



The Artist Building at 300 Summer St.

Morton D. Safford
1898

Lajos Heder
1995

Granite, concrete, iron,
steel, aluminum

100,000 sq. ft.

www.300summer.org



Site Analysis & Context

The Artist Building at 300 Summer Street is located in historic Fort Point, bordering A Street, a short distance from two more artist live-work buildings, the 249 A Street Cooperative and Midway Studios.

The eighteen-bay, seven storey building provides a strong artist presence in the city and offers a significant public space for the arts community in South Boston. The building draws both artists and the public into a harmonious space to connect and experience art.



Architecture & History

Designed in 1998 for wool merchant Jeremiah Williams & Co., by Morton D. Safford, the building was originally constructed as a warehouse. Later, its ownership included the Wiley Company and a wallpaper printing company. The elaborate façade features double Romanesque arches under a projecting cornice. An artist cooperative formed under the auspices of the Fort Point Arts Community and purchased the building in 1995 for conversion into a live/work artist building. The architect for the adaptive reuse project was Lajos Heder. Mags Harries designed the canopy and light sconces flanking the entrance from materials reclaimed inside.



Program

The 300 Summer Street building encompasses 100,000 sq.ft. within 9 stories of brick, concrete and steel-beam construction, one of the first in Boston. It has been converted into a space for artists' live/work studios and art related businesses. The Artist Building offers a vital community center for the Fort Point arts community and houses artists and their families in 48 live/work lofts, 12 art-related businesses, as well as the FPAC Gallery and a cafe/restaurant.