

**From:** Jonathan Kuuskoski  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 05, 2017 6:27 PM  
**To:** Planning <[Planning@a2gov.org](mailto:Planning@a2gov.org)>  
**Subject:** A2 Distillery Co. as Arts Venue -- please vote YES!

Dear Ann Arbor Planning Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the Ann Arbor Distilling Company's petition to be used as a venue rental for special events and stage production. As one of the directors of the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance career development and entrepreneurship program I help steward the transition of hundreds of young artists into their professional lives. They are, by and large, hungry for platforms to connect communities here in Ann Arbor and are driven to make localized economic, social, and cultural impacts!

I know of two emergent ventures who will be directly impacted by the rejection of Ann Arbor Distilling Company petition, and dozens of other burgeoning ensembles who will lose an important platform not only to make art, but to further galvanize Ann Arbor's young and vibrant artist scene.

In just the past few years, the Blind Pig and the Yellow Barn have been sold over and are no longer rentable spaces. These were prime locations for SMTD students to host performances, chamber music (outside of concert halls) and collaborative performances. Please vote to allow the Distillery Co. to serve as one of our few precious remaining venues for small-scale arts presentations!

With Kind Regards,  
Jonathan

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