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## The Greene Block + Studios: Raising the Bar Downtown

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THE GREENE BLOCK + STUDIOS

# RAISING THE BAR DOWNTOWN



**The Greene Block has enhanced Main Street by offering access to working artists and a new creative space. It is also creating a sense of curiosity about the future of the arts in Waterville. We are enjoying activating this new space to build momentum toward an elevated level of vibrancy.”**

**—Teresa D. McKinney,  
Diamond Family Director  
of the Arts**

Since it opened in fall 2021, the Greene Block + Studios has contributed to the remarkable revitalization of downtown Waterville as a convening space for public events, exhibitions, and concerts. Occupying a longtime former hardware store, the revitalized building includes garage-style doors that open to Main Street, creating community and a sense of welcomeness where arts are the central pillar. Across from the Lockwood Hotel, the nearly 25,000-square-foot building boasts large, light-filled studios for Lunder Institute for American Art residential fellows, offices, and original artwork, including the piece *Making Waves* by Maine artist Kim Bernard, made with malleable recycled plastic during a community art-making project.

Down the block, work continues on the Paul J. Schupf Art Center, an \$18-million contemporary building that will open in late 2022 adjacent to the Waterville Opera House. Named after a longtime Colby donor and Trustee Emeritus, the Paul J. Schupf Art Center will bring together several of Waterville’s beloved arts institutions and include screening rooms for movies, a commercial art gallery, studios, and classrooms, as well as a contemporary gallery for the Colby College Museum of Art.

Colby has invested upward of \$100 million in revitalization and redevelopment projects in downtown Waterville in recent years, cementing the College’s long-term commitment to its partnership with the community.