

AFFORDABLE ARTS SPACE IN PORTLAND

37345

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

	NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE (Optional)	Email (Optional)
2)	✓ Mia O'Connor + ✓ Vanessa Nargiso		deepundergroundpdx@gmail.com
3)	✓ Raja Amirsoorymeny Sophie May Hoch ✓ Van Pham of Portland Institute for contemporary Art		pica@pica.org
	✓ Josh Hecht, Profile Theatre	1515 SW Morrison, PDX 97205	josh@profiletheatre.org
	✓ NATALIE SEPT	3269 NE Going St PDX 97211	natalie@opensignal.pdx
	✓ DONOVAN SMITH		dmsmith106@gmail.com
	✓ Jerry Tischleder		jtischleder@artistsrep.org
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	✓ Don Lucoff	PDX JAZZ	DLucoff@pdxjazz.com
	✓ Erica Thomas	MATTER	erica@worksprogressagency.com
	✓ Kate Mura	7825 SE Market St. PDX 97215	Kate@Katemura.com
	✓ Leroy Bynum	PSU - College of the Arts	lbynumjr@pdx.edu

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✓ Suzanne Gray	3719 SE Market St. 972	Suzanne-ew-gray@gmail.com

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Dan Steffey <jdanielsteffey@jdscobiz.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 1:01 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Arts Plan Testimony
Attachments: Arts Plan Testimony.docx

Good afternoon.

Please accept the attached as testimony for the Item 203 on today's Council Calendar.

J. Daniel Steffey
jdanielsteffey@jdscobiz.com
C: 503.309.7643

"What we have before us are breathtaking opportunities, disguised as insoluble problems." – John Gardner



Date: February 28, 2018

To: Portland City Council

From: J. Daniel Steffey

Re: A Plan for Preserving and Expanding Affordable Arts Space in Portland

I am unable to be present at the above-referenced matter, and appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony.

I represent two organizations with an interest in art, affordable housing and asset-based community development. Community Development Partners (CDP) is a mission-driven developer that is working together with EngAGE Northwest to bring arts spaces and arts-based programming to affordable housing developments. On behalf of both please accept our enthusiastic support for your efforts. Compliments are due to Commissioner Nick Fish for initiating the effort and to both Commissioner Chloe Eudaly and Mayor Ted Wheeler for their help shepherding the work to this point. With full Council support, which I am hopeful will come today via acceptance of the report, Portland will be better able to build on the efforts of many in our community positioned to increase the vitality of its creative economy.

Late last year CDP acquired the former Mallory Avenue Baptist Church, now renamed Alberta Abbey. Located at NE Mallory and Alberta, Alberta Abbey is a performance and event center leading a rejuvenation of the arts in Northeast Portland. In addition to hosting events, the Abbey also provides office and studio space to creative organizations. EngAGE has stepped in to lead the work of fully activating the space. The CDP/EngAGE collaboration extends beyond Alberta Abbey to a visionary project known as *Alberta Alive!* that seeks to create over 150 units of affordable housing to individuals and families that, through neighborhood gentrification, have been displaced or who are at risk of displacement. Alberta Abbey will serve as a hub, with services and events spilling out into the community to create places and curated events that connect people. With a 400-seat auditorium, ballroom, office and gallery space the Alberta Abbey expects to become a valuable resource to the N/NE community.

Next month CDP will acquire the Mile Post 5 property and is again looking to EngAGE to build on the work done by Brad Malsin and Ted Gilbert to provide very affordable housing and gallery space to artists of all stripes. The plan is to further rehabilitate the historic German Baptist Retirement Home and bring robust programming that will encourage greater interaction with the Montavilla neighborhood. Currently there are over 100 artists living and working at MP5; the waiting list for the property normally exceeds 100, demonstrating the high demand for affordable space for creatives.

In addition, CDP and EngAGE are collaborating to deliver high-quality arts-based programming to residents of a 103-unit affordable housing community, Cascadian Terrace, in North Portland. With a plan to fully rehabilitate the CDP-owned property during 2018, CDP has brought in the Center for Public Interest Design and the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, working with EngAGE to integrate residents into the planning for the renovation of the property as a community-building initiative. Significant research has demonstrated the efficacy of involvement with the arts as a contributor to improved health outcomes. The 20-year success of EngAGE has demonstrated that quality programming, particularly centered on the arts, is a way to get residents more active and lessen the deleterious health effects of isolation.

As collaborators in work that is consistent with the goals Plan for Preserving and Expanding Affordable Arts Space in Portland, CDP and EngAGE is available to help advance the work cited in the plan. We are particularly excited by the Arts Concierge concept and know, from substantial experience in the development of affordable housing, that having a knowledgeable, outcome-oriented individual to help overcome obstacles be of great benefit for those of us that seek to enable Portland to grow ways to expand on the great creative climate of our community.

We encourage adoption of the Plan for Preserving and Expanding Affordable Arts Space In Portland and stand ready to offer whatever assistance might be helpful.

J. Daniel Steffey
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"What we have before us are breathtaking opportunities, disguised as insoluble problems." – John Gardner

From: Christine D'Arcy <darcychris777@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 12:20 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: Blake Shell; Dunphy, Jamie; Commissioner Fish
Subject: Disjecta: letter of support: Arts & Affordable Spaces report
Attachments: Disjecta City of Portland arts affordability ltr 2-21-18.pdf

Greetings:

Attached is a letter from Disjecta Contemporary Art Center in support of the recommendations in the plan/report for affordable arts spaces issued by Commissioners Fish and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler.

We look forward to your full discussion on February 28.

Sincerely,
Christine D'Arcy
Board Chair, Disjecta Contemporary Art Center

Christine D'Arcy
503/510-3633
darcychris777@gmail.com



February 21, 2018

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioners Chloe Eudaly and Nick Fish
City of Portland
1221 SW Fourth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97205

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Eudaly and Fish,

Disjecta Contemporary Art Center is pleased to comment on your proposed plans for Preserving Affordable Arts Space in Portland. We agree wholeheartedly that the City should consider and adopt policies that provide incentives for new development, the adaptive re-use of historic properties, and the use of under-utilized city spaces for arts and creative ventures. Thank you for your leadership on these issues and for "setting the table" with opportunities to attract private and philanthropic investment.

Disjecta is known for its innovative and risk-taking programs. Its Curator in Residence (CiR) program is unique in the region for its platform of support for emerging young curators who mount seasons of new and site-based works. The Portland Biennial has showcased the work of Oregon artists in venues ranging from inner city billboards to historic theatres in Eastern Oregon to vacant retail spaces in The Dalles and Clatskanie. Our current Curator in Residence season has sited work at C3 Initiative in St. John's and Killjoy Collective in Southeast. In 2014, Disjecta repurposed space within our building to house the nonprofit shared laboratory for new choreography and dance, Flock.

We support the recommendation to create an inventory of creative spaces within the city and make that information publicly available. That would help us as we look for venues beyond our 12,000 square foot site in Kenton and help the artists who run and manage those nontraditional spaces become more aware of each other.

We also support plans to address building codes and other issues for intentionally built spaces where artists can live and work in the same building. We moved our operations to the Kenton neighborhood in 2008. That area, once a company town for the Smith Meatpacking Company, has seen rapid gentrification with the completion of TriMet's Yellow Line and subsequent development along Interstate Avenue. Portland will lose its population of artists without making purposeful decisions to provide for integrated artist housing and studio space.

Portland's 2% for Art program has made Portland a national and international leader for public art – and the program (along with the State of Oregon and Seattle, 4Culture and State of Washington programs) supports a cohort of public artists in the Pacific Northwest who work around the world. We agree there is opportunity to site works more robustly across the city – in underserved neighborhoods, parks and other open spaces. We also support more temporary and/or seasonal installations which can be an anchor of seasonal tourism marketing efforts.

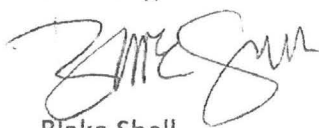
We fully support the proposal to consider artists and creative businesses (operating gallery space, studios, or performance space) for unrented space in affordable housing developments. There are many affordable housing nonprofits who could be strong potential partners for this effort.

Because Disjecta operates with a long term lease in a building owned by an out of state landlord, we are very sensitive to the pressures of Portland's real estate and development environment. We know that the CAST (Community Arts Stabilization Trust) in San Francisco is a model that has been effective in helping arts nonprofits lease to own their own space. This could be a game changer for small and medium arts groups whose facilities are located outside the downtown cultural district and which contribute so much to neighborhood vitality.

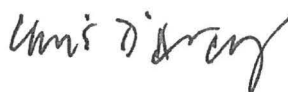
Thank you for examining so many do-able options to make Portland a better place for artists and the arts.

Disjecta, an incubator for creative expression and a catalyst for collaborations that expose the transformational power of art, looks forward to continued conversations with you about them.

Sincerely,



Blake Shell
Executive Director
blake@disjecta.org



Christine D'Arcy
Board Chair
darcychris777@gmail.com