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YoHo arts co-op adds studios, gallery

\$500G wing will open in factory

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YONKERS — An artist co-op is hailing its long-awaited expansion inside a downtown former carpet factory.

YoHo Artist Studios is opening its new wing this month, featuring 25 studios and a gallery and community space on the renovated fourth floor of the old Alexander Smith carpet mills on Nepperhan Avenue.

The \$500,000 project took more than three years to complete. Now tenants are beginning to set up shop there, adding to a community of artists already occupying some 50 older studios on the fifth floor.

A ribbon cutting was scheduled for Wednesday and visitors will be able to tour the new wing during YoHo's 10th annual free open-studios event Saturday and Sunday, when artists will open their workspaces to the public and display their work, which ranges from wa-



Members of the YoHo Artist Studios in Yonkers at the arts co-op. They are, from left, standing, artists Lee Romero, Mary Hardiman, Marco Gosar and Alexa Grace, property manager George Huang and building manager Zuki Pjetrovic; sitting, artists Adam Shultz, Megan Orbek and John Wujcik. COLIN GUSTAFSON/THE JOURNAL NEWS

tercolor paintings to bamboo sculptures to mixed-media collages.

Property manager George Huang said the expansion cements YoHo's role as the "largest artist community in a single location within southern Westchester."

His firm, The Heights Real Estate Co., bought the former carpet mill in 2005 and has since invested at least \$1 million in the building.

Huang said the fourth-floor wing was designed, like the fifth floor, to have private studios connected by long hall-

ways to a communal area where artists can gather to bounce ideas off one another or display their work for wine-and-cheese events.

"We wanted to make sure it was somewhat social, so there would be that creative synergy," Huang said.