



## **Creative Space Preservation Act Testimony Outline and Talking Points**

**Bill:** H.3241/S.530, An Act to preserve space for the creative economy (the Creative Space Preservation Act)

**Sponsors:** Rep. Dan Cahill and Sen. Liz Miranda

**Committee:** Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development

### **ARTICLES AND STORIES ABOUT THE ISSUE:**

#ARTSTAYSHERE segment on Boston Public Radio:

<https://www.wgbh.org/podcast/boston-public-radio> (starts 1:26 into the podcast)

Gay, Malcolm "Long pushed out when neighborhoods change, artists are fighting back, and getting help" Boston Globe August 5, 2023:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/08/05/arts/long-pushed-out-when-neighborhoods-change-artists-are-fighting-back-getting-help/?p1=StaffPage>

Ray, Danielle, "Fitchburg Arts Community project underway" Sentinel & Enterprise, September 7, 2023:

<https://www.sentinelandenterprise.com/2023/09/07/fitchburg-arts-community-project-underway/>

### **TESTIMONY OUTLINE:**

*Below is an outline that you can use to create your own testimony for the Creative Space Preservation Act.*

- I. Intro
  - A. Individual: Hello Chair Mark, Chair Domb, and members of the committee for the opportunity to share my support for the [add actual bill numbers and bill name]. My name is [name] and I live in [town]
  - B. Organization: Hello Chair Mark, Chair Domb, and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify today. My name is [name]

and I am testifying on behalf of [organization] in [city/town]. I am here to share our strong support for [add actual bill numbers and bill name].

- II. Why Now?
  - A. Across the Commonwealth - and especially in [town], the creative sector is negatively affected by the loss of access to affordable space for the creation of art and showcasing of culture.
  - B. Share a personal / organizational story about how this is affecting you / your group.
    - 1. Has it stopped you from creating work / making a living?
    - 2. Has your organization seen artists and creatives leave the area due to lack of space?
- III. Share why you believe this bill is part of the solution:
  - A. This bill would
    - 1. Create a formal statewide definition of creative space under preservation code. By including a formal definition in preservation code it puts this issue on a similar level as land conservation and affordable housing. It will give cities and towns across the Commonwealth a shared definition that they can use.
    - 2. Allow cities and towns to create a way to hold money or property in a trust that they can then use for the preservation or construction of [rehearsal halls/ galleries/performance venues/etc.].
  - B. These two actions cost the state no money but give communities a first step in addressing the problem of lost creative spaces.
- IV. Remind the committee why this is urgent:
  - A. Massachusetts is at a crucial choice point when it comes to its creative sector. Without spaces for artists, creative workers, and cultural groups to create and perform, they will leave. Without vibrant creative communities, our cities and towns will lose the economic and communal benefit they provide.
  - B. I / We strongly encourage the committee to report the [bill number and name] favorably out of the committee and support its passage this session.

## **TALKING POINTS:**

### **What is the Creative Space Preservation Act? Why do we need this?**

- H.3241/S.530, sponsored by Sen. Liz Miranda (Boston) and Rep. Dan Cahill (Lynn).
- The Creative Space Preservation Act would create a defined property restriction for creative maker space and performance 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.
- Massachusetts is experiencing an affordability crisis and this problem extends to the creative community and creative maker spaces.
- The Creative Space Preservation Act is one step we can take to curb the loss of artists and creatives in Massachusetts.

### **What would it do?**

- Adds “creative space restriction” as a defined land restriction category. “Creative space” would be defined 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.

### **Different arguments to consider:**

- Cultural - the creative sector and economy impacts everyone and exists everywhere in Massachusetts. It is critical to amplifying the stories of underrepresented communities, encouraging resilience, celebration, and supporting democracy. As the state with the first and only public college of art and design, MA is regarded as a place where arts and culture can prosper. But only so long as artists can continue to live and work here.
- Massachusetts is already facing an outmigration crisis - for artists and creatives whose livelihoods and talents rely on affordable, accessible, and appropriate creative making, rehearsal, and performance spaces, we need to make sure that it is feasible for them to live in MA. It would be a social, cultural, and communal loss if artists are forced to leave because they cannot access the spaces they need to support themselves.
- Economy and Tourism - the vibrancy of our downtowns relies on thriving and diverse arts and culture. People visit from within the state and outside of MA to enjoy shows, exhibits, and performances. It's in our economic interests to make it easier for artists and creatives to live and create in our communities.
- Workforce Development - building more workforce development pipelines in MA must include creative workforce development. We want to train creative professionals with the promise that they can use their talents here.

### **Has it worked in other places?**

The Creative Space Preservation Act is based on successful conservation land and affordable housing preservation law as its model.

### **How much would it cost?**

There is not any funding attached to this bill.