

Members of the Ann Arbor City Council,

My name is Grace Bydalek, and I am a rising senior in the University of Michigan Musical Theatre department. I am writing on behalf of Threads All Arts Festival.

Today, you are deciding whether or not to sanction the Ann Arbor Distilling Company as a safe space for community gatherings, and by default, for our festival.

To you, it may be yet another case brought before the council. To the artists, young people, and local Ann Arbor community, it is of the upmost importance.

Threads is about bringing together not only the artistic community but the community at large, with the express purpose of promoting togetherness, breaking boundaries, and opening minds. The Distilling Co. is an integral piece of this larger mission. Our community needs a place like this. Ann Arbor venues are closing one by one, leaving us with very few venues to choose from, and none offer the expansive space and extraordinary service that the Distilling Co. has graciously afforded us.

This venue will serve a a home to artists and community members alike. It will encapsulate what brings people to Ann Arbor, and what makes this town uniquely special.

You have these arguments and more many times by now, and will hear them again at the City Council meeting. However, I urge you to consider the voices of the individuals that have reached out to you with a common cause; consider the voices of the artistic community within Ann Arbor at large. Consider their exponential potential for growth, their ability to bring change to the community around them, and consider your hand in that process. Today, you wield more power than you know.

I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration.

Grace Daley Bydalek  
Development, Threads All Arts Festival

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grace Daley Bydalek', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.