

Supporting Artists in Boston

I am working on creating a list of ideas on how to support artists in Boston.

For affordable housing (including for artists) here is a link to some possible directions:

http://lijgraf.com/City_Proposals/AffordableHousing.pdf

Removing Show fees for Artists

Several galleries charge a fee when an artist applies to show in a gallery or is applying for membership in a gallery. I do not think this is a fair way for a gallery to gain income, but the reason for it I understand. Those fees often are a great help in adding income to a gallery- and galleries tend to have big fluctuations in sales so that additional can often keep a gallery running. The city budget has funding for the arts. I was thinking that a good use for some of that budget would be to give galleries a stipend that would be for a year's time, and it would be given if the gallery agreed to not charge fees to artists for that year, and possibly not charge application fees as well. I would start with artist run cooperatives. If this was successful I would recommend enlarging the scope.

I applied for a grant at the Awesome Foundation to do a pilot of this idea.

<https://www.awesomefoundation.org/> Fingers crossed that the pilot will be funded.

Helping with Health Insurance

Many fine artists get out of art school and switch from working part time to full time. This is largely so that they can get health insurance. Yet the longer that an artist can at least create their work at least 20 hours a week, the more likely they will keep creating and have a chance to make some income from that work. I need to learn more about the health insurance options for artists in Massachusetts. (Please email links, etc where I can research this more) But one idea to start with is for some of the city arts budget to go to supplementing the costs for health insurance. This is a big road block for a lot of artists to have the time they need to create.

Art Rentals

In buildings throughout the city, and in city government offices it would be great to have rental fees for artists to show works.

One possible idea would be for each elected official in the state to rent one painting a year for say \$1,000 from an individual artist. The artwork could hang in the politician's office. This could help a lot of artists, and also share culture with a lot of citizens.

This is just a start. Please send suggestions and feedback.

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