The rehabilitation of the former Michigan State Prison Cell Blocks and Dormitory embodies creativity—from the project itself, to the residents, to the work produced there. Jackson’s Excel-Artswalk LDHA LP, Excel-Artswalk LLC, and the Enterprise Group have led the way in creative adaptive reuse of a historic building. The group took the former cellblocks and dormitory and converted the spaces into 62 affordable living and workspaces for artists, musicians, designers, and craftsmen. The property is now known as the Armory Arts Village. The ultimate goal of the Armory Arts project is to attract artists to Jackson, foster spin-off businesses, and spur cultural tourism in the region. This one-of-a-kind project involved the rehabilitation of the prison buildings as well as the construction of new structures architecturally compatible with the historic ones. The project received a $100,000 Cool Cities grant through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and used a combination of Federal and State Historic Preservation Tax Credits.

Location: 100 Armory Court
Project Contact: Excel-Artswalk & Enterprise Group
Original Use: Armory/Prison
Current Use: Artist Live/Work Space
SHPO Contact: Robbert McKay / 517.335.2727

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