

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***Jersey City Redevelopment Agency Kicks Off \$3.4 Million Powerhouse Stabilization Powerhouse Will Be Center of City's Future Powerhouse Arts District***

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, members of the **Jersey City Municipal Council**, representatives from the **Jersey City Redevelopment Agency**, representatives of the **Jersey City Economic Development Corporation**, and the **Deputy Executive Director** of the **Port Authority of New York & New Jersey** will kick-off the stabilization of the historic **Powerhouse** at **1:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2009**, at Washington Boulevard and First Street.

“The Powerhouse is an iconic landmark of Jersey City’s industrial past,” said **Mayor Healy**. “I am pleased that we will be able to preserve this architectural jewel, which when complete will attract thousands from the metropolitan area providing job opportunities for our citizens and the arts community.”

The stabilization project is set to include replacing the windows and roof, as well as installing new drainage systems to mitigate any further deterioration of the structure. The stabilization process is anticipated to take three to five months. The process will start this month and will be completed by October 2009.

The City of Jersey City and the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency, with a contribution from the Port Authority of NY & NJ, will cover the cost of this **\$3.4 million project**. The Powerhouse building and land is jointly owned by the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and the City of Jersey City.

“The Powerhouse was an integral part of the PATH system and has been vital in moving millions of passengers around the region for over 100 years, earning its well-deserved distinction as a national historic place. Reinventing the building’s use for the benefit of the community and restoring it to its original splendor is a project the Port Authority is proud to support,” said **Susan Bass Levin, Deputy Executive Director of the Port Authority of NY & NJ**.

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“Built between 1906 and 1908, the nine-story Powerhouse powered the Hudson and Manhattan Railroad, now known as the PATH trains,” said **Mayor Healy**. “Once restored, the Powerhouse will power - not trains - but new economic and residential growth which will ultimately add to Jersey City’s attractiveness as a place to work and live. Rarely does a single project address a multitude of goals including economic development, historic preservation and the promotion of the arts.”

Once redeveloped, the Powerhouse will be the centerpiece of the “Powerhouse Arts District.” The Powerhouse is envisioned to be a mixed-use, multi-floor destination for arts, retail, and entertainment that will anchor the upcoming “Arts District.”

The architecture firm Beyer, Blinder and Belle was hired as part of Jersey City’s on-going effort to stabilize the water-damaged Powerhouse. The *Exterior Stabilization Assessment Overview* report produced by Beyer, Blinder and Belle proposes a preservation vision aimed at maintaining as much of the building’s architectural character as possible.

By 2013, when all the renovations are complete, the Powerhouse is expected to be a retail and entertainment showpiece of the Powerhouse Arts Entertainment District, offering modern facilities and infrastructure to consumers and commercial tenants.

The **\$90 million development** will feature **180,000 square feet across five floors**, filled with galleries, restaurants, and offices.

The **Cordish Companies**, a Baltimore-based retail and entertainment developer, is the designated developer for the site.

The Powerhouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.**

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