

## **Arts Policy**

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Generated ideas for the Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture, Spring-Fall, 2019

*Took part in a focus group for visual and multidisciplinary artists, to inform the "Artist Live-Work Guidelines" for the City of Boston, in the Spring of 2019. Below is a sampling of suggestions that I contributed from Spring to Fall, 2019.*

### **New Construction for Artists:**

1. Have new artist buildings developed in all neighborhoods in the city and not just one neighborhood (New Market) or just in industrial areas. Artists should be welcome and contributing to ALL neighborhoods.
2. Change zoning to allow for small houses in the city of Boston for both art space and living space.
3. Have Boston city land that is non buildable available for artists to use as outdoor art studios, or to allow artists to build studios with a zoning variance.
4. Allow for artist studios in tree houses on specially designated parkland or city land!

### **Adding Artist Workspace into Current Housing Stock:**

1. Change zoning to allow some commercial space in apartment buildings, individual homes, and in the basements of triple-deckers. This would benefit small business owners and artists.
2. Allow artist workspace in mixed income housing, and subsidized housing by awarding a household an extra room with a door, for an art studio. This could be in their living space or in an additional space in the building (using a studio apartment or a commercial space).

### **Supporting Community Suggestions:**

1. The city could offer individual artist studios in city spaces like libraries and community centers. An artist in residence program could be part of that structure.
2. Allow for churches to have artist workspace in their buildings or allow a tiny house art studio on a church parking lot. This could bring in some income to churches, and help artists afford workspace.

## **Live/Work space:**

*Commercial buildings could be zoned to allow for small live spaces.*

1. On Huntington Ave there are several storefronts with either commercial space or living space above. The street is designated as the “Avenue of the Arts” as a theater, art schools, museums, a symphony, and music colleges, are on the street. Zoning could change slightly to make it possible for storefronts to allow for small live spaces. This could be positive for artists who would like their workspaces to also be galleries and living spaces. Because people already go the area for the arts it is a logical location. This area would have decent foot traffic as it is already zoned for commercial and residential uses. This approach could happen in other neighborhoods as well. that would be interested, but this is a location that could test the idea easily.

The one concern is that the rent at that location might be too high to make it viable, so it might work more easily on the end of Huntington Ave that is closer to Brookline.

2. The Hynes Convention Center which is also near the Avenue of Arts would also be another viable location which would allow for artist housing, artist storefronts, a movie theater, sculpture studios, a recording studio, and performance space.

### Hynes Convention Center Proposal

## **Benefits include:**

- Live/Work storefronts would make it easier for small businesses and artists to invest in their careers. This would be because two bills for a live space and workspace could be reduced to one smaller bill for a live/workspace.
- This would open more living space in the city which is seriously needed.
- Landlords would have a larger pool of potential tenants.
- Live/work storefronts would allow residents to travel less as more of their stopping could be local. Also, storefront owners would not need to travel from work to home. Cutting down on transportation would help reduce air pollution in the city.

## **How these ideas could be implemented:**

### Zoning Changes to Benefit Artists and Small Business Owners

## **Reference from Austin Texas:**

### Model Live/Work Ordinance

### **Suggestions for The City of Boston “Percent for Art” Funding:**

The Boston Arts’ Academy building has a “Percent for Art” project that was open to all artists around the world. Moving forward it would be great if “Percent for Art” money went to people:

- who live in Boston including:
  - artists without homes
  - undocumented artists
  - artists who were not born in Boston
  - any artist who lives here now (not a time limit on how long they have lived here)
  - immigrant artists
- Recent residents who were displaced because of the high cost of living

This proposal for the city of Boston, could be expanded to include city non-profits as well. If Non-profits purchased art by local artists, it could be part of their community benefits (through the PILOT program).

### **Benefits include:**

- more resources to artists who live in Boston without any additional costs.