 1,662 square-foot space at 4710 Columbia Pike in the Barcroft Shopping Center owned by Jair Lynch. The center is part of the larger 60-acre Barcroft property purchased by Jair Lynch in December 2021 currently undergoing redevelopment. Jair Lynch completed an 8-week, \$53,000 renovation of the retail space to meet the needs of Studio PAUSE and is donating the cost of the lease to the arts organization.

“Working with local community advocate BUGATA and the [Columbia Pike Partnership](#), the location was identified as a prime opportunity to work with Studio PAUSE to celebrate the diversity of Barcroft and empower our residents to tell their story through art. We are excited at the opportunity it gives our residents to put on display their culture history and we are honored to provide the backdrop to this initiative,” said Mark Hannan, Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners Investment Manager.

Studio PAUSE Founder Sushmita Mazumdar, who is an immigrant from India, says she had been looking to bring her work to a space on Columbia Pike.

The Barcroft Shopping Center space is the third location for Studio PAUSE, which was started in 2013 in South Arlington. Today it offers programming at Rinker Community Center at the Gates of Ballston Apartment Community in North Arlington. The mission of the Barcroft location is to bring the Studio’s work and the work of the Columbia Pike Documentary Project to the space on Columbia Pike and also implement the project titled: “We Are Barcroft, A 60-Year History of People and Place.” The project’s aim is to encourage the residents of Barcroft to engage in building a creative community through sharing cultural heritage and oral histories.

“Studio PAUSE’S experience working with culturally diverse communities has taught us how art-making is a powerful tool which serves the socio-emotional needs of communities, an engaging prompt for telling stories and a way to connect which crosses many borders,” Mazumdar said. “It



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allows us to bring Barcroft's stories into the bigger Columbia Pike and Arlington scene. In this way we become a more understanding respectful and inclusive community as a whole. This presents a timely opportunity given the new ownership of the complex and the planning for the future of that community.

This new cultural art space within the Columbia Pike aligns with the CPP values of inclusiveness, connectivity, and heritage.

"The Columbia Pike Partnership is very excited to welcome our longtime partner, artist Sushmita Mazumdar and Studio Pause to the Columbia Pike community. We believe the collaboration between Barcroft Apartments and Studio Pause will provide a much-needed space for creativity, arts, and mental wellness. We look forward to collaborating and making this a welcoming space for the community," said Columbia Pike Partnership Executive Director Kim Klingler.

Residents are welcome to participate in free art-making classes and exhibit their work in the space. The Studio will also be open to the public offering workshops, receptions, and other events. In addition to the in-kind donations from Jair Lynch Real Estate partners, initial funding for the project will come from two Arlington County arts grants. The location will also provide meeting space for the community advocacy group BUGATA.

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About Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners

Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners is a leading real estate investment and development firm that specializes in the thoughtful transformation of walkable urban places. Founded in 1998, Jair Lynch has acquired, developed, and operated a portfolio of residential, commercial, and neighborhood assets that contribute to the company's mission of creating extraordinary places. The firm has developed nearly 6 million square feet of real estate projects, currently has \$3.0 billion of assets under management and has a controlled pipeline of 2.3 million square feet valued at more than \$1.4 billion. Visit www.jairlynch.com to learn more.

About Studio Pause

Studio PAUSE is the studio of Arlington artist Sushmita Mazumdar and a community art space where she invites everyday people of diverse ages, experiences, backgrounds and abilities to make time to explore creativity and celebrate community. A self-taught writer and book artist, Sushmita quit a 15-year career in advertising to write stories from her childhood in India for her



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American children, making them into unique handmade storybooks so they could see how wonderfully different lives can be. She launched Handmade Storybooks in 2007.

Sushmita opened Studio PAUSE in South Arlington in 2013. In 2015 she was invited by AHC Inc to bring the Studio to their Gates of Ballston apartment complex in the historic Buckingham neighborhood. Over the last 10 years, Sushmita's artistic practice got deeply rooted in and informed by the Studio community. In 2023, she was invited by Jair Lynch to open a new Studio location at Barcroft Shopping Center on Columbia Pike. Learn more at www.StudioPause.com