



Providence Preservation Society

2006 ADAPTIVE REUSE / NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION AWARD

AS220

AS220's adaptive reuse of a commercial block as an arts and entertainment center has brought new life to Empire Street. AS220 is a non-profit community arts center featuring artist live/work space, galleries, a performance space, a community dark room, and a bar and café. AS220 moved to the 20th century commercial block at 95-121 Empire Street in 1993. The building was neglected and almost completely abandoned. The Campaign for AS220 has currently raised almost \$2 million to address the years of deferred maintenance and inadequate interior space.

Exterior improvements include repair and repointing brick and granite; restoring the storefronts; replacing cornice and restoring brackets; replacing doors; and new awnings and signage – overall the exterior renovation resulted in a unified and visually appealing frontage that is historically appropriate. Inside, the street level gallery and performance areas were enlarged and reconfigured and the restaurant/ bar area was dramatically renovated. The work was carefully performed by **Durkee Brown Viveiros & Werenfels Architects** and **Case Construction**. AS220 consulted with the **PPS Revolving Fund** and the **Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission**. Construction was financed by the **PPS Revolving Fund** and **Sovereign Bank**. Donor support was derived from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Presented at the Society's Annual Meeting, January 18, 2007.

Mark Van Noppen
President

Jack A. Gold
Executive Director