

About this map

This map documents the names, locations and years of operation of artist studios, galleries, theaters, non-profits, and other small scale arts organizations in downtown Washington, DC from the early 1970’s until the present. The dates represent the period when the organization occupied a specific address. Some of the groups listed began in other locations before moving downtown and many continued to exist after moving from the locations documented here. Other spaces and groups included on the map only existed in these downtown locations. While using the map, keep in mind that some of the buildings indicated by the addresses have been demolished.

The history of arts spaces downtown is intertwined with the history of DC’s development, especially efforts by the DC Redevelopment Land Agency and the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation to redevelop large swaths of downtown DC. Smaller arts organizations benefited temporarily, gaining access to space at a low cost. As development efforts moved forward throughout the 1980’s and 1990’s, however, these small groups lost their spaces and relocated to other parts of the city or shut down entirely.

The names, dates, and locations included here are drawn from research at the Smithsonian Archives of American Art, archives of local press, especially the Washington Post and Washington City Paper, personal knowledge, and conversations with individuals who generously shared their memories. Given the breadth of time covered by the project, it is nearly inevitable that there are groups and spaces that have been missed. The author apologizes for any oversights and invites additions, edits, and corrections, to be incorporated into future editions. Please contact her through the website below with feedback.

This map was created by Blair Murphy for *Footprint aka The Lansburgh’s Notebook* at Flashpoint Gallery in Washington, DC from April 15 - May 6, 2017.

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About the Washington Humanities and Arts Center

In the late 1970’s, a group of artists and arts organizers came together to create a central location for small and community-driven arts and humanities organizations in downtown DC. Called the Washington Humanities and Arts Center Organization (WHACO), the group worked in partnership with the DC government to lease several floors of the Lansburgh’s Building from the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC). PADC had purchased the former home of Lansburgh’s department store, with the long term goal of finding a private buyer to redevelop the building. In the meantime, PADC was looking for temporary tenants for the space.

Working with the DC government, WHACO negotiated a lease for several floors of Lansburgh’s. From the beginning, WHACO understood that the lease would be temporary, though some WHACO members hoped that, if their experiment was a success, they might find a way to make their use of the space more permanent.

Janet Schmuckal, (Museum of Temporary Art), Vernard Gray (Miya Gallery), Vivian Nives (Archaesus Productions), and Tommy C. Abney (Charisma Youth Organization) represented WHACO during lease negotiations with PADC.

The following groups were involved, in some way, in the effort to create the Washington Humanities and Arts Center. Many moved into the center between 1980 and 1984.

- African Heritage Dancers
- Archaesus Productions
- Architours
- Centro Grafico
- Charisma Youth Organization
- City Museum
- DC Art Association
- Dance Exchange
- Ebony Impromptu
- GALA Hispanic Theatre
- KanKouran West African Dance Company
- Lettumplay
- Library Theatre
- Miya Gallery
- The Museum of Temporary Art
- New Theatre for Ethnic Art
- Positive Image
- Sign of the Times
- Stage Directions
- Studio Gallery
- Tomorrow’s World Art Center
- Travelin’ Blues Workshop
- Washington Area Film/ Video League
- The Washington Review
- Washington Women’s Arts Center
- Watershed Foundation
- Workshop for Careers in the Arts

Washington Humanities and Arts Center did turn out to be a short term use of the space. As PADC made plans for redevelopment, most Washington Humanities and Arts Center tenants moved out of the building by the end of 1984. Today, the building houses the Shakespeare Theatre Company’s Lansburgh Theatre and The Lansburgh apartments.

Image above left: Organizers and potential tenants of the Washington Humanities and Arts Center outside the Lansburgh’s Building at 8th and E Streets NW, 1979. Photograph copyright Karen Ruckman.

**FOOTPRINT
AKA
THE LANSBURGH’S
NOTEBOOK**

APRIL 15 - MAY 6, 2017
FLASHPOINT GALLERY
WASHINGTON, DC

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR MAP

1. 916 G Street, NW

Flashpoint Gallery and Mead Theater Lab, 2004 to 2017
2. 1327 F Street, NW

Museum of Temporary Art Annex, exact years unknown
3. 1206 G Street, NW

The Museum of Temporary Art, 1974 to 1980
4. 1227 G Street, NW

Washington Project for the Arts, 1975 - 1982
5. 716 11th Street, NW

The Museum of Temporary Art, 1980 to 1982
6. 720 11th Street, NW

Miya Gallery, 1976 to 1980
7. 726 11th Street, NW

New Theater for Ethnic Art, Exact years unknown
8. 923 F Street, NW

Caos on F, 2002 to present

9. 930 F Street, NW

9:30 Club, 1980 to 1996
10. 527 9th Street, NW

Atlas Building Artist Studios, exact years unknown
11. 802-810 F Street, NW

LeDroit Building Artist Studios, exact years unknown
12. 7th Street between E and F Streets, NW

KanKouran West African Dance Co., exact years unknown
A.Salon Artist Studios, 1994 to 2001
Wilson Center Gallery, exact years unknown, closed 2001
Gallery 505, exact years unknown, closed 2001
13. 629 E Street, NW

Miya Gallery, 1995 to 2001
629 e. arts, exact years unknown, closed 2001
14. 625 E Street, NW

WPA/C projectspace, 1997 to 2001
15. 625 - 627 E Street, NW

Numark Gallery, 2003 to 2006

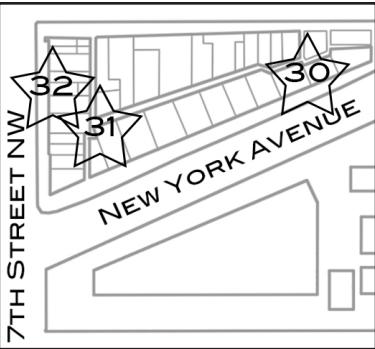
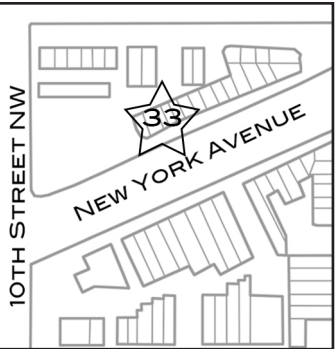
16. 443 7th Street, NW

dc space, 1977 to 1991
Olshonsky Gallery, exact years unknown, opened 1989
17. 421 7th Street, NW

Diane Brown Gallery, 1980 to 1982
18. 413 7th Street, NW

Zenith Gallery, 1986 to 2009
19. 310 7th Street, NW

Raku, exact years unknown, closed 1982



20. The Jenifer Building, 400 7th Street, NW

Washington Project for the Arts
1982 to 1987 & 1988 to 1995
21. 406 7th Street, NW

Lunn Gallery, 1980 to 1983
McIntosh/Drysdale Gallery, 1980 to 1988
Osuna Gallery, 1980 to 1988
Adamson Gallery, 1982 to 1988
B.R. Kornblatt Gallery, 1980 to 1991
Numark Gallery, 1995 to 2003
Civilian Art Projects, 2007 to 2009
Touchstone Gallery, 1995 to 2009
The Artist’s Museum, exact years unknown
22. 434 7th Street, NW

Washington Project for the Arts, 1987 to 1988
23. The Lansburgh’s Building, 8th and E Streets, NW

The Washington Humanities and Arts Center
1980 to 1984
See reverse for additional information about WHAC
24. Stables Building Arts Complex, 410 8th Street, NW 1984 to 1997

Miya Gallery, 1984 to 1995
KanKouran West African Dance Company, exact years unknown, relocated in 1997
Dance Institute of Washington, 1996 to 1997
DC Contemporary Dance Theatre, opened 1984, closing date unknown
25. 313 G Street, NW

Jack Rasmussen Gallery, 1978 to 1988
26. 443 I Street, NW

Eye Street Studios, 1998 to 2012
The Hosiery, exact years unknown, opened 2000
Gold Leaf Studios, exact years unknown, closed 2012
27. DC Alley Museum

Blagden Alley, 2015 - present
28. 1234 9th Street, NW

Long View Gallery, 2009 to present
29. 1302 9th Street, NW

Long View Gallery, 2006 to 2009
30. 607 New York Avenue, NW

Capital Fringe, 2008 to 2014
31. 1019 7th Street, NW

Warehouse (gallery), 1994 to 2009
Civilian Art Projects, 2009 to 2013
32. 1021 7th Street, NW

Warehouse (theater), 1996 to 2014
33. 901 New York Avenue, NW

Touchstone Gallery, 2010 to present

