

May 14, 2021

Dear Town Meeting Members,

We the undersigned support the inclusion of artist live-work spaces as part of any amendment to the Zoning Bylaw governing permitted uses of Industrial Zone Districts in the Town of Arlington. The proposed zoning amendments included in Warrant Article 35 that is before Town Meeting allows for the thoughtful and intentional creation of live/work spaces allocated specifically for artists and makers who will diversify, enrich and enhance Arlington's creative economy for the benefit of all Town residents.

The proposed amendments reflect the clear goal for adjusting policy conditions—including zoning—and administrative procedures to help the arts and culture sector thrive as stated in the Arlington Arts and Culture Action Plan which recommends the following:

- review zoning pertaining to commercial and mixed-use zoning districts
- broaden definitions for arts and cultural uses
- allow the conversion of garages
- permit uses for home offices to ensure artist workspace, artistic/creative production and manufacturing, and artist live/work spaces throughout town.

The zoning recommendation in Article 35 limits the residential component in the industrial zones to artists' mixed use, which is described in detail below:

Artists' Mixed-Use

- Any portion of a building devoted to such use shall be subject to the following conditions:
- Occupied by persons certified as artists pursuant to the Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture (ACAC) Artist Certification Process
- Designed in accordance with ACAC standards and guidelines for artists' mixed-use space, and
- Subject to an agreement for artists' housing as part of the conditions of a special permit granted by the Redevelopment Board or Board of Appeals, as applicable

In short, the residential uses in industrial zones would be strictly limited to artists and carefully reviewed. Any residential artists' mixed use in an industrial zone would be an accessory to the primary industrial use.

The Town of Arlington embraces the importance of artists, cultural expression, arts-related businesses and cultural institutions to the Town's vitality. In recognition of arts and culture's importance to Arlington's identity, the Town has articulated the following vision and principles:

- Inclusion: Advancing social equity and social cohesion through supporting arts and cultural experiences that reflect Arlington's changing community character and cultural diversity.

- Innovation: Stimulating innovative thinking, approaches, and solutions to challenging civic issues and improving civic infrastructure design by fostering collaborations with the arts and cultural sector.
- Accountability: Developing strong systems of accountability and fostering a culture of collaboration among the arts and cultural sector and other sectors to steward sustainable plan implementation.
- Commitment: Maintaining a core belief in arts and cultural opportunities and experiences as essential to the civic vitality and livability of Arlington and engaging partners in maintaining a commitment to plan implementation.

Support for artist live-work spaces in our evolving industrial zones is a tangible articulation of these core principles and vision. With so few areas in Arlington left for development, the zoning by-laws for industrial zones should and can reflect and support our cultural goals while encouraging re-development projects that will expand our commercial tax base.

Sincerely

Thomas Davison, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture
 Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture
 Stephen Poltorzycki, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture
 Stewart Ikeda, Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture
 Lidia Kenig-Scher, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture and ArtLinks Arlington Co-founder
 Tom Formicola, Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture and Arlington Center for the Arts
 Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Commissioner, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture
 Debby Lewis, member ArtLinks Arlington, Arlington Center for the Arts
 Judith Berman, steering Committee member of ArtLinks, board member of Arlington Center for the Arts
 Robin L Bergman, Independent artist, small arts business owner and member of Art Links Arlington
 Scott Samenfeld, Member of ACAC Grants Committee (Local Cultural Council), Sustainable Arlington, musician and producer
 Janice Hayes-Cha professional artist member ArtLinks
 Deborah Page - Pagecreatives and Member ArtLinks Arlington
 Cathy Garnett - Independent Visual Artist and Board Member Arlington Center for the Arts
 Christine Noah, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture
 Nick Castellano, ACAC Grants Committee
 Adria Arch, Artist and ACAC Commissioner
 Jeff Robinson, Arlington Musician
 Karen McCarthy, Independent artist and member of ArtLinks Arlington
 Sarah Morgan-Wu, Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture & Local Business Owner, Arlington
 Aneleise Ruggles, Arlington Artist and Communications Director, Arlington Center for the Arts
 David Covert, Arlington Artist
 Jessie Brown, Arlington artist, teacher, member ArtLinks Arlington
 Cat Beaudoin, Arlington Center for the Arts, Artist, Art Educator

William Turville, independent artist and architect, formerly at 1165 Mass. Ave for over 15 years,
ArtLinks member, and ACA member/part-time camp teacher
Michael Mahin, Student Services Manager, Arlington Center for the Arts
Jacky Pullman, artist, member of ACA, retired teacher