

Offered by City Councilors Anissa Essaibi-George, Matt O'Malley & Kim Janey



**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING IMPROVING  
ACCESS TO WORKSPACE AND LIVE-WORK SPACES  
FOR ARTISTS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

**WHEREAS:** In 2018, a number of artists were displaced from affordable workspaces and from affordable live-work spaces; and

**WHEREAS:** According to the Boston Planning and Development Agency's 2017 'Boston's Creative Economy: An Update' report, Boston's Creative Economy totals 36,254 workers; and

**WHEREAS:** Our local artist community serves as an intrinsic and productive part in our neighborhoods, the Boston arts community, and the local economy; and

**WHEREAS:** It is estimated that creative economy occupations will expand by 7.2% over the next decade, adding roughly 1,800 jobs; and,

**WHEREAS:** According to the 2016 Boston Creates Executive Summary, the need for affordable spaces for people to work, gather, create, collaborate, and participate in arts and culture is complex and widespread; and

**WHEREAS:** Artists require more affordable work space options in the city; and

**WHEREAS:** The City provides a structure for artist live/work space to serve as a recognized community benefit for new development projects, but does not have a similar structure in place for artist work space that can be rented at an affordable rate; and

**WHEREAS:** We envision a Creative Boston that demonstrates, in concrete ways, how it values artists by enabling them to create and showcase their work, grow and develop throughout their careers, and receive the support they need to flourish in Boston; and

**WHEREAS:** As a city that is committed to being a cultural hub, we need to take a stand against the displacement of artists and improve their access to affordable workspaces; **THEREFORE, BE IT**

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to determine strategies for creating more affordable work space for artists. Interested parties should be invited to participate such as the Office of Arts and Culture, Boston Arts Commission, Boston Planning and Development Agency, artists who have experienced displacement or are interested in work space, and nonprofit arts and culture partners.

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