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By **Mara Siegler**

Published Jan. 17, 2025, 6:15 p.m. ET



The building, which provides affordable space for artists and galleries, is being put up for sale.

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Local leaders are stepping up to try and save a beloved Chelsea arts hub that's going up for sale.

Philanthropist Gloria Naftali and her late husband Raymond opened the West Chelsea Arts Building in 1993 to provide cheap studio space to artists and galleries.

It's been home to some of the art world's biggest names like Ross Bleckner, Louise Fishman, Glen Ligon, Gary Simmons, and Hiroshi Sugimoto.



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Gloria Naftali passed in September 2022. Her and late husband Raymond fostered an arts community in Chelsea.

Dignity Memorial

Gloria died in September 2022. Now the 400,000-square-foot building at 508-534 West 26th Street has been put up for sale by her estate for \$170 million, and residents fear that it will lead to higher rents or even artists getting the boot.

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City Council member Erik Bottche, US Representative Jerry Nadler, State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, and Assembly Member Tony Simone have sent a letter to the Raymond and Gloria Naftali Foundation asking them to reconsider selling the space, which they say contributes





Local leaders including City Councilman Erik Bottcher have sent a letter to the Raymond and Gloria Naftali Foundation.

Paul Martinka

Bottcher, who represents Greenwich Village, Chelsea, and Hell’s Kitchen, tells us he first heard about the problem from tenants who fear they will be evicted.

“They are worried that the Naftali Foundation is going to sell this building to the highest bidder with no regard to them,” Bottcher tells us. “It could mean wholesale displacement.”



Page Six PODCAST

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Naftali’s will stated that she wanted the building to

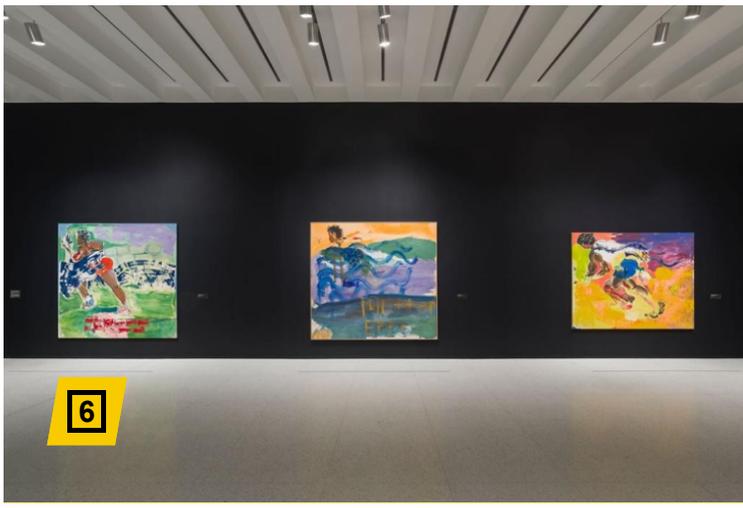
“maintain the character and use (primarily for artist studios and galleries).”

Legacy.com

Green Naftali Gallery, Berry Campbell, Galerie Lelong, and Fergus McCaffrey are also in the building.

“New York City has been an artist’s haven for 400 years and the affordability crisis is threatening our ability to maintain that status,” Bottcher tells Page Six.

Derek Wolman, an attorney for Naftali’s estate, told ArtNet that the Foundation does not have enough money to maintain the building and that proceeds of the sale will go to causes that were close to Naftali.



The building, which also houses Naftali Greene gallery, is going for \$170 million.

greenenaftali/Instagram

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“This is a major piece of real estate; it’s not going to sell in one day,” he told the site. “I don’t think anyone is in danger of losing their leasehold in the near future or even in medium future. We are hopeful we can find someone who will to keep the character of the building as an artist building and a gallery building.”

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18 January, 2025

It's a cool building to visit and look at art for sale. Of course, we're talking about a hobby for the very rich. My sister's mentor/professor had a show there; pieces were offered at about \$5K. I saw other pieces for \$250K. Quite a range. Another artist relative visited NYC and this building and t...

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It will be converted into condos.....

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I'm surprised the Mayor didn't turn it into a homeless shelter.

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