



WASHINGTON PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

## PRESS RELEASE

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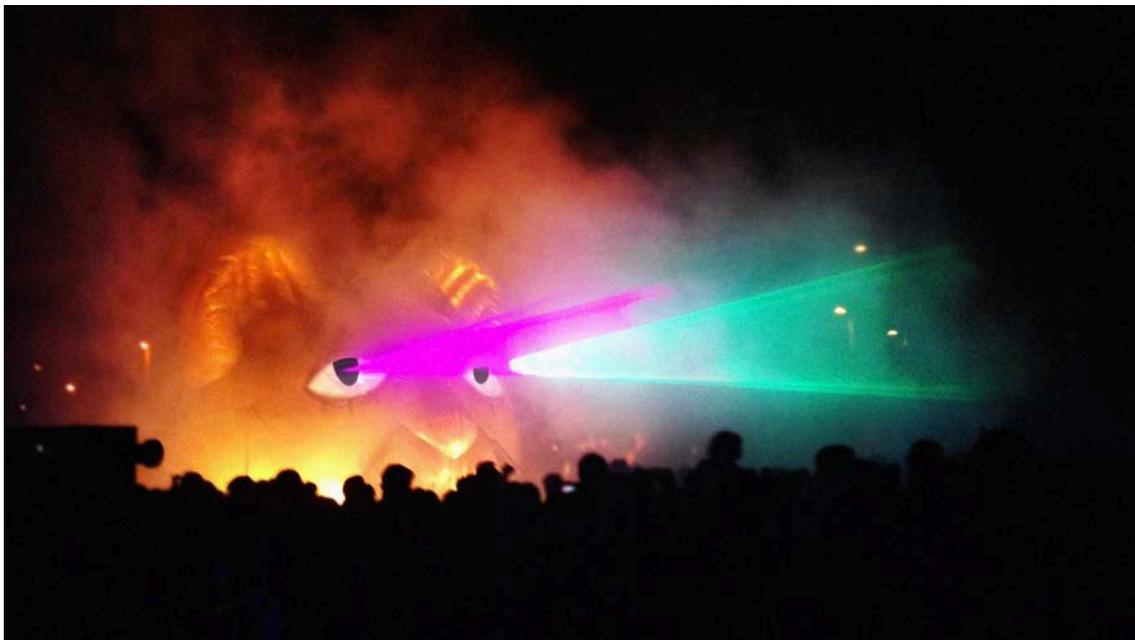
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## WPA & FOREST CITY PRESENT LASER CAT At THE YARDS

With support from The JBG Companies



**DATES:** Friday & Saturday, February 20 & 21, 8-11pm  
Saturday, February 21, 12-2pm

**PRESS PREVIEW:** Friday, February 20, 4-5pm  
Contact [Samantha May](#) to RSVP

**LOCATION:** [200 Tingey Street SW, Washington DC 20003](#)

Admission is free and open to the public, RSVP here: <http://lasercat.eventbrite.com>



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Capitol Skyline Hotel  
10 I (Eye) Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024

WPA and Forest City present an event unlike anything seen in Washington! The Yards welcomes Laser Cat, a 20-foot tall inflatable cat head that projects lasers and art from its eyes.

Friday evening will feature live DJ's fueling the Laser Cat party, led by Thievery Corporation's Eric Hilton. Saturday evening's party will project images produced by local artists, accompanied by beats from Laser Cat. On Saturday afternoon, Laser Cat will be open from 12 – 2pm for families to experience a mellower side of the inflatable feline.

A heated tent with a beer garden and other program components will be adjacent to the historic industrial building in which Laser Cat will be staged.

## **ABOUT LASER CAT & HUNGRY CASTLE**

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Commissioned by ADC and conceived by Hungry Castle, this interactive installation debuted at the 2014 ADC Festival of Art + Craft in Advertising and Design held in Miami Beach. As its name suggests, Laser Cat is a giant cat head with lasers for eyes that uses high-powered projectors to beam crowd-sourced personal art onto public buildings. Laser Cat curates the art submitted but it's the public that fire it into public space. The viewer controls the content by pressing a giant button to change the art, lasers and music. So far Laser Cat has received over 15,000 personal art submissions.

Based in Barcelona, **Hungry Castle** is the creative studio featuring Dave Glass and Killian Cooper that specialize in creating public art and fashion, which they call Cool Shit. Working collectively since 2011 the goal has always been to make big, playful things of cultural impact and use design thinking in a way that truly engages people. Influenced by Shepard Fairey's prolific use of public space with the "Obey Giant" campaign, the artists combine unique 3-dimensional pieces with large-scale production a la Jeff Koons but with an added interactive ingredient to create a fully immersive experience between audience and art.

## **ABOUT WPA**

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WPA moves art and ideas forward, encouraging excellence, criticality, and innovation. We connect artists and the community, facilitating a deeper understanding of ourselves, the world, and the issues of our time through contemporary art.

Established in 1975 by pioneer Alice Denney as an artist service center, WPA was part of the grassroots movement of "alternative artist spaces." Today, WPA is the largest visual

arts-based membership organization in the DC area and serves as a catalyst for contemporary art. WPA is both an artist service organization, supporting artists at all stages of their careers, and a presenting organization, promoting contemporary art through exhibitions and programs that stimulate public dialogue on art and culture. WPA presents between 60 and 70 free workshops, exhibitions, artist education programs, and contemporary art events annually, serving over 12,000 artists and art appreciators each year.

Major support for WPA comes from its members, Board of Directors, invaluable volunteers, and by generous contributions from numerous individuals and the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Abramson Family Foundation, Asmar, Schor & McKenna PLLC, Susan & Dixon Butler, Peggy Cooper Cafritz, Capitol Skyline Hotel, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Center for Democracy and Technology, The Chesapeake Framing Company, Clark Construction, DC Office of Planning, Design Cuisine, Ditto Residential, Nadine Gabai-Botero & Luis Botero, Raymond Garcia, Carol Brown Goldberg & Henry Goldberg, Graham Holdings Company, Gucci, Hickok Cole Architects, Giselle & Ben Huberman, Intel Corporation, International Association of Privacy Professionals, The JBG Companies, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Yvette Kraft, Maphook, Marshfield Associates, Sophia McCrocklin & Bill Isaacson, Microsoft, National Endowment for the Arts, NoMa Business Improvement District, Bill & Alison Paley, William S. Paley Foundation, Peacock Cafe, ripe, Robert Shields Interiors, Robert Shapiro, Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP, Sigal Construction, Taproot Foundation, Andres Tremols & Michael Reamy, Turner Construction, and Vornado/Charles E. Smith & Gould Property Company.

## **ABOUT THE YARDS**

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The Yards is a major, waterfront urban mixed-use development of Forest City Washington, a subsidiary of the Cleveland-based real estate company Forest City Enterprises, Inc. Forest City's expertise in maximizing underutilized urban sites, adaptive reuse of historic structures, keen eye for sharp architecture, and top quality retail leasing and property management have all come together at The Yards. The Yards gets its rich history—and name—from the neighboring Washington Navy Yard. In the early 19th century, the area now known as The Yards was home to a bustling wharf, sugar refinery and brewery. Today, the Yards is the centerpiece of the Capitol Riverfront neighborhood and includes a growing array of vibrant restaurants, personal services, and specialty retailers. Additional info about The Yards can be found online at [TheYardsDC.com](http://TheYardsDC.com).

Forest City is a nationally-focused real estate development/management firm with residential, office, retail and urban mixed-use projects located in 26 states and the District of Columbia. More info about Forest City can be found online at [ForestCity.net](http://ForestCity.net).

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