

From: Andrea Almeida
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 6:46 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Ann Arbor distillery

Ann Arbor City Planning Commission
Larcom City Hall, 301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Ann Arbor City Planning Commission,

We are writing to express our support for the Ann Arbor Distilling Co. petition to be re-zoned as an event space which will be voted on at the planning commission hearing on June 20th. The Ann Arbor Distilling Co.(AADC) has been an important place to me and my husband personally! We also feel that it is an important part of Ann Arbor committed to supporting local Ann Arbor businesses. We both live and work in the city of Ann Arbor, where we have started to build our lives together and recently bought a home. We used to live in downtown Ann Arbor, walking distance from the distillery. I have also trained at Wildly Fit, in the same building for some years and have enjoyed watching the distillery grow and have a presence in this city that has been missing. I appreciate the neighborhood atmosphere and diversity of people who attends the various events and even the local bar. We love that this business is owned and run by local people who care a great deal about keeping Ann Arbor a unique and vibrant place to live. We have been looking forward to our friends wedding that may not occur with all these changes to the distillery. This has been quite disheartening.

It is hard to overstate the loss to the community if this space is not approved as an event space. Unique venues for private events are a rarity in Ann Arbor, yet it is exactly these types of spaces that are needed to maintain the unique artists, diverse community, and personality of this city.it is sad that we have to travel elsewhere to find great places like this.

The loss of the AADC extends far beyond our personal wishes and will be a significant loss for the community and Ann Arbor in general. Please reconsider and give the distillery a chance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Almeida, MD
Sean Currie

Sent from my iPhone

From: Meri Bobber
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 1:23 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Ann Arbor Distilling Co.

Hello,

I'm a team member of Threads All Arts Festival who is out of town and unable to attend your meeting tomorrow in regards to the Ann Arbor Distilling Company. In lieu of my physical presence, I'm attaching a letter of support to this email. I would truly appreciate if this letter could be filed and distributed among the committee.

MORE ABOUT THREADS:

Threads is an annual multidisciplinary festival taking place in late August at the Ann Arbor Distilling Company. The Threads Team values the work the Distilling Co. has done for the arts thus far, and we want to do what we can to stand up for it before the hearing on the 20th.

About Threads All Arts Festival:

Threads 2017 will be held at the Ann Arbor Distilling Company from August 25-27th, 2017. We are a festival created to shine the light on all artistic disciplines. We want people to share diverse ideas through every medium; music, art, dance, writing, film, performance art, installation, and all things in between.

Threads Festival was recently awarded the \$10,000 EXCELprize from the School of Music, Theatre & Dance. We are committed to using this large grant to establish ourselves as a strong, sustainable artistic force in Southeastern Michigan.

For more information, feel free to visit our website, threadsfestival.com.

Our connection to the Distilling Company:

Seven of the ten members of our team are students or alumni of the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance. We chose U of M not only because of the highly respected faculty and breadth of opportunity available to us as students, but also because of Ann Arbor's strong reputation as a flourishing artistic community.

However, in our short time here, performance opportunities in the community have dwindled as local venues close one by one.

In just the past few months, the Distilling Co. has hosted The Moth Stories presented by NPR and performances of contemporary music (which usually only exists in a concert hall). In addition, three members of our Threads Team were able to install their senior Performing Arts Technology thesis projects and share their interactive installations in a non-university setting.

We love the culture that the Distilling Company is organically creating with presenting these various events!

Thank you for your time and attention.

With gratitude,
Meri Bobber

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.

From: On Behalf Of Jesse Chandler
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 11:37 AM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Ann Arbor Distillery Private Hall Rental

To the Ann Arbor Planning Commission,

I am writing in strong support of the Ann Arbor Distillery's petition to allow the existing space to be used for social occasions and stage productions. I have no association with the petitioner and am writing as both a resident of the Water Hill neighborhood (1008 Brooks Street) and an admirer of their fine spirits. I think that this proposed modification should be granted for several reasons.

First, I think that there is a shortage of quality event space in Ann Arbor - the fact that there is a business case for converting prime downtown retail storefronts into event spaces (Pretzel Bell, the Greyline) that sit empty 90% of the time demonstrates this clearly. I see the proposal to have events at the Distillery as fulfilling this demand using space that would otherwise sit vacant.

Second, I think that having an event space like this in Water Hill benefits the neighborhood. It could conceivably be used for community events. I also think that having a walkable live music venue fits well with the artistic vibe of the community (e.g., the Water Hill Music Festival). We need spaces that are smaller than the Ark or the Michigan Theater to allow local musical talent to develop. This seems like a good contender.

While there may be some challenges that come with having more people in this space (e.g. parking), I think that the impact will be quite limited. The Distillery is not directly beside residences to the North or West, residences to the East are in the floodway and the city seems intent on eventually purchasing these houses and tearing them down. The planned condo development to the south does not exist yet, but is marketed as "steps" from amenities like restaurants, so it clearly benefits from proximity of a successful and creative craft distillery (see my point below). Any challenges that may emerge from having events here can surely be managed within the existing ordinances and regulations, rather than through a heavy-handed prohibition of events.

Finally, I think that in the long term, it only makes sense to run a distillery in a city if the benefits (e.g. brand exposure through foot traffic) exceed the costs (property taxes and foregone money from selling the land). If they do not, they may eventually leave. An event space in particular will raise the profile of Ann Arbor Distillery products to people coming from other neighborhoods or towns for events and this will benefit the distillery. I think that the community is much better off (mixed use, diverse, well-rounded etc.) with a distillery here than with more condominiums, but more condominiums will be the outcome if that is the land use that makes the most financial sense. The best way to prevent this is to find innovative ways to allow the Ann Arbor Distillery company to thrive, and adding an event space seems to fit the bill.

Sincerely,
Jesse Chandler

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

My name is Claire Crause and I am a dance artist born and raised in Ann Arbor. I recently graduated from the University of Michigan with a BFA degree in dance, and am now based in New York City. I am proud to call Ann Arbor my hometown, as I grew up within the rich and diverse artistic community Ann Arbor harbors. I value the importance of Ann Arbor's ability to engage the community in the performing arts through both ticketed and free artistic events. These include events through the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, Sonic Lunch, The Ark, The Blind Pig, The Yellow Barn, and the myriad of performances made possible by the University Musical Society. Ann Arbor would not have its notable enriching artistic environment if it were not for these performance opportunities.

I have choreographed and performed in many shows around Ann Arbor, most recently within the opportunities offered by University of Michigan. I believe that it is important, however, for local artists to have performance spaces outside of the University property. Creating artwork within the University is important, but many artists feel the necessity of creating independent work and hosting shows unaffiliated with the University. This gives back to the Ann Arbor community at large, and provides opportunity for non-university artists to contribute performance work. Additionally, the University spaces are hard to access, even for students. As the former President of the Dance Student Assembly I am aware of the difficulty of securing university space for student use. Venues are booked out long into the future, and require substantial funding that most students cannot provide.

Then came Threads Arts Festival, a performing arts opportunity created by colleagues of mine from the University. I was overjoyed when I heard that Threads secured the Ann Arbor Distillery as the venue for this year's festival. This is especially exciting, given the closing of the Blind Pig and the Yellow Barn. The Distillery provides a space to fill that void. The Distillery is also a unique venue in that it can be utilized as a space for dance. Not many venues in Ann Arbor, outside of the University property, can double as spaces for both music and dance performance. This is crucial for arts festivals such as Threads, that actively seek to showcase multidisciplinary art forms. Broader and more diverse audiences are accessed when show can host multiple art forms, such as music, poetry, and dance, among others. More people are reached and the ability to engage more of the community becomes greater.

I urge you to reconsider rejecting the Distillery's ability to hold public events. Threads is scheduled to host their arts festival at the Distillery in August, and if this venue is closed Threads will not have a location. This event is integral for promoting the artistic values Ann Arbor so dearly claims, as talented performing artist from the local and nation-wide performing communities are scheduled to perform. Closing the Distillery will be a disservice to not only these performers, but to the Ann Arbor community at large. Please consider the larger community impact before making a decision.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Claire Crause

From: Lang DeLancey
Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 3:49 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Concerning the Ann Arbor Distillery Planning Permission

Dear Ann Arbor Planning Commission,

My name is Lang DeLancey and I am a recent college graduate, Ann Arbor native, and lifetime resident. From a young age, the arts have been very important to me, this fact made growing up in Ann Arbor an indispensable privilege in my development as a consumer of the arts (broadly defined), a musician, a poet, and as a person. Central to the artistic character of Ann Arbor are venues where people can gather in order to share, listen to, see, read, and experience art. These places are paramount to the city and the community. Unfortunately, for a plethora of reasons, many of these local venues are disappearing; the Blind Pig is up for sale and the Yellow Barn no longer offers a rentable performance space. If Ann Arbor is to remain a wonderful vibrant artistic community we have to actively promote spaces for local and touring acts to play. It is for this reason that I hope you all in the planning commission will approve the request that the Ann Arbor Distilling Company become a space that can be rented for performances. Each venue lost subtracts from Ann Arbor's identity as an artistic community.

I ask that this be circulated to the members of the Planning Commission and added to the public record.

Thank you for your time,
Lang DeLancey

From: Nicolette Gabel

Sent: Friday, June 16, 2017 4:48 PM

To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

Subject: Ann Arbor distillery re-zoning

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this email in support of a recent re-zoning request filed by the Ann Arbor distillery. I support this business making a positive impact on our community by providing a safe, affordable, and engaging venue for events, such as weddings and performances. I appreciate that the owners are local business people who pursued establishing their business in a community environment, and feel they have added to the water hill neighborhood- making it a more desirable area for new potential homeowners, and bringing additional revenue to nearby businesses in the N. Main St. corridor. I hope that the planning committee will side with the business owners and allow this space to continue to develop its potential for servicing the community at large.

Sincerely,

Nicolette Gabel

Assistant Professor, UM Medical School

Eberwhite neighborhood homeowner
[REDACTED]

From: Sarah Honig [<mailto:honig.sarahj@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2017 10:41 AM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: AADC Petition: Allow Events and Support Community

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Ann Arbor City Planning Commission
Larcom City Hall, 301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Ann Arbor City Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my support for the Ann Arbor Distilling Co. petition to be re-zoned as an event space which will be voted on at the planning commission hearing on June 20th. The Ann Arbor Distilling Co.(AADC) has been an important place to me personally and as a frequent visitor to Ann Arbor, and an alumnus of the University of Michigan. As such, I am committed to supporting local Ann Arbor businesses. My sister has lived close to the distillery for a couple years and she and I visit every chance we get. She has been planning her wedding to be held at the distillery. She chose the distillery because it is personally important to her and our family, and also because there are very few venues within the city that are affordable for hosting weddings.

My family is comprised of six University of Michigan graduates: me, my parents, my two sisters and my brother-in law. My dad was raised in Ann Arbor and my parents fell in love there. Both of my sisters met their husbands in Ann Arbor and fell in love there. We come back to Ann Arbor from Annapolis Maryland and Nashville Tennessee to meet up with my parents who live in Holland, Michigan. Our interest in seeing the AADC permitted to host my sister's wedding is part of a larger commitment that we have to Ann Arbor as a whole- the city we all claim as our home base. This plea is personal because we greatly hope that the permit and related issues will be resolved in a timely manner, so that my sister's dream of an AADC wedding will be possible. However, the loss of the AADC extends far beyond our personal wishes and will be a significant loss for the community. Alumnae like us love the distillery and the city. We want the local community to understand that part of the national draw to Ann Arbor is it's willingness to support unique, independent business like AADC that give Ann Arbor character and charm unlike any place in the USA. Let us all celebrate there! We love it and want to keep coming back!

I appreciate your consideration to approve the AADC request to permit them to host events.

Sincerely,

Sarah Johnson Honig

From: Jonathan Kuuskoski
Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 6:27 PM
To: Planning <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

--

Jonathan Kuuskoski
Assistant Director, Entrepreneurship and Career Services
School of Music, Theatre & Dance - University of Michigan
jkuusk@umich.edu | 734-615-8585
<http://www.music.umich.edu/excel>



Robert Cleveland <rob.c@annarbordistilling.com>

Fwd: Events at Ann Arbor Distilling Co.

John Britton <john.b@annarbordistilling.com>
To: Robert Cleveland <rob.c@annarbordistilling.com>

Tue, Jun 20, 2017 at 10:44 AM

Thought you might like this...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lena Leson** <lleson@umich.edu>
Date: Tue, Jun 20, 2017 at 10:18 AM
Subject: Events at Ann Arbor Distilling Co.
To: planning@a2gov.org

Hello—my name is Lena Leson. I'm a recent Michigander and current doctoral student at the University of Michigan. I'm contacting you because events were recently shut down at Ann Arbor Distilling Co. and I want to express what a great loss this has been to me and to my community.

Every day I work with incredible musicians eager to share their art with others. Several groups from the University have been working with Ann Arbor Distilling Co. to perform classical music in a maybe unlikely setting. But A2DC is unique; a classically trained guitarist is the head distiller there, and there's art by local painters hanging on the walls. On their production floor, I've heard an enormous steel drum band from Oberlin, a string quartet from UM, a jazz band, a DJ. I've watched movies and seen art exhibits. I've heard stories and made new friends.

But the decision to shut down events at A2DC has meant one less Ann Arbor venue for these precious displays of creativity and humanity during a challenging time for many of us. I implore you, for the well-being of our community and of the arts, to bring events back to A2DC.

With gratitude,

Lena Leson

--

John Charles Britton, Distiller
[817.773.3553](tel:817.773.3553)

From: Lena Leson

Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 10:18 AM

To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

Subject: Events at Ann Arbor Distilling Co.

Hello—my name is Lena Leson. I'm a recent Michigander and current doctoral student at the University of Michigan. I'm contacting you because events were recently shut down at Ann Arbor Distilling Co. and I want to express what a great loss this has been to me and to my community.

Every day I work with incredible musicians eager to share their art with others. Several groups from the University have been working with Ann Arbor Distilling Co. to perform classical music in a maybe unlikely setting. But A2DC is unique; a classically trained guitarist is the head distiller there, and there's art by local painters hanging on the walls. On their production floor, I've heard an enormous steel drum band from Oberlin, a string quartet from UM, a jazz band, a DJ. I've watched movies and seen art exhibits. I've heard stories and made new friends.

But the decision to shut down events at A2DC has meant one less Ann Arbor venue for these precious displays of creativity and humanity during a challenging time for many of us. I implore you, for the well-being of our community and of the arts, to bring events back to A2DC.

With gratitude,

Lena Leson

From: Julie Merz
Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 11:19 AM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: A2 distillery

Please allow for Ann Arbor distillery co to continue to host events like the Moth - this is such a great opportunity to keep storytelling and direct human interaction alive - an art that is becoming increasingly less common with technology, etc.

I have met my core group of friends through the Moth when I first moved here - it would be an incredible loss for the city to no longer have this avenue.

Sincerely,
Julie Merz
A2 48103

Sent from my iPhone

From: O'Brien Family

Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 10:33 AM

To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

Subject: 17-1017 1 9-b Ann Arbor Distillery Private Hall Rental Special Exception for City Planning Commission Approval

As a citizen of Ann Arbor in the neighborhood of the Ann Arbor Distillery (Wines Drive), I would like to express my support for the approval of the Special Exceptions permit for the Ann Arbor Distillery, 17-1017, 1, 9-b.

The Distillery has been a welcome addition to the neighborhood and we enjoy to entertainment events they are able to offer at low cost to area non-profits and musicians. In particular regarding this permit, as a fan of the local live recording of NPR's nation-wide program, the Moth radio hour, I greatly value having a non-profit friendly and affordable venue for the local live Storyslams that are critical to this national radio program.

The Distillery has been a welcoming and comfortable venue for the 200 bi-weekly attendees at the Storyslams. There are very few spacious and affordable locations where attendees can purchase alcohol and bring in outside food. Note that this program, the Moth in Ann Arbor, is attended by people from all over our region and as far away as New York and Chicago as the Ann Arbor Storyslams have a national reputation for excellence and accessibility. The participants and attendees also enjoy Ann Arbor's vibrant downtown, shopping, and dining before the shows and downtown bars afterwards. Attendees at the Distillery are able to park in the Ann-Ashley Parking structure and walk just 2 blocks to the venue.

Please approve this Special use permit and continue Ann Arbor's strong support for the arts and for the work of non-profits. Having such a spacious and affordable space available to arts groups, specifically in the downtown area, is critical to the continued vibrancy of our downtown.

Sincerely, Mattie and Bob O'Brien

From: Sherry Owens
Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 10:46 AM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Exception to Zoning for Ann Arbor Distilling Company

Good morning. I would like to lend my support to the Ann Arbor Distilling Company so they may continue hosting The Moth here in Ann Arbor. I am a regular volunteer and story teller at the Moth and I can tell you it's a valuable and important outlet for the people of the Ann Arbor area to not only tell their stories, but hear and understand each other. The general feeling of love and understanding at the Moth is so necessary in these divisive times. It's so vital to give people of all types and all beliefs a chance to be heard - what could be more Ann Arbor than that?

Many people (including myself) travel from outside the area, so it is also a boost to the local economy; encouraging out of towners to explore and get to know Ann Arbor.

I urge you to approve the special use permit for Ann Arbor Distilling Company and allow them to continue hosting the Moth.

Thank you for your time.

--

Sherry
Owens
Jackson, Michigan

"How glorious a greeting the sun gives the mountains!"
- John Muir

July 5, 2017

To: Ann Arbor Planning Commission

From: Nicole Patrick

Re: Distillery Co. as Arts Venue

Dear Planning Commission Members,

My name is Nicole Patrick and I am 23 years old. I graduated University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance with degrees in percussion and jazz performance in 2016.

Originally from Miami, I looked to find a school that would provide more beyond just the walls of the institution. As a musician, I learned early on that my skills on these instruments would only take me so far.

I looked for a program that would organically introduce me to other artists that would accept me into their ecosystem, therefore helping me continue my artistic journey post graduation.

I have now been living in Ann Arbor for a year and a half since graduating. In this past year, we've lost the Yellow Barn and are on the way to losing the iconic Blind Pig. This means that as a student of SMTD, I was only able to see local live arts performances at the Ark (which hosts very a specific genre, normally touring musicians) and at house concerts.

On the other hand, the Distilling Company over the past few months allowed PAT students to hold their thesis projects, a blues jam led by the Ann Arbor Blues Society, and chamber music events. These events allowed for residents of Ann Arbor to interact with the artists in this town. It has allowed for artists to celebrate their work, and share with their neighbors. It is also an unbelievably gorgeous establishment offering an experience very few other places in town can offer.

These are the opportunities that allow for entrepreneurial artists to better their own communities. This is the importance of Distilling Company's involvement in this community. For us, it allows us to become a part of this community. The Distilling Company is helping to create this wonderful culture in our town, and I'd love to see this space be granted the ability to rise to its potential.

We are in need of spaces to perform works rehearsed, created and curated by artists within this community. The gentrification of this town is taking away homes that were once used as house concert venues, and the houses in this town are rising to unreasonable rents. Artists can no longer afford to live and perform in a city without performance opportunities.

The Distilling Company is presenting a chance for artists to be employed, to engage, and to create a stronger sense of belonging.

Please consider this request as you move forward with your vote on the Distilling Company to be used as a venue rental for special events and stage production.

Thank you very much,

Nicole Patrick

From: Melissa Jett
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 10:08 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Ann Arbor Distilling Company Vote

Dear Ann Arbor City Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my support for the Ann Arbor Distilling Co. petition to be re-zoned as an event space which will be voted on at the planning commission hearing on June 20th. The Ann Arbor Distilling Co.(AADC) has been an important place to me personally as I know several of the staff from other places around the local Ann Arbor community. I live here with my husband, and daughter, as well as own a small business close by. I have lived here for 11 years and always supported the unique and interesting places, bars, restaurants that Ann Arbor has. It truly sets it apart from any other Michigan city. Especially that you find these unique places in different spots all over town, not just the one Main Street.

This decision is especially important to me because of my friend's upcoming wedding planned there and the continuation of events put on by my personal trainer in their space. It is an integral part of their business to be able to use this space for events. It's also an amazing spot to host the "moth hour". I find it a disservice and disappointing that there have been such complications and blockades for the AADC to use their space and business to serve the greater Ann Arbor community and its neighboring businesses.

Please take this letter into consideration and choose to work with the AADC to achieve a solution which it can function as a event space and tasting room. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melissa Renz

From: Luke Rodehorst

Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:23 AM

To: Barrett, Jon <JBarrett@a2gov.org>; Gale, Mia <RGale@a2gov.org>

Subject: Support for Ann Arbor Distilling to Host The Moth

Hi Mia and Jon,

Hope this note finds you well. Since I am unable to attend the meeting when this will be up for discussion, I wanted to voice my support for Ann Arbor Distilling to be able to host The Moth at its facilities.

I've been a volunteer at [The Moth](#) here in Ann Arbor for the past 5+ years. It's amazing that Ann Arbor is able to fully support 2 Moth Story Slams / month. Only cities like New York and Chicago also have 2 shows / month. It's an amazing display of what's best about Ann Arbor and is an incredibly diverse, engaged audience unlike you find in many places.

What allows the show to thrive is the fact that it can be hosted in incredibly unique and authentic Ann Arbor venues like Ann Arbor Distilling. Without their ability to host, I fear for The Moth being able to continue with it's strength and popularity within in the city.

Please let me know if there is a more formal way for me to voice my support.

Thank you,

Luke Rodehorst

From: Sandi Smith
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: A2 Distillery

As a close neighbor to this project, I support it. Also, it is likely in Ward 1, not 5.



Sandi Smith

Assoc. Broker & President - Trillium Real Estate

323 Braun Court, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

✉ Sandi@TrilliumRealtors.com

☎ 734-216-6414 | 734-302-3011

🌐 TrilliumRealtors.com



From: Pat Smolarski
Sent: Sunday, June 18, 2017 10:51 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: AA distillery

We don't mind this company putting on private events. We enjoy having the convenience of it being right down the street from us if we want to hear some music or have a drink or attend one of their private events. It makes it a fun neighborhood to live in!

Pat Smolarski

Sent from my iPhone

From: On Behalf Of leslie sobel
Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 11:59 AM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: A2D2

hello-

I'm a local artist and activist. I love the Ann Arbor Distilling Company as a venue for arts events. They are supportive, welcoming and creative - just what our community needs. Please allow them to continue hosting wonderful events like the Moth, the A2 Jazz Festival and more - we have no other venue as open and flexible!

very truly yours,

Leslie Sobel

July 5, 2017

To: Ann Arbor Planning Commission
From: Peter Sparling
Re: Distillery Co. as Arts Venue

Dear Planning Commission Members,

As a longstanding community artist and citizen, I urge you to allow the Distilling Co. to be used as a venue rental for special events and stage production. Having been an active member of the Ann Arbor community art scene as Artistic Director of Dance Gallery/Peter Sparling Dance Company, recipient of the 1998 Governor's Michigan Artist Award, and as a professor and mentor to countless students and U-M alumni who have chosen to extend their creative endeavors into the broader Ann Arbor community, I have a long history witnessing the increasing indifference, hypocrisy and lack of accessibility demonstrated by the City Council and the local community for its local arts.

I am appalled by the lip service given to the arts and community support while there is so little to show for it. Our city is losing its young, vital arts scene to surrounding communities as the city is gentrified beyond recognition.

Please consider giving a nod to the local arts and the young performers who are so desperate to share their work with local audiences. Demonstrate your civic pride. Vote to allow the Distillery Co. to serve as one of the few precious remaining venues for small-scale arts presentations.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Peter Sparling
Rudolf Arnheim Distinguished University Professor of Dance
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Dance

From: Ayal Subar
Sent: Tuesday, July 04, 2017 4:02 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Distilling Company Decision

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my views on the upcoming decision regarding whether the city will allow the Ann Arbor Distilling Company to hold large events on the premises of the Distilling Company. I personally believe that it is extremely important to have more spaces for community building events and art to be shown in Ann Arbor. In today's social climate, we cannot push community growth and art to the wayside in Ann Arbor. There need to be more spaces to bring people together in ways that the Distilling Company has demonstrated since it started holding artistic events on their property. Spaces like the Distilling Company and what each of these spaces does are part of what makes our city so special. Voting to allow the Distilling Company to hold these events will strengthen a wide array of diverse communities in Ann Arbor and act as a melting pot for art in the future of Ann Arbor.

Thank you for all you do,
Ayal Subar

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Ayal Subar
University of Michigan, BFA in Performing Arts Technology 2019
School of Music, Theatre, & Dance



June 20, 2017

Ann Arbor City Planning Commission
Larcom City Hall
301 E Huron St, 2nd Floor
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today in support of the Ann Arbor Distillery. I believe they go before Planning Commission today, June 20th, as they are trying to be rezoned so as to host special events.

I have no direct connection to the Distillery other than being a fan of the business and the product and a supporter of independent businesses like this in Ann Arbor. This issue was brought to my attention by my good friend, Abigail Johnson, who is looking to hold her wedding reception there this fall. Beyond the fact that I would love to see my friend be able to keep her wedding local and make use of an excellent venue, I truly believe this is a situation where we need to support and foster the unique local businesses that make Ann Arbor the special place that it is.

This is a company we can be proud of. One offering an original product with our city's name in the title, winning awards on a national level, providing a neighbor meeting spot and playing host to community driven events like the A2 Jazz Fest and or course local weddings and parties.

I believe they deserve the support of the Planning Commission in their efforts to re-zone to a use appropriate for hosting events and I encourage the commissioners to vote as such on June 20th.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Tobias". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ryan Tobias

From: Kate Trumbull (BTB - Prec Mktg)
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 2:58 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Ann Arbor Distilling Co. Petition

Dear Ann Arbor City Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my support for the Ann Arbor Distilling Co. petition to be re-zoned as an event space which will be voted on at the planning commission hearing on June 20th. Not only is it a special place to my husband and I, and the friends and family we gather with there who are from Ann Arbor and from other places outside Michigan, I also see it as a wonderful option to host team events and experiences for the marketing group at Domino's. I am Director of Digital Marketing and we often have vendors and agencies in town and we like to bring them to unique places with lots of character for business meetings/dinners, networking events, and the like. I'm also on the community board of Ele's Place and I see this as a great option for our board and local community events.

Further, we live in walking distance (West Side on Montgomery) of the space and have wandered over several times for a drink outside or inside and great conversation. We love having excellent venues to gather close to our home and see this as another revenue driver for a locally owned business.

Further, I would love nothing more than to experience other important life events like weddings, birthday parties, and other celebrations of people I care about in such a lovely space with wonderful management.

I appreciate your consideration to approve the AADC request to permit them to host events.

Sincerely,
Kate Trumbull

411 ½ Montgomery Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



Kate Trumbull
Domino's
Director, Precision Marketing
p: 734.930.3264 | m: 317.418.4658
[REDACTED]

From: Andrea Wilk Mizrahi
Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 12:17 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Ann Arbor Distilling Company hearing

Dear members of the Ann Arbor Planning Commission,

I am a member of the Threads All Arts Festival team and am writing to you regarding the Ann Arbor Distilling Company hearing that is taking place later today.

As an Ann Arbor community member, I feel very strongly about the importance of having spaces for expression, art, and communal gathering. The Ann Arbor Distilling Company is an excellent space for these purposes, and I have attended a number of fantastic community events there.

This year the [Threads All Arts Festival](#) team chose the Ann Arbor Distilling Company because it is the most conducive to the immersive artistic experience we are curating.

I am writing to you all to express how central the Distilling Company is to the community of Ann Arbor as a venue space. I sincerely hope that the planning commission will take this to heart today when considering whether to approve the Distilling Company as a venue.

Thank you very much for your time. I ask that this letter be circulated to the members of the planning commission and added to the public record.

Sincerely,

Andrea Wilk