

From: [Michael Blecker](#)
To: [DPH-mblecker](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#); [Angulo, Sunny \(BOS\)](#); [Smeallie, Kyle \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Tramecia Garner](#)
Subject: Thank You for Your Support
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:16:55 AM

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Dear Chair Melgar, Vice Chair Preston, and President Peskin,

On behalf of Swords to Plowshares, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your efforts in shepherding the legislation, easing the regulatory barriers faced by community organizations like ours in expanding operations within the South of Market area, through the Board. We are delighted to learn of its successful passage and wanted to express our sincere appreciation for your support.

Once again, thank you for your invaluable contributions, and please be assured of our full support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Michael Blecker Becker

ED, Swords to Plowshares



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From: [Maria Jenson](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#); [Angulo, Sunny \(BOS\)](#); [Smeallie, Kyle \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Support for land use committee item #9 – file 230863
Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 7:39:20 AM

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Dear Chair Melgar, Vice Chair Preston, and President Peskin,

SOMArts Cultural Center writes to support Supervisor Dorsey’s legislation, file 230863 - Exceptions from Limits on Conversion of Production, Distribution and Repair, Institutional Community, and Arts Activities Uses in Eastern Neighborhood Plans Areas.

SOMArts leverages the power of art as a tool for social change through multi-disciplinary events and exhibitions. Equipping artists with the space, mentorship and support they need to shift perspectives and innovate solutions, SOMArts fosters access to arts and culture for collective liberation and self-determination.

SOMArts is located in an area subject to section 202.8, and we have seen its unintended consequences. The conditional use authorization and PDR replacement requirements are a significant deterrent for arts organizations, non-profits, and other institutional uses looking to locate in the South of Market. Our neighborhood is at a competitive disadvantage compared to neighborhoods that don’t have the onerous CU and PDR replacement requirements. These constraints lead to vacancies, and these vacancies contribute to neighborhood blight and encourage graffiti.

Our community is enriched by mixed uses such as arts organizations, non-profits, social services, and childcare. Supervisor Dorsey’s legislation will make it easier to attract and retain those organizations for our growing residential population (fact check that it’s growing?). These modest but necessary changes are a step in the right direction for our neighborhood as we recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

We fully support this legislation and look forward to seeing its positive effects.

All the best,
Maria

Maria Jenson

Creative & Executive Director
SOMArts Cultural Center
Getty Leadership Institute Fellow
(415) 863-1414 x113

Pronouns: she/her/starchild

A guest on traditional, unceded Ramaytush Ohlone land.

[What's happening at SOMArts NOW?](#)

[SOMArts in the news!](#)

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Dear Chair Melgar, Vice Chair Preston, and President Peskin,

I am writing on behalf of the SOMA West Community Benefit District to express our enthusiastic support for Supervisor Dorsey's proposed changes to Proposition X. These changes aim to address the issue of vacant buildings in the South of Market (SOMA) area, which negatively impacts our neighborhood's vitality and safety perceptions.

Over the past decade, essential Production, Distribution, and Repair (PDR), arts, and community spaces have gradually disappeared in SOMA and neighboring districts. The demand for office spaces overshadowed these vital areas. Proposition X introduced strict rules and requirements for new occupants, inadvertently discouraging potential tenants due to replacement conditions and complex authorizations.

Supervisor Dorsey's proposed legislation offers a remedy by easing replacement and authorization requirements for arts activities, non-profit community spaces, and crucial services like childcare and job training. This change aims to improve SOMA's appeal without altering regulations for office spaces or housing.

This proposal will enhance SOMA's competitiveness, attract diverse businesses and organizations, and simplify the process of filling vacant spaces. Our community's essential organizations, including the SOMA West CBD, SOMArts, United Playaz, and Swords to Plowshares, will benefit from reduced barriers and operational costs.

In conclusion, the SOMA West Community Benefit District wholeheartedly supports Supervisor Dorsey's legislation. We believe this change will rejuvenate our community, fostering diversity, economic growth, and essential support for our unique neighborhood.

Thank you for considering our perspective. We're optimistic about the positive transformation this legislation could bring to our cherished neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Christian Martin
Executive Director
SOMA West Community Benefit District
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