

CREATIVE SPACE PRESERVATION ACT

An Act to preserve space for the creative economy

Sponsored by Sen. Liz Miranda and Rep. Dan Cahill

LANDSCAPE

Throughout Massachusetts, we are experiencing an unsettling trend of artists and creatives losing their creative and rehearsal spaces to higher rents and developer acquisition. In the last five to seven years, at least 300 artists and creative workers in the City of Boston have been impacted by the loss of 100,000 square feet of cultural production space, including studios, rehearsal space, live music venues, gathering spaces and specialized retail venues. But this isn't just a Boston or regional issue and without urgent intervention, the loss of access to affordable creative spaces will mean that artists, creative workers, and artisans will be forced to relocate. This would be devastating to the vibrant creativity in downtowns and main streets across the Commonwealth. Now is the time to disrupt further loss of creative spaces and ensure that creative workers remain in our communities.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE SPACE PRESERVATION ACT

Using successful conservation land and affordable housing preservation law as its model, the Creative Space Preservation Act would create a defined property restriction for creative maker space and performance or exhibition space. It would also allow cities and towns to establish trust funds to hold assets and property for the creation and preservation of creative spaces, giving them more tools to keep artists in place.

THE CREATIVE SPACE PRESERVATION ACT:

- Adds “creative space restriction” as a defined land restriction category in the Massachusetts General Laws. It defines “creative space” as space where the primary use is the creation and practice of art, culture and creative expression and the primary users are artists, creative workers or artisans in the fine, applied or popular arts.
- Defines “presentation space” as space where the primary use is showcasing, presentation and exhibition of art, culture and creative expression by artists, creative workers, artisans, and community members in the fine, applied or popular arts.
- Allows cities and towns to establish a Municipal Creative Space Trust Fund for the creation and preservation of creative space and presentation space in municipalities.
- Establishes a 5-person board of trustees responsible for, but not limited to, accepting and receiving property and funds; purchasing and retaining property; selling, leasing, exchanging or transferring property; executing and delivering deeds and other instruments for purposes of the trust; employing advisors and agents; participating in any reorganization; managing or improving property.
- All designated funds would go directly into the trust.

H.3241/S.530

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WANT TO SHARE YOUR SUPPORT?

- Contact your state representative and state senator and ask them to co-sponsor H.3241/S.530. You can find your elected officials at <https://www.mass-creative.org/learn/electedlookup>.
- You can also send your elected officials a message encouraging them to co-sponsor MASSCreative's entire 2023-2024 policy agenda by visiting our website at <https://www.mcan-ma.org/take-action/legislativeagenda> or using the QR code.
- Contact MASSCreative at info@mass-creative.org with any questions about the legislation, to sign up your organization to endorse, and to join our coalition!



ENDORSEMENTS



LEARN MORE

Boston, Cambridge and Somerville Launch Regional Effort to Protect and Plan for Arts Spaces: <https://www.mapc.org/news/boston-cambridge-somerville-launch-effort-to-protect-plan-arts-spaces/>

Long pushed out when neighborhoods change, artists are fighting back, and getting help:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/08/05/arts/long-pushed-out-when-neighborhoods-change-artists-are-fighting-back-getting-help/>

At public hearing, artists demand more rehearsal space in Boston:

<https://www.wbur.org/news/2023/03/08/boston-city-council-hearing-rehearsal-space-loss>