

**MAYOR'S OFFICE**  
*of Arts & Culture*

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*FY27 City Council Budget Hearing - April 30 2026*

PAUL AND CATHERINE BUTTENWIEGER GALLERY



Arts & Culture plays a critical economic  
and social role in Boston and will  
continue to into the future

- The creative workforce as a whole has grown by 5.2% since 2021 and is projected to grow by another 12% over the next decade
- Creative industries support the employment of 70,000 workers in Boston;
  - 35,905 are jobs that are directly related to the creative industry
  - 34,095 are indirect or induced jobs due to the creative industry
- Creative industries also contribute about \$15 billion in GDP to Boston's economy
- Boston's creative economy workforce provides approx. \$0.49 billion in state income taxes to the Massachusetts economy

According to survey data conducted by the City of Boston's research team, suggest that 1 in 4 working age Bostonians earn income through the arts, culture & the creative economy. (This data is available in ZenCity).

- When surveyed in Q3 2025 (sample 1500):
  - 18.6% of Bostonian's said that the Creative Economy was their primary source of income, with another 9% saying it was their secondary source.
- When surveyed in Q1 2026 (sample 1500):
  - 18% of Bostonian's said that the Creative Economy was their Primary source of income, with another 7.5% saying it was their secondary source.

However, the space needs of the creative economy hasn't kept up with the growth of the sector.

Addressing this through strategic cultural planning and policy work will be a significant priority for MOAC this Mayoral term.

Through a mission-led approach\*, we will hardwire arts, culture, and the creative economy into the future of Boston to deliver culture as an essential city service.

\*A mission-led approach to government sets clear public priorities and aligns policy, investment, and delivery across systems to achieve shared, measurable outcomes.

**GROW AND  
RETAIN  
BOSTON'S  
CREATIVE  
WORKFORCE**

**MAKE SPACE FOR  
THE CREATIVE  
ECONOMY  
TO STRENGTHEN  
BOSTON'S GLOBAL  
RELEVANCE**

**EXPAND EQUITABLE  
PARTICIPATION  
IN CULTURAL LIFE**

*MISSION 02*

Build Pathways into Creative Careers

**GROW AND RETAIN  
BOSTON'S CREATIVE WORKFORCE**

Make Boston More Affordable for its Creatives & Cultural Workers

ONE PAYCHECK  
AWAY FROM  
BEING  
HOMELESS. \$

HOMELESSNESS  
IS  
GENERATIONAL.

WE ARE PEOPLE  
WITHOUT  
HOMES.

YOU ARE CLOSER  
TO BEING  
HOMELESS  
THAN YOU THINK.

THEY GOT  
MONEY FOR  
WARS  
BUT CAN'T  
HOUSE THE  
POOR.







ANOTHER  
EVEN LIFE  
IS

EXIT

NAME TAG

NAME TAG

NAME TAG

NAME TAG



*MISSION 01*

Support Cultural Infrastructure (Production & Consumption)

**MAKE SPACE FOR THE CREATIVE ECONOMY  
TO STRENGTHEN BOSTON'S GLOBAL RELEVANCE**

Position Boston as a Global Creative City







**PRAISE  
SHADOWS**  
ART GALLERY

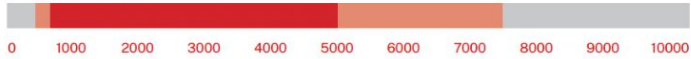




# Multipurpose Art Studio

Multipurpose art studios are designed to accommodate a range of creative production types for different periods of time. A successful multipurpose studio hinges on the space being flexible enough to accommodate changes in use and requirements as needed, equipped with standard components for maintenance and occupancy. These spaces can range from being smaller individual units to larger shared or specialized studios, with open-span spaces suiting a range of fit-outs and occupancy types.

## Dimensional Range (sf)



## Ceiling Height (ft)



## Natural Light



## Column Limitations?

Yes  No

Clear span spaces preferred, depending on size of studio

## Direct Street Access Needed?

Yes  No

Helpful for loading large items, unnecessary per studio space

## Occupancy

0  >100

Typically one means of egress, unlikely to exceed 25 people

## Structural Capacity Requirements?

Yes  No

Typical general uses do not require additional capacity.

## Special Ventilation Requirements?

Yes  No

Unless required by equipment specified for space

## Audience

Private  Public

Typically for private use, occasionally open to public

## Acoustic and Vibration Considerations?

Yes  No

No specific requirements

## Upgraded Power Requirements?

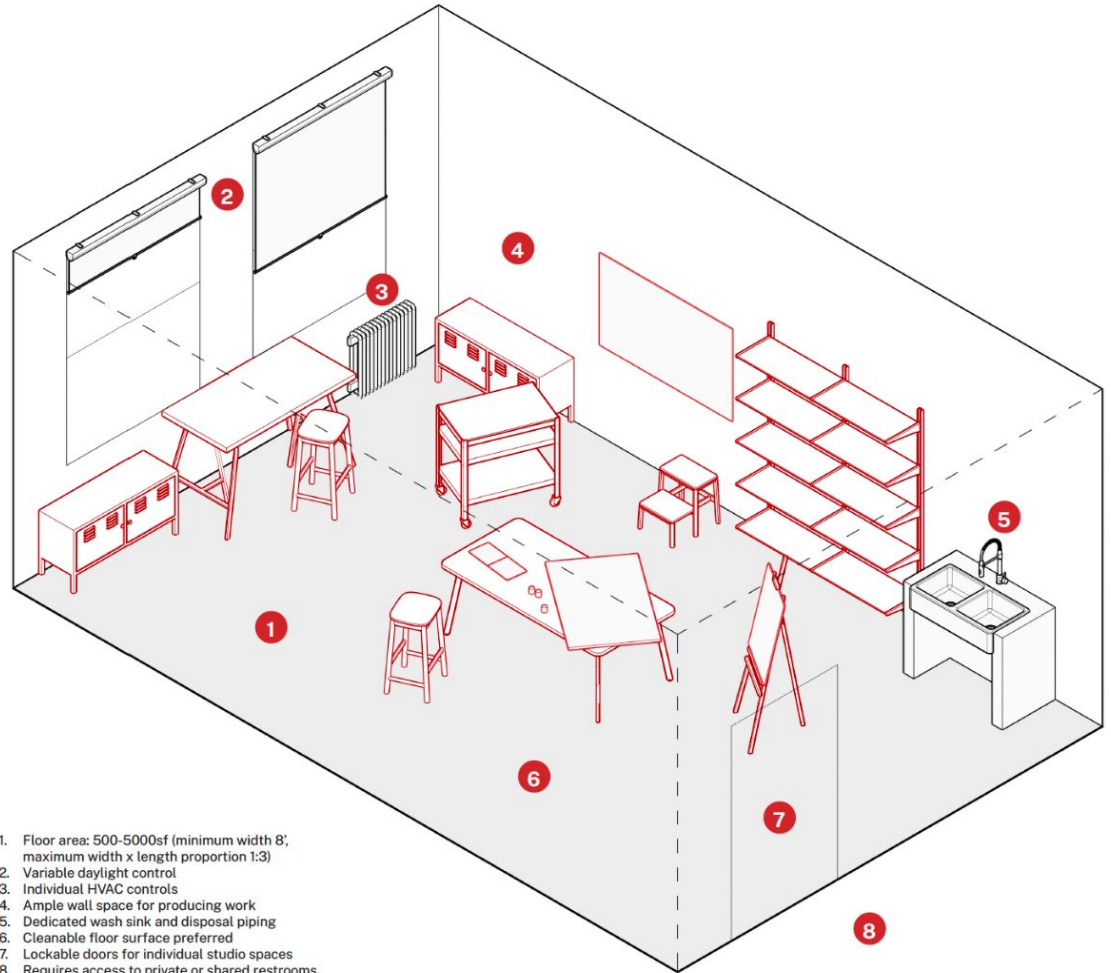
Yes  No

3-phase power and/or higher amperage electrical panels

## Position in Building



Window access good; ground floor possible but not ideal

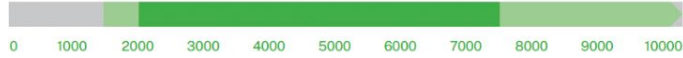


1. Floor area: 500-5000sf (minimum width 8', maximum width x length proportion 1:3)
2. Variable daylight control
3. Individual HVAC controls
4. Ample wall space for producing work
5. Dedicated wash sink and disposal piping
6. Cleanable floor surface preferred
7. Lockable doors for individual studio spaces
8. Requires access to private or shared restrooms

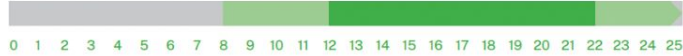
# Set-Making and Prop-Production Space

Set-making and prop-production spaces are used to support a range of creative outputs across different fields. They span a broad range of scales and uses, but generally require a large enough space to flexibly construct objects and sets. These spaces will typically require specialized fabrication equipment, including rigs or loading equipment, ample storage and surface working spaces, and easy access to transport materials in and out. Depending on the scope of the space, work will be fairly messy, loud, and industrial in nature, requiring easy clean-up.

## Dimensional Range (sf)



## Ceiling Height (ft)



## Natural Light



## Column Spacing Limitations?

Yes  No

Production spaces require large clear span areas

## Direct Street Access Needed?

Yes  No

Space benefits from easy access for loading and transport

## Occupancy

0  >100

Typically one means of egress, may possibly exceed 49 people

## Additional Structural Capacity Requirements?

Yes  No

Production will likely involve large-scale heavy objects

## Special Ventilation Requirements?

Yes  No

Additional ventilation likely required for equipment

## Audience

Private  Public

Almost exclusively for use by artist(s), rarely public

## Sensitive to Acoustic and Vibrations?

Yes  No

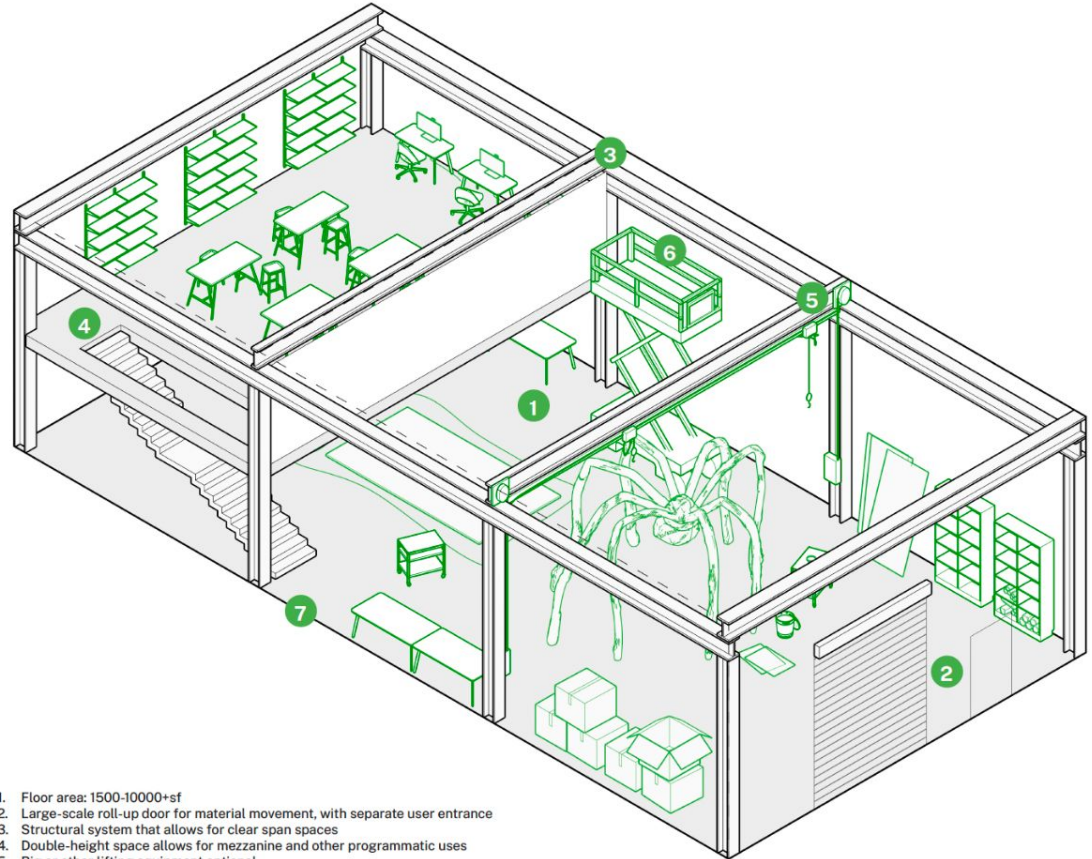
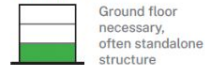
Equipment provisions needed

## Upgraded Power Requirements?

Yes  No

3-phase power for flexible use

## Position in Building



1. Floor area: 1500-10000+sf
2. Large-scale roll-up door for material movement, with separate user entrance
3. Structural system that allows for clear span spaces
4. Double-height space allows for mezzanine and other programmatic uses
5. Rig or other lifting equipment optional
6. Space should accommodate scissor lifts and other specialized equipment
7. Floor designed to be easily washed down and drained between projects



# Arts And Culture At The Forefront Of Boston's Vision For The Future

Boston became only the sixth U.S. city—alongside New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, and Austin, TX—to join the World Cities Culture Forum when it was invited earlier in 2025.

By [Chadd Scott](#), Contributor. © Chadd Scott covers the intersection of art and travel.



“The chief of arts gets to sit at the cabinet table. I get to sit around the Planning Advisory Council,” Henry said. “We can see things as they're being developed and talk about it early rather than waiting until the end. You're involved in baking the cake, not only decorating the cake.”

Arts and culture as essential, as central to the success, vibrancy, and quality of life in Boston. In any city. As central as affordable housing, public transportation, public education, clean air and water, public safety—and arts and culture as important tools toward addressing those challenges. Arts and culture at the forefront of equitable, sustainable, and prosperous cities.



*MISSION 03*

Enable Everyone to Shape Cultural Life

**EXPAND EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION  
IN CULTURAL LIFE**

Advance Culture for the Common Good





TOGETHER IN SERVICE

Glasgow  
Manchester  
London  
Birmingham  
Bristol  
Toronto  
Edinburgh  
East Midlands  
Los Angeles  
Mexico City  
London  
Sydney  
Melbourne  
Buenos Aires  
Santiago  
Rio de Janeiro



**FREE**

# classified ads

Classified ads are **FREE** (private parties only) in the Community News. Business classifieds: 6 cents a word, \$1.50 minimum. To place a

classified ad, write East Boston Community News, 303 Meridian Street, East Boston 02128 or call 567-9351.

## For Sale

78 CUPBOARD SUPPLIES

80 wood 8000 sq. ft.

807-8101. Ask for Bob

1075 IN THE CITY 1/2

Block 1000 \$1700 1000

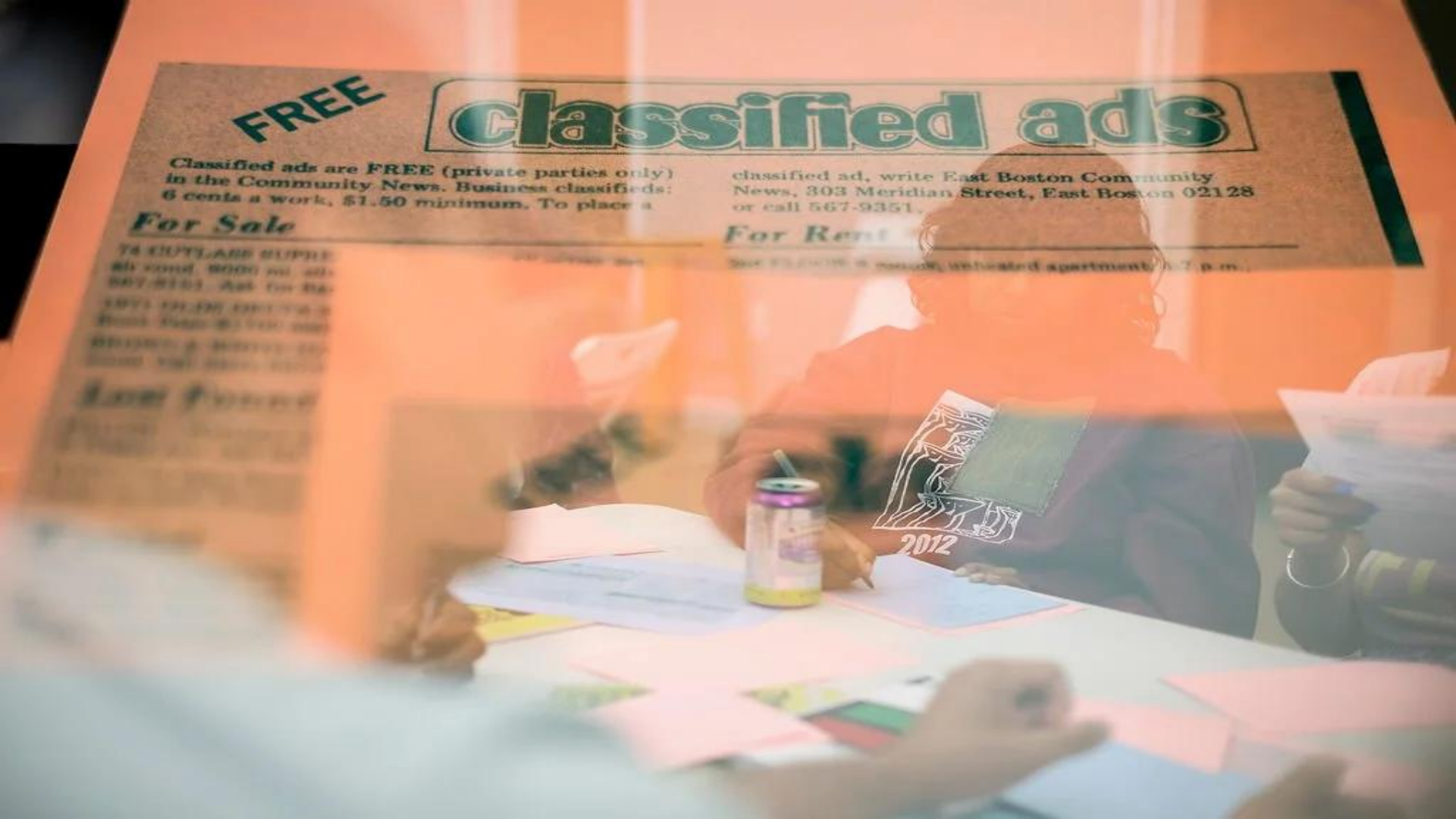
BRIDGE & BOSTON 10

1000 1000 1000 1000

## Lost Found

## For Rent

See 73-1075 8 room, heated apartment 7 p.m.







**FY27 GOALS INCLUDE**

- Supporting cross departmental efforts demonstrating our value in delivering common good through place-based work in Nubian Square, Downtown Crossing and policy areas such as public safety, economic development, climate action, and public health.
- Positioning Boston as a global creative city through work with the World Cities Cultural Forum.
- Building on the work of PLAN: Downtown to embed more Arts & Culture into city zoning with MOAC developing technical guidance to support implementation.
- Expanding the Percent for Arts program to deliver world-class artworks that embeds local supply chain, production, and fabrication clauses in contracts to ensure spending has tangible inclusive economic impacts.
- Ensuring the 290 North Beacon Program continues to move forward through pre-development while exploring the potential to deliver a meanwhile cultural space ahead of the long term project outcome.
- Evolving Boston Family Days to provide more learning and educational opportunities for young people in collaboration with our institution and organizational partners.

