

Meri Bobber
Team Member of Threads All Arts Festival
June 19, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in support of the Ann Arbor Distilling Company (AADC), and I ask that this letter be circulated to members of the Planning Commission and added to the public record.

The AADC had just opened as I was graduating from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance, and preparing to leave Ann Arbor to pursue my artistic endeavors in New York City. The buzz among the Ann Arbor community over this opening was palpable; it instantly became a gathering place for young people and a destination of interest to local artists and event organizers. The AADC offers open space (both indoor and outdoor), one-of-kind and high-quality products, and is run by genuine and outgoing people who are dedicated to fostering it as a communal gathering space. These coexisting factors make it an especially attractive venue to performing artists who are looking to connect with Ann Arbor and share their ideas in an encouraging, open environment. We had been in need of a place like this.

Threads All Arts Festival is dedicated to providing that exact exposure and community building for as many local artists as possible, regardless of artistic discipline or other factors that divide people in society and politics elsewhere, such as age, gender, race, etc. Threads is preparing for its second annual festival to run this August, and has greatly increased in funding and interest from local artists, audiences, businesses, and partners in its short lifetime. As we focus on making Threads a long-term, sustainable platform for the Ann Arbor artistic community to depend upon, we recognize that we share many values with the AADC. There is no other venue in which we would rather hold the event.

From what I've seen, it is venues with the space, quality, and personal touch that the AADC has that make true impact on the locals, encouraging togetherness inside and outside of the arts. Without rich spaces like these in which to gather, artistic communities simply could not flourish. It's all about being in the same room.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of these comments.

With gratitude,

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