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For Immediate Release:

**Public Forum: Meet Artspace and Solaqua Power & Art
Industrial Arts Mill to Operate on Sunlight and Water**

(Chatham, NY) SOLAQUA Power & Art proposes to create an art and technology center located at the former Columbia Box Board Mill on Route 295 in the Town of Chatham, New York. The paper mill began operations in the nineteenth century and was a major employer in Columbia County, until ceasing operations in 1994. Jody Rael, President of Kling Magnetics, Inc., purchased the complex in 1997. The buildings encompass over 100,000 square feet of usable space, ready for adaptive reuse. Solar electric panel arrays and hydropower harnessed from the Stonykill Creek's pre-existing dams will generate electricity. This electricity will then be used to produce hydrogen from water with an electrolyzer. The hydrogen will fuel glassblowing operations, foundry furnaces, kilns, and blacksmith forges. Classes, workshops, and apprenticeships will be offered in these skills and in renewable energy. These will be available to regional schools and the public. An inn, gallery, theatre, retail space, performance spaces, commercial areas, restaurant, and more will all be powered by creative applications of renewable energy systems.

Artspace, the nation's leading not-for-profit real estate developer that creates affordable work and living spaces for artists will facilitate a public forum regarding the possible future of the former Columbia Box Board Mill in Chatham, NY. The public meeting will introduce Artspace to Columbia County. Ideas will be shared about transforming the mill into SOLAQUA Power & Art, a renewable energy powered industrial arts center that operates on sunlight and water. The public forum will take place on Wed., October 26th at the Chatham High School Auditorium located at 50 Woodbridge Ave. from 7:00-9:00pm.

The mission of Artspace is to create, foster and preserve affordable space for artists and arts organizations. They pursue this mission through development projects, asset management activities, consulting services, and community-building activities that serve artists and arts organizations of all disciplines, cultures, and economic circumstances. By creating this space, Artspace supports the continued professional growth of artists and enhances the cultural and economic vitality of the surrounding community. The City of Buffalo has engaged Artspace to develop a new live/work project in the historic Breitweiser Printing Building in Buffalo's Midtown neighborhood. **They were recently awarded \$11 million through the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal.**

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SOLAQUA Power & Art intends to create an art and technology center demonstrating and promoting a sustainable future through the innovative integration of renewable energy and the arts. SOLAQUA Power & Art will be a mixed use, multipurpose, community driven project with a sustainable vision, meeting the needs of the community, artists, the environment, and the future.

Artspace also realizes that green building and sustainable development are at the very core of their mission to create, foster and preserve affordable space for artists and arts organizations. Artspace has chosen Solaqua Power & Art as a prospect for further development from hundreds of potential projects. They will spend two days in Chatham, visiting the site, meeting with small groups of artists, officials, and business people, and conducting a public forum to hear from the community and to share ideas.

Artspace developments benefit their communities in several significant ways. They create affordable spaces for artists to live, work, exhibit, perform, and conduct business. A lively arts community is one hallmark of a healthy community. Moreover, every Artspace project to date has transformed an unused or underutilized historic building into a fully functioning facility.

Established in 1979 to serve as an advocate for artists' space needs, Artspace effectively fulfilled that mission for nearly a decade. By the mid-1980s, however, it was clear that the problem required a more proactive approach, and Artspace made the leap from advocate to developer. Since then, the scope of Artspace's activities has grown dramatically. Artspace is now America's leading nonprofit real estate developer for the arts.

In the last few years, Artspace has further expanded its mission to incorporate the planning and development of performing arts centers, museums, other arts facilities, and entire arts districts throughout the country.

For more information about the public forum with Artspace and SOLAQUA Power & Art, please visit www.solaqua.org, www.artspaceusa.org, and contact Lauren Astor, Project Director, at 518-392-8171, ext 204 or 718-715-1302 or email lauren@solaqua.org.

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