

Carroll, John (BOS)

From: Suneetha Venigalla <svenigalla@cast-sf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 11:01 AM
To: Avalos, John (BOS); Breed, London (BOS); Calvillo, Angela (BOS); Campos, David (BOS); Cohen, Malia (BOS); Farrell, Mark (BOS); Gosiengfiao, Rachel (BOS); Kim, Jane (BOS); Mar, Eric (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Tang, Katy (BOS); Wiener, Scott; Yee, Norman (BOS)
Cc: BOS Legislation, (BOS); Moy Eng
Subject: PDR ballot measure: letter of support
Categories: 160698

Dear City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

RE: Initiative Ordinance – Planning Code – Conditional Use Requiring Replacement of Production, Distribution, Repair, Institutional Community, and Arts Activities Uses

Community Arts Stabilization Trust (CAST) is a non-profit organization that seeks to preserve, maintain, and create affordable spaces for arts and cultural organizations within the City and County of San Francisco. Much of CAST’s work involves partnering with artists, as well as community and government leaders to promote and protect San Francisco’s unique culture and the continued development of its diverse arts ecosystem.

Mitigating displacement, securing arts spaces, and stabilizing San Francisco’s rich non-profit heritage within the framework of economic and community development is at the heart of what we do. As an example, in partnership with the Kenneth Rainin Foundation, we were able to purchase buildings in San Francisco to secure permanent homes for both The Luggage Store Gallery and CounterPulse, which have opened in their newly renovated facilities earlier this summer.

Similarly, CAST believes it is imperative to preserve the locations and retain the spaces for individuals and organizations engaging in PDR, Institutional Community, and Arts Activities, which form the basis for San Francisco’s vibrant cultural heritage and diverse economy.

While CAST is generally in support of Supervisor Kim’s proposal and any related measures which would prioritize the preservation and uphold the appropriate conversion of spaces for PDR, Institutional Community, and Arts Activities, we would like to address the following questions and concerns related to the details of the ballot measure:

- How were the replacement ratios determined among the various zones? It is essential to be informed of the metrics and data undergirding these recommendations.
- Off-site replacement provisions should be within a specified, nearby radius of where the conversion project is located and within the boundary of the area plan, in order to prevent displacement.

As a community, we are currently at an inflection point where we have the opportunity to positively shape the future of San Francisco. In order for our city to remain a culturally and economically viable and thriving environment that supports diverse communities and businesses, it is critical that we establish and enforce the rigorous protection and replacement of our PDR-zoned areas.

We urge you to please join CAST, alongside our many arts advocates and partners, in supporting the recommendations for PDR protection as outlined in this letter. We look forward to working together in further refining the details of the ballot measure in order to ensure a successful outcome.

Sincerely,

Moy Eng

Executive Director, Community Arts Stabilization Trust

Suneetha Venigalla
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Community Arts Stabilization Trust
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Carroll, John (BOS)

From: joenmadonna@gmail.com on behalf of Joen Madonna <jmadonna@artspan.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 9:03 AM
To: Breed, London (BOS); Calvillo, Angela (BOS); Campos, David (BOS); Cohen, Malia (BOS); Farrell, Mark (BOS); Gosiengfiao, Rachel (BOS); Kim, Jane (BOS); Mar, Eric (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Tang, Katy (BOS); Wiener, Scott; Yee, Norman (BOS); Avalos, John (BOS)
Cc: BOS Legislation, (BOS)
Subject: Please support Antidisplacement Ballot Measure
Categories: 160698

Dear Supervisors,

Please support the antidisplacement ballot measure to preserve spaces for arts, nonprofit organizations and jobs which we need added to the November ballot! I have been meeting with a broad coalition of artists, arts organizations and non-profit stakeholders to help slow the trend of displacement and this ballot measure will help save the San Francisco we all know and love. We need this measure and we need this now!

San Francisco is unique because of the diversity of its people and the character of its neighborhoods. We are in a moment in time, where we are at risk of losing San Francisco's special places and the people that depend on these spaces to work, play, make art and receive services. But it is not too late. You can do something!

The legislation would require developers to replace lost arts, nonprofits and jobs spaces primarily in the Mission and SoMa, neighborhoods where these types of organizations have been the hardest hit. Just last year, we lost SoMa Studios and Cell Space in the Mission. The legislation also creates an incentive to not only provide space but affordable space.

1) Displacement is rampant, we need this ballot measure to go to the voters now! We are in the midst of what I'm calling the Great San Francisco Art Diaspora of 2016! As the Executive Director of ArtSpan, the organization that has hosted the beloved free city-wide event, SF Open Studios, for over 40years, I have watched as 200 of our member artists have lost their studios in the past year. Additionally, in the midst of all my work to help retain San Francisco's valuable artists, my husband Paul Madonna and I were illegally evicted from our 10-year Mission District apartment.

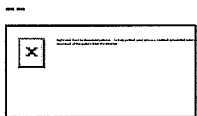
2) Why we need it now! City's Art Commission conducted a survey in July of last year of 600 artists that either live or recently lived in the city. The survey found that over 70 percent of the respondents had been or were being displaced from their workplace, home, or both. As for the 30 percent that weren't being displaced, potential displacement in the near future was a common concern. Prior to this ballot measure, there were no other legislative efforts to address this issue. Our measure requires future developers to replace arts, nonprofit and job spaces if they are going to demolish or convert these spaces. It also seeks to require replacement space of projects that are currently pending approval but have no such requirement.

3) The Board can act in the future to modify or change the program. The legislation allows for the Board to act in the future to modify or change the program but it allows the Planning Department to take immediate action to require replacement space if passed by the voters in November.

I beseech you to support this Antidisplacement Ballot Measure at today's Board of Supervisors meeting **at 3pm.**

Respectfully,

Joen Madonna



Joen Madonna

Executive Director

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Email: jmadonna@artspan.org

August 2, 2106

Supervisors:

The threat to Cell Space sparked the large outcry against the San Francisco's anti-art development plans that culminated in the PDR protection legislation you will hear later today. Cell Space is a premier counter-culture home to many events and countless memories over the decades.

The arts community rallied around saving Cell Space the way many of you would to save Coit Tower. How would you feel if a developer suggested leveling Coit Tower and replacing it with high-rise condos simply because anyone has the right to purchase and rearrange your view? If my view is not sacred who's is?

Another big movement is growing around the idea that the Palace of Fine Arts is a public arts place and must remain accessible to the public. Many feel that space is at least as important as the Opera House and it is much older with a lot more history and tradition.

I am hear to tell you that what we have is a culture clash in San Francisco. Who can say which edifice is more important? Each has its following and supporters. We just want to share with you that Cell Space is ours and much of the problems you are dealing with today could have been avoided by the developer saying, OK. You can keep Cell Space. We will just develop around it.

Think about it and ask yourself, is it worth it?

Mari Eliza

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ME' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.