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Discoveries

A COMMUNITY FOR THE CREATIVE

NoHo Senior Arts Colony pursues cultural passions in Southern California.

THE NOHO ARTS DISTRICT offers one square mile of theaters, dance studios, gallery space and cutting-edge restaurants on the northwest side of the Los Angeles Metroplex. This cultural enclave in North Hollywood added another attraction last fall: apartments for active adults with a creative flair.

NoHo Senior Arts Colony is the latest project from Meta Housing Corp., a developer of family and age-restricted rentals in Southern California since 1969. Nearing completion along Magnolia Boulevard, a major thoroughfare for the NoHo district, this new community hopes to connect its residents with the local arts scene — as well as foster cultural collaboration among neighbors.

“The great thing about a building with ‘arts’ on the side of it is that you tend to get a lot of people who are already artists, and we try to

find ways to fuse them together as a community,” notes Tim Carpenter, founder and executive director of arts advocacy group EngAGE.

This nonprofit frequently partners with Meta Housing to design integrated art classes for seniors, with subjects ranging from painting and photography to singing, dancing and acting. While EngAGE seminars often attract established artists, communities like NoHo Senior Arts Colony — along with its sister developments from Meta Housing, the Burbank and Long Beach senior arts colonies — also encourage residents to branch out. “Part of it is trying to tailor programs around resident needs, but it’s also trying to get them to change their behaviors and try something new,” Carpenter says.



A 78-seat theater, rehearsal space, studios and artists’ lounges are topped by apartments.

An innovation designed for the NoHo project, a professional on-site theater will call to resident thespians, playwrights and stage designers. It also will offer a second performance space for the Road Theatre Co., an established local troupe that will seek community involvement.

“We want to provide opportunities for them in a way that hasn’t been done before,” Carpenter says of the 78-seat venue, already prepping a musical to kick off its debut season. “Some of the people that will be living there are actors, and the idea of someone being able to be a member of the Road Theatre Co., a professional actor, and walking downstairs to participate in that is kind of the dream for me.”

Other amenities planned for the community include EngAGE wellness classes, such as meditation and yoga instruction; a heated swimming pool and fitness area; billiards room, library and computer center; digital, visual arts and film editing studios; and garden, terrace and indoor lounge space built for artist interaction.

NoHo Senior Arts Colony, restricted to residents 62 and older, consists of 126 apartments. Sizes range from 643 to 986 square feet, with prices from \$1,750 a month for a smaller one-bedroom, one-bath unit to \$2,340 for the largest two-bedroom, two-bath spaces. Rental rates cover the cost of all EngAGE programs and activities.

The community plans a grand opening ceremony early this year, though a number of residents already have settled in and started classes. For more information, call (855) 399-5381 or visit NoHoSeniorArtsColony.com.

— JENNIFER DAVOREN



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