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**EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES BROADWAY STAGES PLANS TO  
REDEVELOP ARTHUR KILL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

*Broadway Stages Plans to Invest At Least \$20 Million in Former Correctional Facility to Build Five  
New Sound Stages for Film, TV and Music Video Production*

*Project Would Strengthen New York's Booming Film Industry and Bring Good Paying Jobs and  
New Economic Opportunities to Staten Island*

Empire State Development (ESD) today announced that Broadway Stages, one of New York City's premier full-service film, television and music video production companies, plans to purchase the former Arthur Kill Correctional Facility on Staten Island and invest at least \$20 million to transform the site into a film, television and music production facility. The company plans to construct five new sound stages totaling 100,000 square-feet while aiming to create 800 jobs over the next two years, and as many as 1,500 jobs in the next five years. The project would strengthen New York's position as a leader in the film industry while helping to diversify Staten Island's economy and bring good paying jobs to the area.

"For a long time, New York's economic development strategy included keeping empty prisons open as job factories at the expense of taxpayers, but those days are over," said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams. "In the last three years, the State has closed nine prisons, allowing us to cut taxes, reduce spending and create new economic opportunities in the local communities. Now, we are turning one of those prisons – the Arthur Kill Correctional Facility – into a true job factory, redeveloping the site into a state-of-the-art production studio that will create up to 1,500 jobs for New Yorkers. The Broadway Stages plan is an investment of at least \$20 million that will further grow New York's booming film industry and strengthen our state's position as a top location for entertainment production. As we continue to invest in the industries of the future statewide, I look forward to working with Broadway Stages as they seek to expand their company into the great borough of Staten Island."

In an effort to right size the State's prison system and provide significant savings to New York's taxpayers, Governor Cuomo announced the closure of seven New York State prisons in June 2011, including Arthur Kill CF, which was closed on December 1, 2011.

Last May, ESD issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the acquisition and redevelopment of the former Arthur Kill CF – an approximately 69 acre site with 43 buildings along the waterfront of Staten Island's West Shore. Respondents were invited to submit proposals for reuse and redevelopment of the site in ways that create jobs and stimulate economic activity on the West Shore of Staten Island, while also providing a return to the State. The Broadway Stages plan remains subject to contractual negotiations, ESD Director review, and all public approval requirements.

"Thanks to the support of the Governor and his administration, the film industry is booming and studios like ours are excited about investing and bringing new jobs to New York State," said Gina Argento, President of Broadway Stages. "We are looking forward to expanding on Staten Island and transforming Arthur Kill into a world class production facility."

With over 30 years in the business, Broadway Stages is one of New York's premier film, television and music video production companies. The company currently operates facilities in Brooklyn and Queens, with 27 stages totaling over 1 million square-feet; and has a significant footprint in the New York City television industry as Broadway Stages provided facilities and services to 13 of the 23 pilots that were filmed in New York City in 2012.

Broadway Stages plans to purchase the Arthur Kill site for \$7 million and invest at least an additional \$20 million of private funds within two years after closing to build five new sound stages for film, television and music video productions, as well as make portions of the facility available for film use within six months of closing on the property. The company also plans to work with Local 52 ("IATSE") for new union members and to work with IATSE to promote new apprenticeship programs to Staten Island residents through on-site training programs.

Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci said, "As we have right sized the state's prison system we have also worked closely with Empire State Development, and the Office of General Services, on the marketing of the closed facilities. When a facility is sold it is a win at both the local and statewide level."

In Fiscal Year 2011-12, the Governor's decision to close seven New York State prisons fulfilled his pledge to consolidate the State's correctional facilities based on a declining inmate population and provide significant savings to New York State taxpayers. Approximately 3,844 unneeded and unused beds were eliminated, saving taxpayers \$72 million in 2011-12 and \$112 million in 2012-13.

Since 1999, New York's prison population has declined by 26 percent, from a high of 72,649 offenders incarcerated 14 years ago to approximately 54,000 today. The continuing downward trend of the state's prison population is largely attributed to the simultaneous drop in crime

across the state. Over the past ten years, the overall rate of crime in New York has declined by 15 percent and the number of major crimes (e.g., homicide; assault) has declined by 13 percent.

Senator Andrew Lanza said, "For a long time, I have advocated for a film studio on Staten Island. When the prison site became available, I reached out to Tony Argento and Broadway Stages, and brought him to the site. It was immediately clear that this would be a perfect fit for Staten Island. Assemblyman Cusick and I began lobbying the Governor to make this a reality. Today's announcement by Empire State Development and Broadway Stages will have a huge impact on Staten Island's economy. Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, we have witnessed the revitalization of local economies across the state and now under this plan, our community will see the creation of more than 1,000 jobs and an investment of at least \$20 million over the next few years. This is a big investment that will grow local businesses and allow Staten Island to compete with the rest of the city."

Assemblyman Michael Cusick said, "With this announcement, it is clear that the State's efforts to jumpstart New York's economy and turn around our reputation as a high tax state are paying off. Today is a big example of how we are bringing new, long-term investments and creating good jobs for the people of this state. Broadway Stages' expansion into Staten Island will benefit our residents and local businesses and continue to diversify the borough's economy. I thank Governor Cuomo for his work on behalf of our community."

Staten Island Borough President James Oddo said, "The State's selection of Broadway Stages to redevelop the former Arthur Kill site is truly big news for Staten Island. This is a major investment in our community that will transform the former prison facility and create as many as 1,500 good paying jobs. Reinvesting in properties like this is one of many ways to bolster the economic development of the Island and craft a new perception of our borough. I look forward to continuing to partner with Governor Cuomo and my Staten Island colleagues Senator Lanza and Assemblyman Cusick to do even more great things for our borough. "

John Ford, President, International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 52 said, "The plan announced today by the State and Broadway Stages will transform a former correctional facility into an economic engine for Staten Island and generate new film and television production jobs. Thanks to the support of the State, the film and television industries are booming here in New York with a record number of productions shooting across the state last year. The expansion of Broadway Stages' facilities will attract even more productions, bringing with them new jobs and millions in economic activity."

The film and television production and post-production industries are booming in New York State, injecting billions of dollars into New York's economy and creating and sustaining thousands of jobs for New Yorkers. Since 2004, there have been 949 projects that have participated in the Empire State Film Production Tax Credit Program, which has resulted in over \$14 billion in direct spending across the state and nearly 675,000 hires (jobs). According to the U.S. Bureau of the Labor Statistics, film industry employment in New York State reached 47,404

in 2012, a 28 percent increase over employment of 36,919 for 2008. By comparison, film industry employment in the U.S. during the same period declined by 0.62 percent. Film industry employment in New York State as a percentage of total U.S. film industry employment grew from 16 percent in 2008 to nearly 21 percent in 2012.

Empire State Development (ESD) is New York's chief economic development agency ([www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov)). The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of "I Love NY," the State's iconic tourism brand.

For more information on the Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit [www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov](http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov) and [www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov).

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