



Civic Arts Commission
Office of Economic Development

Agenda

Civic Arts Commission Policy Subcommittee

Monday, July 8, 2019 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Berkeley Civic Center, Cypress Room, 1st floor
2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704

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1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

- a) Discuss and Develop Policy Statement on inclusion of Affordable Housing for Artists and Cultural Workers in the Proposed Overall Policy Framework for Affordable Housing for the City of Berkeley. (Attachment 1)
- b) Discussion of Civic Arts Commission Annual Work Plan for FY20

4. ADJOURNMENT

Attachment:

1. Draft Policy Statement on Affordable Housing for Artists and Cultural Workers

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Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Civic Arts Office located at 2180 Milvia Street, Fifth Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704.

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Artist Affordable Housing for Live/Work Inclusion to Berkeley City Council Housing Policy

Link to full draft City Council Policy document here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/10iLx_iR52S-JQ4LvVMCKZjpTQ78xr5KG/view

Amendment Recommendations for section 4 on page 30:

Additional Opportunities for Expansion

Explore opportunities for artists and cultural workers in each relevant Affordable Housing strategy and consider additional strategies.

- ADUs could benefit artists and cultural workers on a singular scale.
- Larger scale affordable housing projects could contain artists' live/work spaces and cultural worker living spaces as part of the overall project design.
- Encouraging developers of market rate housing to include affordable live/work units onsite for creative workers rather than paying affordable the housing mitigation fee, especially in transit-oriented developers.
- The Small Sites program could provide opportunities for groups of artists and cultural workers to buy and maintain small apartment buildings [or live work buildings?].
- Identifying additional opportunities to cultivate and create affordable housing cooperative models for artists is a tested model that could significantly impact the displacement of artists and artisans and become hives of creative activity that would benefit the city of Berkeley in a variety of ways. Emeryville, Boston, and New York can provide possible models for the city of Berkeley.
- Encourage Community Land Trust ownership of artist live/work buildings as a way for existing artist live work spaces to be preserved as affordable spaces and to prevent displacement of already housed artists. [See example <https://www.kqed.org/arts/13839406/art-studios-saved-as-oakland-community-land-trust-acquires-first-live-work-building>]
- Develop an unutilized City-owned building to be an artist live/work building [see example [See example: <https://www.kqed.org/arts/12578740/affordable-housing-for-artists-santa-cruz-shows-bay-area-how-its-done>]

Using an overarching lens of inclusion for artists and cultural workers in each recommended affordable housing strategy will identify a range of suitable ways to increase the overall supply of affordable housing for these individuals. This could also include a discussion of ground level retail space that may sit empty for long periods of time due to the changes in consumer purchasing.

Anticipating additional data

While it is critical to incorporate specific policy recommendations for artist affordable housing at this juncture, a number of concurrent studies planned for the next year (middle income study, Hewlett funded study of artists and cultural workers, etc.) will provide important data that documents needs, demands, growth projections, and strategic opportunities for affordable housing for artists and cultural workers. We

recommend that these initial policy recommendations be written with an anticipatory eye to expansion based on local data as it becomes available.

Geographic distribution

While West Berkeley is a geography that presents the potential for a greater number of units, we recommend that the overall strategy consider citywide affordable housing opportunities for artists and cultural workers.