



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Please consider purchasing Peter Valentine's House for the good of Cambridge

1 message

Catherine Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 16, 2022 at 6:38 PM

To: "Huang, Yi-An" <yhuang@cambridgema.gov>, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

To Yi An Huang, Cambridge City Manager &
Tom Evans, Ex. Director, Cambridge Redevelopment Authority

Dear Yi An and Tom,

Please see attached a prospectus for creating an art center out of beloved Cambridge artist Peter Valentine's house at [37 Brookline Street](#). As we imagine it, the "Peter Valentine Center for Cosmic Creativity," aka, the Valentine Art House, would serve as an art residency space with living, studio, gathering and workshop areas.

We, the Advisory Board for this project, hope that the City or the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority will purchase the property for the benefit of the City. It is centrally located, two blocks from Central Square, and surrounded by Peter's "Cosmic Moose & Grizzly Bearsville" fence, admired by curators at the Smithsonian and the American Museum of Visionary Art.

Whether it becomes an art center—our vision—or affordable housing, this property should provide community benefit. Peter's family is willing to sell it at the reduced price of \$2.2m for either purpose. If you are interested in acquiring the property but can't make a commitment to this by early January, the family's deadline for finding a buyer, we have identified a bridge buyer who could purchase it now and resell it to you later this spring or summer.

Thank you for considering engaging in this extraordinary vision, providing tremendous community benefit and commemorating an extraordinary Cantabrigian.

Let me know if you have questions or need further information. I'll share an estimate for repurposing the house next week.


Sincerely,

Cathie Zusy
for the Valentine Art House Advisory Board
617.460.2716

Members of the Art Center Advisory Board: Cambridge Arts' Jason Weeks; the Museum of Fine Arts' Nancy Berliner (curator of Chinese Art) and Michael Jeffery Bramwell (curator of Folk and Self-Taught Art), Michael Monestime of the Central Square BID, Claudia Zarazua, Cambridge Director of Arts & Cultural Planning, MIT's Sarah Gallop, Peter's sister Adi Bemak and her husband Rob Okun, developers Jill Shulman and Merhi Sater, public artist Ross Miller, and Cathie Zusy, a longtime curator, project director and community activist.
Advisor: The Cambridge Historical Commission's Charles Sullivan

3 attachments

 **12.16.22 letter to City & CRA.docx**
10K

 **Prospectus 12.16.22.docx**
12K



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Fw: [Cambridgeport] Please Support the Purchase of Peter Valentine's Property for the Good of Cambridge

1 message

Marilyn Wellons <marilyn.wellons@yahoo.com>

Sun, Dec 18, 2022 at 3:49 PM

To: "citymanager@cambridgema.gov" <citymanager@cambridgema.gov>, "ooriodan@cambridgema.gov" <ooriodan@cambridgema.gov>, "council@CambridgeMA.Gov" <council@cambridgema.gov>, "tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>, "cathzusy@gmail.com" <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Dear Cambridge City officials, et al.,

This is an outstanding proposal, well thought-through and much needed. It is also a fitting tribute to Peter Valentine.

The goals outlined are more than compatible. Affordable housing, work space, and green space are essential for artists--as they and the artists themselves are for all Cambridge residents.

Please act quickly and favorably on this proposal. As you do so, please join me in thanking the Art Center Advisory Board for their work and commitment to achieving its goals.

Yours sincerely,

Marilyn Wellons
651 Green Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-792-7738

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Catherine Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>**To:** cambridgeport@groups.io <cambridgeport@groups.io>**Sent:** Saturday, December 17, 2022 at 03:31:55 PM EST**Subject:** [Cambridgeport] Please Support the Purchase of Peter Valentine's Property for the Good of Cambridge

Dear Neighbors,

Please see attached a prospectus for creating an art center out of beloved artist Peter Valentine's house at [37 Brookline Street](#). As we imagine it, the "Peter Valentine Center for Cosmic Creativity," aka, the Valentine Art House, would serve as an art residency space with living, studio, gathering and workshop areas.

We, the Advisory Board for this project, hope that the City, the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority, or a beneficent individual will purchase the property for the benefit of the City. It is centrally located, two blocks from Central Square, and surrounded by Peter's "Cosmic Moose & Grizzly Bearville" fence, admired by curators at the Smithsonian and the American Museum of Visionary Art.

Whether it becomes an art center—our vision—or affordable housing, this property should provide community benefit. Peter's family is willing to sell it at the reduced price of \$2.2m for either purpose. (The family has already received MANY proposals from developers to put luxury housing there.)

We have little time to realize this vision. Peter's family must identify a buyer for the property ASAP and sell it by early April. If the buyer needs more time to act, we have a bridge buyer who could purchase it now and resell it to an entity for a public use this spring or summer.

If you support a public use for [37 Brookline St.](#), or better yet, our vision of an art center there, please email our City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Council, and the Ex. Director of the CRA at these emails. CC me too, please. We need to demonstrate that there is support for this.

Yi-an Huang, citymanager@cambridgema.gov
Owen O'Riordan, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov
City Council, council@CambridgeMA.Gov
Tom Evans, Ex. Director, CRC, tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org
Cathie Zusy, cathzusy@gmail.com

Contact me if you have questions or if you have ideas about how to advance this vision.

Sincerely,

Cathie Zusy
for the Valentine Art House Advisory Board
617.460.2716

Members of the Art Center Advisory Board: Cambridge Arts' Jason Weeks; the Museum of Fine Arts' Nancy Berliner (curator of Chinese Art) and Michael Jeffery Bramwell (curator of Folk and Self-Taught Art), Michael Monestime of the Central Square BID, Claudia Zarazua, Cambridge Director of Arts & Cultural Planning, MIT's Sarah Gallop, Peter's sister Adi Bemak and her husband Rob Okun, developers Jill Shulman and Merhi Sater, public artist Ross Miller, and Cathie Zusy, a longtime curator, project director and community activist.
Advisor: The Cambridge Historical Commission's Charles Sullivan

~*~*~*~

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~*~*~*~

2 attachments



IMG_2199.jpeg
150K



Prospectus 12.16.22.docx
12K



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Support for Public Use Art Space at 37 Brookline St

1 message

Meryll Davis <merylledavis@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 2:47 PM

To: tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Cc: Catherine Zusy <czusy@magazinebeach.org>

Dear Tom,

Hope this email finds you doing well. I am a resident of the Cambridgeport neighborhood and recently learned that there is a motion to turn the Peter Valentine house ([37 Brookline St](#), 02139) into a public use art center. I am writing to express my strong support of this endeavor! I live just a few houses down from 37 Brookline St and have always appreciated its artistry and uniqueness, and the color and beauty it adds to the neighborhood. Turning the house into a public use art space would be so meaningful to many of us who live in the neighborhood and create/support many kinds of art! I would plan to be involved there as much as possible as a community organizer and supporter of the project.

Thanks for reading, and happy holidays,

Meryll Davis



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

37 Brookline St: An art center please!

1 message

helen snively <hmsnively@aol.com>

Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 4:08 PM

Reply-To: helen snively <hmsnively@aol.com>

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org, cathzusy@gmail.com

Dear city people with power,

Please please support a public use for [37 Brookline St.](#), home of the late Peter Valentine. In fact, I love Cathie Zusy's vision of an art center there. In the summer of 2021, several of us spent a fair bit of time in that yard, trying to help Peter remove enough weeds to make it some kind of viable garden. It could have happened in time.. but he died before we could do it.

In his memory, we need an art center.. or some combination of art, garden, community center. NOT luxury housing--what an insult that would be to his memory! THANK you for letting us create what this city needs. Helen Snively 1 Fayette Park



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Proposed Peter Valentine Art Center - 37 Brookline Street

1 message

Sue Purchon <spurchon148@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 6:53 PM

To: cathzusy@gmail.com, citymanager@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

I am writing to express my strong support for creating an art center out of artist Peter Valentine's house at 37 Brookline Street to serve as an artist residency space with living, studio, gathering and workshop areas.

This building has been providing smiles to the community for many years. Unique, artsy places like this are what makes Cambridge so special. We already lost the soul of Harvard Square, it would be a shame to lose this gem.

Providing an affordable place for artists to live, do their work, gather and teach would be a positive and meaningful use of the space and honors Peter Valentine's spirit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Sue Purchon

Work and live in Cambridge



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Peter Valentine House

1 message

vasikri@gmail.com <vasikri@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 10:30 AM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov,
tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Cc: Catherine Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Dear City Officials,

Hope you are doing well.

Please can the city through full support behind the plan to convert the Peter Valentine house to something beneficial to the community at large. In keeping with Peter's wonderfully off-rectangular-grid house a community arts center would be a great addition to Central Square.

There are signs all over Central proclaiming it the arts and cultural district even as we see many of the reasons for it to be called that disappearing. Manray, The Middle East and so many other music venues are either gone or on their way out. Cantab was saved from the brink. Without the arts is Central still the Cultural District?

Please city leaders lets step up and save this wonderful piece of neighborhood history from being swallowed up for more luxury condos. Or lets tear down the signs proclaiming an Arts and Cultural district as they would only be a reminder of what once was.

Thanks,

Vivek Sikri

Allston St



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

in support of Valentine Art House Advisory Board

1 message

Margaret Haney <margaret.haney@bc.edu>

Tue, Dec 20, 2022 at 3:40 PM

Reply-To: margaret.haney@bc.edu

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, "ooriodan@cambridgema.gov" <ooriodan@cambridgema.gov>, council@cambridgema.gov, "tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Cc: cathsuzy@gmail.com

Hello --

I am a Cambridgeport resident and recently heard of the initiative to turn Peter Valentine's house into a community Art Center. I am highly supportive of this idea and write to encourage you all to strongly consider this proposal. The house already is a magnet for the arts, with its colorful fence and rich history, and our neighborhood could benefit from more community gathering spots than yet another "luxury home" that sells for \$2+ million.

Sincerely,

Penny Haney
36 Glenwood Ave

*Penny Haney, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of the Practice
Lynch School of Education
Boston College
she/her/hers*



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

The Valentine House

1 message

John Tyson <tysontsurutani@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 20, 2022 at 10:07 AM

To: tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Dear Tom Evans:

I have been a Cambridgeport resident most of my life and I wholeheartedly support creating an art center out of beloved artist Peter Valentine's house at [37 Brookline Street](#).

Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,

John

617 460 4653



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Please Consider the Peter Valentine Center for Cosmic Creativity!

1 message

Joseph Poirier <jpoirier20@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 10:42 AM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, "council@cambridgema.gov"

<council@cambridgema.gov>, Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Cc: Cathie Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Hi All,

Just dropping a quick line to let you know that I strongly support a creative re-use of Peter Valentine's house. His house was a landmark and a joyful presence in my childhood in Cambridgeport, and I'd love to see his energy continue to play a role in Central Square. I hope the community can come together to save the house for future generations of Cantabrigians. For our kids, especially, it is important they understand the full breadth of expression that is open to them. Peter's house is a great reminder that you can be as 'different' as you want to be!

Thanks,

Joe Poirier
Sherman Street



Tom Evans <tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

support for the Valentine Art House proposal

1 message

Mary Yntema <me@maryyntema.org>

Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 1:27 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, "council@cambridgema.gov"
<council@cambridgema.gov>, tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org, Catherine Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Dear Friends,

I write to express support for the City's purchase of the later Peter Valentine's house at [37 Brookline St.](#) for community and artistic purposes, as proposed by the project's Valentine Art House Advisory Board. As a native Cantabridgian, and Central Square resident and homeowner, I recognize the place as a unique part of our Cambridge heritage that should be maintained and fostered — into the future and into new life.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Yntema
Magazine Street



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Peter Valentine property

1 message

jmfrut@comcast.net <jmfrut@comcast.net>

Thu, Dec 22, 2022 at 8:03 AM

To: "ooriordan@cambridgema.gov" <ooriordan@cambridgema.gov>, "citymanager@cambridgema.gov" <citymanager@cambridgema.gov>, "tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

We are writing to register our support for the Peter Valentine property becoming an art center/affordable housing - something that will benefit the community.

Another group of million dollar+ homes will certainly not do this and will contribute to the ongoing gentrification of Cambridgeport, making the area less and less affordable and interesting.

Regards,

Michael & Joan Frutkoff
74 Pleasant Street



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Support for an art center

1 message

Linda Nathan <lnathan@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 22, 2022 at 10:09 AM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org, cathzusy@gmail.com

Cc: ooriordan@cambridgema.gov

I am writing to support an art center or affordable housing for Peter Valente's 37 Brookline Street. I love the idea of the "Peter Valentine Center for Cosmic Creativity," aka, the Valentine Art House, would serve as an art residency space with living, studio, gathering and workshop areas.

Sincerely, Linda Nathan Erie St

--

Linda Nathancell: [617-212-5225](tel:617-212-5225)



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Estimate for Repurposing Peter Valentine's House into an Art Center

1 message

Catherine Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 23, 2022 at 4:54 PM

To: "Huang, Yi-An" <yhuang@cambridgema.gov>, "council@cambridgema.gov" <council@cambridgema.gov>, Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Yi-an, Tom, City Council,

This estimate for repurposing Peter's house just came in: at \$731,195 (+ contingency + architect fee), we think this makes the project doable. Our goal is NOT to gut renovate the house, but to fix the broken things and to get the property functioning as an art center ASAP. We will leave Peter's writings on the walls inside and out.

THANK YOU for your interest in this project.

More good news: the Kohler Foundation is interested in conserving the fence!

Let me know if you have any questions.

Happy holidays, all!

My best,

Cathie (Zusy)

for the Valentine Art Center Advisory Board

617.460.2716

On Dec 23, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Andrew Calorio <bennettrenovate@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello all,




Here is a scope of work and budget for the project as far as we have discussed it. Certain budget numbers are solid, the roof and windows for example. Others would need to be finalized after a set of plans has been completed. This is a very interesting project for me, especially after reading about Peter and his love for Cambridge. I too, love Cambridge (the one I grew up in) and would be proud to be part of something like this. I feel like Central square is the last stronghold, even though it too has changed so much.

Please let me know if you have any questions, I won't be able to do much more on this until after new years but if I have the time before I will.

Thanks,

Andrew

3 attachments

-  **37_Brookline_Street_Cambridge_Peter_Valentine_House_Scope_of_Work_Version_3_12_23_2022.docx**
16K
-  **37_Brookline_St_budget_12_23_2022_version_3.xlsx**
19K
-  **Cambridge Comm Ctr_v1504 Comm Shaftway 3 Stop T2 w Auto Pro Doors Quote_DM122022.pdf**
147K



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Peter Valentine's house

1 message

John Goodman <johngoodman@mac.com>

Fri, Dec 23, 2022 at 4:33 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Cc: Catherine Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Hello,

I've just read the Cambridge Day report on the proposed plans, spearheaded by Cathie Zusy, for safeguarding Peter Valentine's house on Brookline Street.

An arts center is an ideal use for this property. With a community space for workshops and a living space for an artist-in-residence, the building will honor its heritage and open itself to a wide audience of Cambridge citizens and visitors.

I encourage you to do what's necessary to help bring this plan to life. If the city has money for Participatory Budgeting, it can find money for this.

Thank you for carefully considering the art center advisory board proposal.

Best wishes,
John Goodman

8 Fairmont Avenue
Cambridge MA 02139

<https://www.cambridgeday.com/2022/12/21/help-transform-artist-peter-valentines-house-into-an-art-center/>



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Save the Cosmic Moose!

1 message

Shenandoah Paun <shennyp@gmail.com>

Sat, Dec 24, 2022 at 10:54 AM

To: tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Dear Mr. Evans,

I recently learned of a proposal to preserve the iconic "Cosmic Moose" property on Valentine Street and transform it into housing and studio space for artists. I urge you to do everything in your power to make this a reality. This is exactly the kind of "development" that Cambridge needs! Supporting artists with affordable housing and studio space helps our entire community thrive, and can help preserve diversity in a rapidly gentrifying area where longtime residents are being pushed out in favor of luxury developments that they can't afford.

Bringing in more artists would help to preserve the creative soul that has long thrived in our neighborhood. Sadly, most artists cannot afford housing or studio space in this area as developers snap up any affordable space and resell them at much higher prices. Models such as [NXTHVN](#) show how this could also be used to support and elevate the voices of artists of color and improve the cultural diversity of our area. Preserving this public artwork is also good for the entire community. I actually decided to move to this neighborhood after seeing the Cosmic Moose, and after 9 years of living down the street, I still often pause to admire its details. It would break my heart to see this artwork destroyed to make way for more luxury housing, and would honestly make me consider whether this is a neighborhood/city I still want to live in. Why pay a premium to live in the Cultural District when arts and culture are being displaced in favor of luxury development that most of us can't enjoy?

Sincerely,

Shenandoah Paun
[12A Lopez St](#)
[Cambridgeport](#)



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

From Trudi Goodman Cambridge Resident, RE: Peter Valentine House 37 Brookline Street

1 message

Trudi Goodman <trudigoodman@yahoo.com>

Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 5:40 PM

To: "citymanager@cambridgema.gov" <citymanager@cambridgema.gov>, "ooriodan@cambridgema.gov"

<ooriodan@cambridgema.gov>, "council@CambridgeMA.Gov" <council@cambridgema.gov>,

"tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Cc: "cathzusy@gmail.com" <cathzusy@gmail.com>

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you about the Peter Valentine House at [37 Brookline Street](#), Cambridge MA. I was sad to hear about Peter's passing. He was a unique guy.

I am writing in support of the Cambridgeport Neighborhood's concern that this property not be turned in to more unaffordable luxury condos. There is already a dearth of decent rentals in Cambridge. This City does not need to support more of this kind of overpriced housing when there are tenants in this City who need decent sustainable, affordable housing.

I am a working Singer, Musician, Actor and Writer. I hold Professional Union Cards.

I have lived in this City for over 40 years.

It is becoming nearly impossible for me to continuing living here.

I live in Section 8 Housing that is not being adequately maintained.

People such as myself desperately need affordable housing.

Why Couldn't Peter's house become:

1. Affordable Housing for Section 8 people who are Artists.
2. It would not be difficult to do a Means Test in this situation. Boston has been creating genuinely affordable housing units for Artist for well over a decade.
3. There could also be an Artist Center at this building.
4. As a matter of fact, as a person who teaches the Arts I would be thrilled to see more Artist Space in this City for the teaching and enjoyment of The Arts.

I do hear that the house was in a state of disrepair. That will be an issue as well.

I would appreciate a timely response to my letter.

Thank you and
A Happy New Year!

Trudi Goodman

1221 Cambridge Street
Apt. 708
Cambridge, MA
02139-1349
trudigoodman@yahoo.com
Landline/Phone: 617-492-0526
Cell:857-334-6757

Yi-an Huang, citymanager@cambridgema.gov Owen O'Riordan, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov City Council, council@CambridgeMA.Gov Tom Evans, Ex. Director, CRC, tevans@cambridgeredevlopment.org Cathie Zusy, cathzusy@gmail.com



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Fw: Please consider purchasing Peter Valentine's House for the good of Cambridge

Nolan, Patricia <pnolan@cambridgema.gov>

Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 1:04 PM

To: "Huang, Yi-An" <yhuang@cambridgema.gov>, "tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Yi-An & Tom:

Hope you are both enjoying a holiday.... when you are back, wanted to send you what I sent to Cathie Zusy about the Peter Valentine idea....

I understand that the vision sounds great - however, I am concerned about us jumping on this project and spending the millions it will cost (more than the \$3.5 million estimate now) just to develop it not including operational costs. I would rather consider whether spending it on an underpass from Danehy Park to the Brickworks/Jefferson Park area would yield greater community benefit...

Patty

From: Nolan, Patricia <pnolan@cambridgema.gov>**Sent:** Wednesday, December 28, 2022 1:00 PM**To:** Catherine Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>**Subject:** Re: Please consider purchasing Peter Valentine's House for the good of Cambridge

Dear Cathie:

Happy Holidays and (almost) Happy New Year. Thanks for your efforts and vision for continued funkiness in Central Square.

I appreciate the work that you have put into this vision. I am surprised and disappointed that the house ownership did not revert to the city or MIT upon Peter's death, which would have made this project so much easier. However, we are where we are - and have to consider what to do given that the property is now owned by Peter's relatives. Happy to talk with you next week - I am mostly on vacation this week.

I love the fence (and the purpliness) and the creative artwork and would love it to be preserved assuming the appropriate mechanism can be found in a timely manner. I wonder if you anticipate having other entities ultimately fund the renovation and operations? The Kohler Foundation is one you mentioned? If the hope is for the city or the CRA to develop this property and operate it, we need to understand and be clear on what other possible projects would not get funded as a result. There are so many requests for the city and the CRA to fund projects that we need to carefully weigh whether this property makes the most sense for funding.

I appreciate the sentiment that there be a community art space or affordable housing for artists. What

is the vision for ongoing funding if a community/art center? If it is affordable housing, we could anticipate what ongoing costs would be. For a community center, I am unclear on the financing and economics. The Foundry cost far more than initial estimates, and it is a much bigger space. And presumably with the current issue of escalating construction costs, I wonder how solid the estimates are for the scope of work that you sent, with an estimate of \$731K plus likely another \$100K-\$150K for architecture and contingency fees. And that is just to stabilize and make accessible the building. Are there other things that would have to be done to make it an art or community center? I am not clear if the lift as scoped meets accessibility requirements - my understanding is that such a lift requires a variance if the building will be public space. The estimate for an elevator for a building also a 3 three story building owned by another non profit I know, was more than \$1 million just for the elevator. And we were told that was the least expensive option that met accessibility requirements for the public. A variance would mean that a LULA could be installed.

Sincerely,

Patty

Patty Nolan
Cambridge City Council
She/her/hers

From: Catherine Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2022 1:32 PM
To: City Council <CityCouncil@CambridgeMA.GOV>
Subject: Please consider purchasing Peter Valentine's House for the good of Cambridge

Dear Councilors,
With this email, our ask is now out in the world.

We, the Advisory Board for the Valentine Art House, are happy to meet with you and discuss any questions you have relating to our proposal below. It would be a crime if Peter's house became a site for luxury housing. It and its fence are significant (as per the Cambridge Historical Commission, the Smithsonian and American Museum of Visionary Art) and should provide public benefit to Cambridge—we think as the Peter Valentine Center for Cosmic Creativity, aka, the Valentine Art House.

We have lost so many artist spaces and [37 Brookline St. is so](#) centrally located, just blocks from Central Square.

Thanks for your consideration. We must work fast as Peter's family needs a buyer for the property ASAP.

Sincerely,
Cathie Zusy for the Valentine Art House Advisory Board
617.460.2716

Begin forwarded message:

From: Catherine Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>
Subject: Please consider purchasing Peter Valentine's House for the good of Cambridge
Date: December 16, 2022 at 6:38:40 PM EST
To: "Huang, Yi-An" <yhuang@cambridgema.gov>, tevang@cambridgeredevelopment.org

To Yi An Huang, Cambridge City Manager &

Tom Evans, Ex. Director, Cambridge Redevelopment Authority

Dear Yi An and Tom,

Please see attached a prospectus for creating an art center out of beloved Cambridge artist Peter Valentine's house at [37 Brookline Street](#). As we imagine it, the "Peter Valentine Center for Cosmic Creativity," aka, the Valentine Art House, would serve as an art residency space with living, studio, gathering and workshop areas.

We, the Advisory Board for this project, hope that the City or the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority will purchase the property for the benefit of the City. It is centrally located, two blocks from Central Square, and surrounded by Peter's "Cosmic Moose & Grizzly Bearsville" fence, admired by curators at the Smithsonian and the American Museum of Visionary Art.

Whether it becomes an art center—our vision—or affordable housing, this property should provide community benefit. Peter's family is willing to sell it at the reduced price of \$2.2m for either purpose. If you are interested in acquiring the property but can't make a commitment to this by early January, the family's deadline for finding a buyer, we have identified a bridge buyer who could purchase it now and resell it to you later this spring or summer.

Thank you for considering engaging in this extraordinary vision, providing tremendous community benefit and commemorating an extraordinary Cantabrigian.

Let me know if you have questions or need further information. I'll share an estimate for repurposing the house next week.

Sincerely,

Cathie Zusy
for the Valentine Art House Advisory Board
617.460.2716

Members of the Art Center Advisory Board: Cambridge Arts' Jason Weeks; the Museum of Fine Arts' Nancy Berliner (curator of Chinese Art) and Michael Jeffery Bramwell (curator of Folk and Self-Taught Art), Michael Monestime of the Central Square BID, Claudia Zarazua, Cambridge Director of Arts & Cultural Planning, MIT's Sarah Gallop, Peter's sister Adi Bemak and her husband Rob Okun, developers Jill Shulman and Merhi Sater, public artist Ross Miller, and Cathie Zusy, a longtime curator, project director and community activist.
Advisor: The Cambridge Historical Commission's Charles Sullivan



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

supporting a Valentine Art House

1 message

Amy Meltzer <ameltzerma@comcast.net>

Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 1:36 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, "council@cambridgema.gov" <council@cambridgema.gov>, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Cc: Catherine Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>, Philip McArthur <philmcarthur@me.com>

Dear City Councillors, Yi-an Huang, Owen O'Riordon, and Tom Evans,

We would like voice our support for a public use of the property at [37 Brookline St](#). It is a rare opportunity to have a property whose owners are willing to forego the income from selling to a developer, in order to create a space that will benefit the community. A house that supports artists, as outlined by Valentine Art House Advisory Board, would be an ideal use, and we urge you to help make this possible.

Many thanks,

Amy Meltzer
Philip McArthur
[45 Antrim St](#)
[Cambridge 02139](#)



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Letter of support for community space at Peter Valentine's former property

Sage Carbone <sage.carbone@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 5:32 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org, council@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov

Cc: cathusy@gmail.com, "Sullivan, Charles M." <csullivan@cambridgema.gov>, Marieke Van Damme <mvandamme@historycambridge.org>, "Burks, Sarah" <sburks@cambridgema.gov>, David S Lowry <dslowry@mit.edu>

Hello Cambridge Leadership Team,

I am writing today in support of efforts to purchase Peter Valentine's former property at [37 Brookline Street](#) as a space for Indigenous Peoples to purchase affordable condos or for other public use.

There are at least 4 dedicated community spaces for Native Americans in Boston, but zero in Cambridge. Providing 'Land Back' is a significant step that will align with City efforts to reconcile its history of colonization and slavery while uplifting marginalized residents.

It is my hope that this property can be renovated and preserved for the next 7 generations of Indigenous Peoples, as it had been for many generations prior.

Thank you,

Sage Carbone
270 3rd Street #709, 02142

- CDD Middle-Moderate Income Rental Program
- Member of the Northern Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island; Nipmuc, Massachusetts, and Mi'kmaq descendant



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Peter Valentine Art Center

1 message

Catherine LeBlanc <catherineleblanc693@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 8:59 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov,

"tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Cc: Catherine Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Dear City People with Power,

Hi, as a Cambridge resident since 2012, I first learned about Mr. Valentine from my friend attending a doctoral MIT program. When not in class or lab, he was at the large table at Tosci's. Frequently Mr. Valentine was at the same table. When I moved to Brookline Street, I passed the famous 37 Brookline Street house and greatly appreciated the Art House, as I called it.

A number of times I heard Mr. Valentine give public comments in Sullivan Hall. And he was easy to spot on Mass Ave in Central Square when the weather was nice.

Once during a snow bomb storm, Harvest Food Co-op was open. It was the warmest day we had had in many weeks and I needed food. As a kid living in Madison, Wisconsin, snow was just something that got you warmer the longer you had to walk through it. Magazine Street was pretty well plowed so I was surprised when a busdriver stopped (not at a stop) and said, "Get in, where are you going?" The only other passenger was going to the Co-op as well. When I got inside the entryway of Harvest, there was Mr. Valentine. I thought, this is my chance to finally say something to this iconic Cambridgeport neighbor. I was nervous, "Stay awesome Peter!", my neurodivergent brain blurted out.

"Awesome recognizes awesome." was his reply. The smile on my face even now as I write this, absolutely fantastic.

So I am asking that you all, who are in positions of power and influence, do all that you can to see that Mr. Valentine's Art House, fence & complete green space property be saved to become a Cambridgeport public Art Center, a legacy to the vibrant soul who made it what it is.

Thank you in advance for heeding this request.

Catherine LeBlanc

14 Tufts St #3



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Re: Letter of support for community space at Peter Valentine's former property

1 message

David S Lowry <dslowry@mit.edu>

Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 11:28 AM

To: Sage Carbone <sage.carbone@gmail.com>, "citymanager@cambridgema.gov" <citymanager@cambridgema.gov>, "tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>, "council@cambridgema.gov" <council@cambridgema.gov>, "ooriordan@cambridgema.gov" <ooriordan@cambridgema.gov>
Cc: "cathzusy@gmail.com" <cathzusy@gmail.com>, "csullivan@cambridgema.gov" <csullivan@cambridgema.gov>, Marieke Van Damme <mvandamme@historycambridge.org>, "Burks, Sarah" <sburks@cambridgema.gov>

Dear Sage and Cambridge colleagues:

Oh...this sounds extraordinary! Yes, we cannot move forward without handing over deeds/property access and creating living spaces for American Indian/Native American peoples in Cambridge. Furthering Sage's excellent call to action, I see a future in which Cambridge places pressure on Harvard, MIT and other Institutions/organizations to open up land/property that they own (which is a lot!) to insure American Indian/Native American students and community members are also taken care of.

These are moral projects - - not just financial ones. Right now, Harvard provides more space for non-living American Indian/Native American peoples (e.g. Peabody Museum) than living American Indian/Native American peoples. Within those educational and political conditions, Cambridge ought to catalyze a new era of healing and reparations.

DSL

From: Sage Carbone <sage.carbone@gmail.com>**Sent:** Sunday, January 1, 2023 5:32 PM**To:** citymanager@cambridgema.gov <citymanager@cambridgema.gov>;
tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>;
council@cambridgema.gov <council@cambridgema.gov>; ooriordan@cambridgema.gov
<ooriordan@cambridgema.gov>**Cc:** cathzusy@gmail.com <cathzusy@gmail.com>; csullivan@cambridgema.gov
<csullivan@cambridgema.gov>; Marieke Van Damme <mvandamme@historycambridge.org>; Burks, Sarah
<sburks@cambridgema.gov>; David S Lowry <dslowry@mit.edu>**Subject:** Letter of support for community space at Peter Valentine's former property

Hello Cambridge Leadership Team,

I am writing today in support of efforts to purchase Peter Valentine's former property at 37 Brookline Street as a space for Indigenous Peoples to purchase affordable condos or for other public use.

There are at least 4 dedicated community spaces for Native Americans in Boston, but zero in Cambridge. Providing 'Land Back' is a significant step that will align with City efforts to reconcile its history of colonization and slavery while uplifting marginalized residents.

It is my hope that this property can be renovated and preserved for the next 7 generations of Indigenous Peoples, as it had been for many generations prior.

Thank you,

Sage Carbone
270 3rd Street #709, 02142

- CDD Middle-Moderate Income Rental Program
- Member of the Northern Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island; Nipmuc, Massachusetts, and Mi'kmaq descendant



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevopment.org>

I strongly support securing public use of 37 Brookline Street

1 message

Alex van praagh <alexvanpraagh@yahoo.com>

Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 11:11 AM

To: "citymanager@cambridgema.gov" <citymanager@cambridgema.gov>

Cc: "ooriordan@cambridgema.gov" <ooriordan@cambridgema.gov>, "council@CambridgeMA.Gov"

<council@cambridgema.gov>, "tevans@cambridgeredevopment.org" <tevans@cambridgeredevopment.org>,

"cathzusy@gmail.com" <cathzusy@gmail.com>

| To all in positions to help make it happen:

I write to enthusiastically support the initiative to have both the building and the land at 37 Brookline become resources that the public and residents of Cambridge can use and enjoy. Public space and centers for art help to give a city and it's community vibrancy and identity. Cambridge needs more such places and should take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

Thank you, Alex

Alex Van Praagh

MA Architect #50197

MA CSL #10617066

[66 Antrim Street, Cambridge MA 02139](#)

617-959-1158



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Public use for the property at 37 Brookline Street!

1 message

Leslie Cohen <lzenacohen@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 10:10 AM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriodan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov,

tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Cc: cathzusy@gmail.com

Dear City Manager, Councillors, Mr. O'Riordan, and Mr. Evans:

I urge the city of Cambridge to purchase the iconic home of Peter Valentine (37 Brookline St., in Cambridgeport), who died recently. The site is a large one; it would be a shame for you to miss this chance to put into action your words about the need for more public housing for our community.

Thank you.

Leslie Cohen

237 Norfolk St.

02139



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Fwd: Please support the purchase of Peter Valentine`s Property for the Good of Cambridge

1 message

Sophie Eldredge <sophieeldredge@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 5:01 PM

To: "tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

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

From: **Sophie Eldredge** <sophieeldredge@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 4:59 PM

Subject: Please support the purchase of Peter Valentine`s Property for the Good of Cambridge

To: <citymanager@cambridgema.gov>, <oorjordan@cambridgema.gov>, <Council@cambridgema.gov>,

Cc: cathzusy@gmail.com <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Hello!

My name is Sophie and I have lived in Cambridge for four years. I am reaching out to ask you for your support in purchasing Peter Valentine`s Property. I had the pleasure of meeting Peter this past spring. I was working with members of the Cambridge City Growers to clean up his yard in hopes of fulfilling his dream of having a butterfly garden. This property could become an art center, as Cathie Zusy and the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association have proposed, or affordable housing but [57 Brookline St](#) must be preserved for the Cambridge community. The space is meaningful to so many and adds so much color and life to Central Square. I hope that the City, Cambridge Redevelopment Authority or a beneficent individual can come forward to purchase the property for the community's benefit.

Best,

Sophie Eldredge



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Public Use for 37 Brookline St

1 message

Paige Dickson <pmdickson93@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 7:43 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, "council@cambridgema.gov" <council@cambridgema.gov>, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Cc: cathzusy@gmail.com, Helen Snively <hmsnively@aol.com>

Dear Cambridge public officials,

I hope you all had a happy and relaxing holiday.

I am writing in support of the proposal put forth by Cathie Zusy to create a community art center at Peter Valentine's home. This space has been a source of joy, culture, and inspiration for the citizens of Cambridge and beyond for many years, and it would be a pity to have it converted into another luxury, cookie-cutter developer project. There are many potential public uses for this space beyond this proposal which could also be considered, including affordable housing (which the community desperately needs). Thank you, and I wish you a happy new year.

Best,
Paige Dickson



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

37 Brookline Street

1 message

Shelley Reed <shelleymreed@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 12:14 PM

To: tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Cc: cathzusy@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Evans,

As a neighbor of [37 Brookline Street](#), I'd love to see the property converted to an Art Center. Such a project would benefit the greater Cambridge community. It may offer space for artists to gather and work, art classes for both adults and children and, most importantly, an opportunity for the community at large to be exposed to and possibly participate in the creative process.

I hope the City of Cambridge works to help bring to fruition an idea that would enrich our citizens for generations to come.

Thank you,

Shelley Reed
[155 Brookline Street, #6](#)



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

37 Brookline Street property

1 message

Joel Sawady <joel.sawady@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 3:28 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov,
tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Dear Cambridge leaders and public servants,

I'm a long-time resident of Cambridge, both the Central Square and North Cambridge neighborhoods. I was sad to hear of Peter Valentine's passing, but happy to hear of conversations to turn his iconic home into a permanent Cambridge landmark and public space.

I am particularly pleased to hear the city is considering options such as making it an art center, and using the outdoor space as a garden or green space. As an active member of the Cambridge City Growers, I am on the lookout for spaces that can help us both grow beautiful plants, and enhance community, and I am hopeful that this space can do both.

I urge you to do everything you can to make this nascent vision a reality

Thank you,
Joel Sawady
North Cambridge



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

37 Brookline

1 message

Danielle Smith <daniellers11@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 5:59 PM

Cc: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org, "cathzusy@gmail.com" <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Dear Cambridge Citizens and Leaders,

I am a young teacher and artist in Cambridge, and I would love to see Peter Valentine's house reimaged into a community art and housing space. Cambridge is such a vibrant community of artists, gardeners, and people with great visions, and it would be a dream to have a space so close to Central dedicated to these values. Art and gardens bring people together from all places in life, and it would serve all of Cambridge to turn this home into a community art center.

Thank you for your consideration,
Danielle Smith
[51 Rice Street, Cambridge](#)



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Community Art Space in Central Square

1 message

Robert Michael Pittsley <rpittsley6@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 6:20 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org, "cathzusy@gmail.com" <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Cc: helen snively <hmsnively@aol.com>

Good Afternoon!

I am writing to you today as a resident of Cambridge and member of the central square community. Upon moving to cambridge, I immediately noticed it was a special place unlike anywhere I've been in Massachusetts. The people in our communities care about one another, are there for each other and actively build ways to share with one another.

For these reasons, I was excited to hear that there is a chance that Peter Valentines house can be used for those purposes. I feel an art center with community gardens is exactly what the city needs to maintain character and serve our people in a worthwhile way. As a former youth program coordinator at Eastie Farm in East Boston, and a member of the Cambridge City Growers - I can say that I have seen the wonderful benefits of greenspaces in our cities and what they do to build our community. These sites could be maintained by Cambridge people whether it is the coordinated through the Cambridge City Growers, or another group. As an environmental scientist, I appreciate any efforts to incorporate green infrastructure in urban areas and stress the health benefits of getting outside everyday to connect with loving systems.

I really do believe that this site would be perfect for those two things - art and gardens. Because there are so many possibilities that lie within those two worlds which would be uniquely fitting for cambridge. Lastly, I believe it's what Peter would have wanted and that it would be a fitting way to honor the spirit that he helped instill into this wonderful city.

Thank you for your consideration,
Robert Michael Pittsley



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Valentine house at 37 Brookline St

1 message

Laura McMurry <laura.mcmurry24@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 7:49 PM

To: Yi-An Huang <citymanager@cambridgema.gov>, Owen O'Riordan <ooriordan@cambridgema.gov>, Cambridge City Council <council@cambridgema.gov>, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org, Cathie Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Hello all,

I support purchase of the "Peter Valentine House" by the city or under its aegis, to be used as affordable housing, an art center, or other civic function. There is also some land there for gardens.

If the Valentine family is willing to sell accordingly, that would be far preferable than letting this well-located property go to a developer.

Thank you.

Laura McMurry
Cambridge Resident (Harvard St).



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

37 Brookline Street

1 message

Alan Meyers <afmeyers@bu.edu>

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 10:21 AM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov,
tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org, cathzusy@gmail.com

Cc: helen snively <hmsnively@aol.com>

As a longtime Cambridge resident, I would like to express my support for creating a public use space, such as an art center, for the property at [37 Brookline Street](#), the former home of Peter Valentine.

Alan Meyers

[84 Amory St, Cambridge, MA 02139](#)



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Public use of the property at 37 Brookline St., Cambridge, MA

1 message

Charles Dietrick <charles.dietrick26@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 1:55 PM

To: tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Dear Tom,

I hope this message finds you well and staying safe.

I am writing in support of using the property at 37 Brookline St. to benefit the Cambridge community. Given the shortage of adequate art studio space and affordable housing in Cambridge, it would be a shame to sell to developers for luxury housing construction.

I would prefer to see it dedicated to providing affordable housing for the many unhoused in our city, but I support any use of the property at 37 Brookline Street that benefits the Cambridge community.

Sincerely,

Charles Dietrick

Charles Dietrick
33 Magazine St., #G
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-803-1592 (cell)



Tom Evans <tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Art/public-use space for 37 Brookline Street

1 message

Sugarmonger <seth@sugarmonger.org>

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 1:37 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov,
tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org, cathzusy@gmail.com

Dear City Manager and other concerned parties,

I am writing to request your support in ensuring the future use of the property at 37 Brookline Street, formerly inhabited by Peter Valentine, as an art center or other public-use green-space with a focus on local community. Particularly in times like these, when our communities are increasingly fractured and uncertain, preserving and expanding such spaces can have an inherent value in grounding and deepening the connections we have with those around us.

Thank you,

Seth Yarden
164 Vassal Lane, Cambridge
Owner, SKY Bodywork LLC



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Valentine Art Center

1 message

Sarah Levy <larah.sevy@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 12:56 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Cc: Catherine Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Dear Cambridge City Leadership:

I'm Sarah Levy and I've lived at 52 Pearl St #3, just down the block from Peter Valentine's house, since 2012. I'm writing to strongly urge the City to purchase Peter's house and turn it into an arts center and community garden.

For 10 years I've walked by Peter's and very frequently, either someone I'm with or a random stranger on the street will say upon seeing the fence and house, "this is so Cambridge." If we don't protect the things we love about Cambridge, that phrase will come to mean something very different.

This project would both maintain a piece of the built environment which signals our neighborhood's character as well as provide an actual resource to foster the creativity and community that makes Central Sq the arts and culture district in the city.

I could go on about all the inspiring and community-building ideas that could enliven the space, but I'll keep it short with the hope of allowing you to get to the business of buying the property! If you're looking for specific ideas, please let me know. Please, please take action on this opportunity before it's too late.

Thank you,
Sarah Levy
52 Pearl St #3



Tom Evans <tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Peter Valentine House

1 message

Eli Witkin <witkineli@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 12:25 PM

To: council@cambridgema.gov, "tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org>, "cathzusy@gmail.com" <cathzusy@gmail.com>, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, citymanager@cambridgema.gov

Hello everyone,

I am writing today voice my support for the development of a community art and garden center at [37 Brookline st.](#) Throughout my 8 years living in Cambridge, this property has been a staple of what makes Cambridge Cambridge. The opportunity to develop a space dedicated to art and gardening would both be an honor to Mr Valentine's legacy as well as a commitment and investment in Cambridge's unique culture for years to come.

Best,
-Eli

612-716-4970



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

an arts center, surrounded by gardens, in Central Sq

1 message

Eva Moseley <esmoseley@mindspring.com>

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 11:13 AM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov,
tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Dear Cambridge leaders

I didn't know the late Peter Valentine but the proposal to turn his house at [37 Brookline St.](#) into an arts center surrounded by gardens sounds like a very good one. Surely Cambridge can afford to forgo the taxes on yet another luxury-housing development!—and instead foster a project that, imaginative and centrally located, would attract participants from all over the city and visitors from all over the country, if not the world. So one more vote for this proposal from friends who I'm sure would gladly help plan the center and devote many hours and days to it and perhaps even funds.

Eva S. Moseley

[361 Mt. Auburn St.](#)

[Cambridge, MA 02138-5526](#)

617 868 7569

Cell 857 320 1331



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Please Support the Purchase of Peter Valentine's Property for the Good of Cambridge

1 message

pina morganti <giuseppinamorganti@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 6:22 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, "council@cambridgema.gov"

<council@cambridgema.gov>, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Cc: cathzusy@gmail.com, hmsnively@aol.com

Dear City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Council and Ex. Director of the CRA,

my name is Pina Morganti, I am a teacher, a Cambridge resident and mum of two little boys. I am writing to encourage you to support the purchase of Peter Valentine's Property at 37 Brookline Street to create an art center surrounded by gardens. Families love green and open spaces!

The Advisory Board for this project hopes that the City, the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority, or a beneficent individual will purchase the property for the benefit of the City. The aim is to create an art center, the "Peter Valentine Center for Cosmic Creativity," AKA the Valentine Art House, that would serve as an artist residency space with living, studio, gathering and workshop areas.

As a mum and a teacher, I strongly believe that our community would definitely benefit from a project like that, whether the property becomes an art center - the Advisory Board's vision - or an affordable housing.

Thank you

Your sincerely
Pina Morganti



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Please Support the Purchase of Peter Valentine's Property for the Good of Cambridge

1 message

Emily Nink <emilynink@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 10:13 AM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Cc: gmoke@world.std.com, "cathzusy@gmail.com" <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Good morning,

I am writing in support of the following letter from Cambridge resident Cathie Zusy.

Sincerely,
Emily

[We aim to create] an art center out of beloved artist Peter Valentine's house at 37 Brookline Street. As we imagine it, the "Peter Valentine Center for Cosmic Creativity," AKA the Valentine Art House, would serve as an artist residency space with living, studio, gathering and workshop areas. We, the Advisory Board for this project, hope that the City, the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority, or a beneficent individual will purchase the property for the benefit of the City. It is centrally located, two blocks from Central Square, and surrounded by Peter's "Cosmic Moose & Grizzly Bearsville" fence, admired by curators at the Smithsonian and the American Museum of Visionary Art. Whether it becomes an art center—our vision—or affordable housing, this property should provide community benefit. Peter's family ... has already received—and rejected—MANY proposals from developers to put luxury housing there. We have little time to realize this vision....



--

Emily Nink, MS, CPH
cell: 414.828.7312



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Reuse of 37 Brookline St.

1 message

Amy Cotter <aacotter@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 11:08 AM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Good morning,

I write to support City action to ensure that the reuse of Peter Valentine's property at [37 Brookline St.](#) is done in the public interest. I would be particularly supportive of a use that 1) reuses the existing building and retains the fence; 2) provides affordable living opportunities; and 3) supports the creative community.

As an socially- and sustainability-minded urban planner, I have a long history of working personally and professionally for action that improves quality of life and place (see my [Lincoln Institute of Land Policy bio](#) for more). I support increasing the number and density of housing units, particularly when they are as close to public transit as is [37 Brookline St.](#) But the pursuit of a higher unit count without affordability, cultural and historic preservation, or life-cycle analysis of carbon footprint may well undermine quality of life and place for existing and potential Cantabridgians.

As you contemplate a role for the City in the future of this parcel, please consider:

- As [cited by the Boston Preservation Alliance](#), recent research from the [National Trust for Historic Preservation Research and Policy Lab](#) "concludes that building reuse almost always offers environmental savings over demolition and new construction. Moreover, it can take between 10 and 80 years for a new, energy-efficient building to overcome, through more efficient operations, the negative climate change impacts that were created during the construction process."
- Transit oriented development is key to vibrant, climate-sensitive urban centers. But being "oriented" to transit includes accommodating the population that rides transit. Allowing only homes affordable by the wealthy, especially if those homes include parking, will draw people who have cars and use them - not "core" transit riders who help achieve the potential greenhouse gas, congestion, and community benefits of TOD. [37 Brookline St.](#) presents an important opportunity to add units that are affordable for core transit riders (see also [Maintaining Diversity in America's Transit-Rich Neighborhoods](#) (PDF), among related research).
- Creatives are being displaced from the heart of Greater Boston, including when the nearby EMF building ceased offering studio space. Peter was a part of this creative community. His contributions to Central Square and the City more broadly exemplified the role of creatives in placemaking and community vitality. Not only does his property present a vestige of quirkiness that helps differentiate Central Square from "Anywhere USA," but it offers the opportunity to support a dwindling local culture.

Yes, as the resident of 53 Brookline I am a direct neighbor of the property. My yard abuts, and my balcony looks over, Peter's yard. I am not a disinterested party. Beyond my interest in seeing the property reused in a fashion that is aligned with the values that have guided my career, I would like the next owner and/or occupant to put more time and care into maintenance of the property. I have no doubt that a property in City or nonprofit stewardship would provide this.

Thank you for your attention to my thoughts,
Amy Cotter
[53 Brookline St. Cambridge](#)



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

37 Brookline Street

1 message

JUDITH VANINGEN <jvaningen@aol.com>

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 11:28 AM

To: tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Dear Mr. Evans:

I was horrified to hear that the wonderful property at Franklin and Brookline Streets would be considered for anything but an Open space and ArtistsCenter; two of the uses that would improve security and civic responsibility in Cambridge.

I am hoping you will consider maintaining our landmark property at 37 Brookline St and keeping it as an Open Space.

Sincerely,

Judith Van Ingen
421 Franklin Street



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

support for purchasing Peter Valentine's property for Cambridge

1 message

Gabriel Robinson <robinsongabriel64@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 12:11 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org, "cathzusy@gmail.com" <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Cc: hmsnively <HMSnively@aol.com>

As a Cambridgeport resident, I wholeheartedly support the city purchasing Peter Valentine's historic and colorful property and grounds and converting it to a community arts center and garden space.

Thank you,
Gabriel Robinson
[26 McTernan St. #3](#)
[Cambridge MA 02139](#)



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Please Support the Purchase of Peter Valentine's Property for the Good of Cambridge

1 message

Isaac Hughes <izeek.hughes@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 1:58 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, "ooriodan@cambridgema.gov" <ooriodan@cambridgema.gov>, council@cambridgema.gov, "tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>, "cathzusy@gmail.com" <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Hello,

I am emailing you to urge the City of Cambridge to purchase the former property of much-loved artist and Cambridge resident Peter Valentine's house on [37 Brookline Street](#) in order to transform it into a community center and art space. Helen, one of the leading members of the advisory board for this project, has more information below that I hope you'll read:

"As we imagine it, the 'Peter Valentine Center for Cosmic Creativity,' AKA the Valentine Art House, would serve as an artist residency space with living, studio, gathering and workshop areas. We, the Advisory Board for this project, hope that the City, the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority, or a beneficent individual will purchase the property for the benefit of the City. It is centrally located, two blocks from Central Square, and surrounded by Peter's "Cosmic Moose & Grizzly Bearsville" fence, admired by curators at the Smithsonian and the American Museum of Visionary Art. Whether it becomes an art center—our vision—or affordable housing, this property should provide community benefit. Peter's family ... has already received—and rejected—MANY proposals from developers to put luxury housing there. We have little time to realize this vision...."

Thank you for your time,

Isaac Hughes
Member of Cambridge City Growers
cambridgecitygrowers.org
www.facebook.com/groups/cambridgecitygrowers



Tom Evans <tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Peter Valentine's house

1 message

Peter Rhodes <rhodespm1@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 5:10 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov

Cc: ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, "council@cambridgema.gov" <council@cambridgema.gov>, tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org, cathzusy@gmail.com

As a Brookline Street resident I have walked past Peter Valentine's house many, many times and always enjoyed the exuberant creativity there. It would be a terrible shame for the community if the house were now turned into a regular development. The best way to honor Valentine's memory is to convert the building into some kind of arts center and to use the yard as a community garden - either like the Green Cambridge garden on Hurley Street or the truly communal garden on Emily Street.

Thanks so much for giving your attention to this.

Yours,
Peter Rhodes
155 Cambridge St.



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

The future of 37 Brookline Street, Cambridge

1 message

Maria Sauzier <mcs42@gmail.com>

Sat, Jan 7, 2023 at 3:27 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org, Catherine Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Dear Cambridge City Officials,

I am writing in support of making use of Peter Valentine's house, 37 Pleasant Street, for the common good of the residents of the City of Cambridge.

It is a house that has brought smiles and good cheer to many for many years. It would be a shame to turn it into a building that profits only one person, the builder/developer.

I support the creation of a Community Arts Center.

Affordable housing is also needed in Cambridge, but this particular location and property comes with a strong history of creativity.

Some parts of Cambridge have already lost their soul by losing access to their rich history as they have stopped being useful or relevant to the people who actually live here.

This property offers the city a chance to show vision and belief in Cambridge as a vibrant multifaceted place.

Thank you for taking this request into consideration.

Sincerely,
Maria Sauzier MD

Maria Sauzier, M.D.
Assistant Professor in Psychiatry, Part Time
Harvard Medical School.
Senior Consultant,
Cambridge Hospital,
Cambridge Health Alliance.



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Peter Valentine House....

1 message

Steven Miller <semiller48@gmail.com>

Sat, Jan 7, 2023 at 6:19 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov, Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Cc: Cathie Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>

City Leaders:

Peter Valentine was a real character. But he also repeatedly sought ways to increase the creative and humanistic energy of our neighborhood, from the Starlight to the Cosmic Moose. It would be an honor to his legacy -- and, even more, a positive step for Cambridge -- to take advantage of his family's offer to sell his property for use as either affordable housing or an arts center, or some combination of both.

I urge you to seriously and positively consider the various proposals now circulating that would accomplish those goals.

Thanks.

Steve
92 Henry St.

Steven E. Miller
[Movement Voter Project](#), volunteer
Book: [Advocacy Organizing: Smarter Strategies, Bigger Victories](#)



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Support for the Peter Valentine Art Center and public use for 37 Brookline St

1 message

rafael medina <rafamew@yahoo.com>

Sat, Jan 7, 2023 at 9:44 PM

To: "citymanager@cambridgema.gov" <citymanager@cambridgema.gov>, "ooriordan@cambridgema.gov" <ooriordan@cambridgema.gov>, "council@CambridgeMA.Gov" <council@cambridgema.gov>, "tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>, "cathzusy@gmail.com" <cathzusy@gmail.com>

To the City of Cambridge:

I want to support the Peter Valentine Art Center .

I have been his neighbor at Franklin St. Since 1995 until 2000 and been friends since and I have made videos of him explaining his techniques for well being.

We had many chats over the years, and I can assure you that he always wanted to create community awareness and education opportunities to heal and empower the child in all of us.

He was a true visionary and golden heart and he would have loved to have his place continue to serve the mission of making the City an Oasis of learning and community building.

I am also happy to contribute some ideas and programming for all ages for Activities at the Center.

Thanks for your attention to his wishes.

Sincerely

Rafael Medina

CORE Community Educator

Nov. Col. Coop.

Cambridge city Growers.

617-230-0303



Tom Evans <tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Support a Cambridge Art Center at Peter Valentine's house @ 37 Brookline Street

1 message

A. Prat <agprat@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:53 AM

To: "citymanager@cambridgema.gov" <citymanager@cambridgema.gov>, "O'Riordan, Owen" <ooriordan@cambridgema.gov>, "council@cambridgema.gov" <council@cambridgema.gov>, "tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org>
Cc: Catherine Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Dear Cambridge City Manager Yi-an Huang, Deputy City Manager Owen O'Riordan, City Council, and ex-Director of the CRC Tom Evans,

I am writing to strongly support the public use and more specifically, the vision of an art center for our city that Cath Zusy and the Valentine Art House Advisory Board have submitted to you, for the picturesque and emblematic of our neighborhood house of Peter Valentine at [37 Brookline Street](#).

As a resident of Cambridge for over 30 years since my husband and I moved from Argentina, a scientist who has seen way to many tech buildings being built and later on even become empty, and more importantly as a local artist and curator whose mission is to bring action for the environmental and climate crisis through my art and those of an artists group I created, an active member of the former Cambridgeport Artists Open Studios (CAOS), and later on the Cambridge Open Studios who has seen the opportunities to show or meet other artists in community spaces in Cambridge shrink in the last few years, I am in strong support of Cathie's well thought proposal. Cathie has an impressive and outstanding record for getting amazing things done for our community, at Magazine Beach that was amazingly transformed into a wonderful spot for humans and other natural species to enjoy the bank of the river and the community, including the use of the Powder house to show art and educate the community with actions for the environment.

I am confident that once Peter's former house is transformed as Cathie's describes in her proposal, this will benefit the Cambridge community in ways that will continue to inspire, engage and bring out the best of our community, for artists and community at large alike.

I will be happy to answer any questions you might have regarding my support to this critical cause.

Thank you for your attention on this urgent matter,

Adriana G. Prat

543 Putnam Ave



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Support for the Purchase of 37 Brookline Street for the Good of Cambridge

1 message

Valerie Fontana Shulman <v.fontana.shulman@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 8, 2023 at 9:53 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, "O'Riordan, Owen" <ooriordan@cambridgema.gov>, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org, council@cambridgema.gov

Cc: cathzusy@gmail.com

To the Officials of the City of Cambridge,

I support the purchase of the property at [37 Brookline Street](#) for the Good of Cambridge! I particularly appreciate the proposal for an art center that would carry on Peter Valentine's amazing life vision. I have enjoyed being his neighbor and I was sorry to learn of his passing. It would be deeply saddened to see his iconic, creative home disappear. Allowing the building to have new life as some form of vibrant community center would honor Peter Valentine's life and would keep Cambridge, well, cool.

I have been a resident of Cambridge for almost 15 years and have lived much of that time in Cambridgeport (including, for a time, a block away on Auburn Street). I enjoy encountering Peter on walks in the neighborhood and was inspired by his contributions to our city and his ideas. Every time I pass the colorful house, I feel proud to be a Cambridge resident.

Thank you for keeping Cambridge artful and avantgarde.

Sincerely,
Valerie Fontana Shulman

Preschool teacher and former architectural designer



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

I support a public use for 37 Brookline Street

1 message

GWYN GALLAGHER <gallgwyn@aol.com>

Sun, Jan 8, 2023 at 11:54 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov,

tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Cc: cathzusy@gmail.com

To: Cambridge City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Council, Executive Director of Cambridge Redevelopment Authority

From: Gwyn Gallagher, Cambridge resident

Date: 1/7/23

I am writing to express my support for the purchase of Peter Valentine's property for the good of Cambridge. Peter Valentine was a Central Square icon. It would be fitting to turn his house into an art center. It would also make sense to turn this property into affordable housing. Both of these ideas would benefit the community Peter cared about.

It would be my hope that the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority would purchase Peter Valentine's property so that it serves the interests of the community and even better if it promoted the arts to further Peter's passion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gwyn Gallagher

[226 Chestnut Street](#)

[Cambridge, MA 02139](#)



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Please Support the Purchase of Peter Valentine's Property for the Good of Cambridge

1 message

Meredith Blodget <meredithblodget@yahoo.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:24 AM

To: "citymanager@cambridgema.gov" <citymanager@cambridgema.gov>, "ooriordan@cambridgema.gov" <ooriordan@cambridgema.gov>, "council@CambridgeMA.Gov" <council@cambridgema.gov>, "tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>
Cc: "cathzusy@gmail.com" <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Greetings to the Officials of the City of Cambridge,

As an 18 year citizen of Cambridge, I am writing to lend my heartfelt support to the purchase of Peter Valentine's property at [37 Brookline Street](#) by the City of Cambridge. Our house on Auburn Street is just around the corner from Peter's house, and each and every time I walk by his creation, I am inspired by a word, a turn of phrase, or the spark of an idea to ponder. Although Peter has sadly passed, his house has been a gift of expression to not just me, but to so many people, young and old, rich and poor, from all backgrounds, some here for decades and others just passing through. His art, to me, represents the spirit and soul of Cambridge, and to see it fall into the wrong hands would be crushing.

I entirely support the idea of his house becoming an art center, with space for artists in residence, similar to the The Artist Building in Fort Point in Boston (see [The Artist Building at 300 Summer Street](#) for reference):



The Artist Building at 300 Summer Street

The Artist Building at 300 Summer Street is a self-governing artist-owned live-work cooperative for visual artis...

This could be a beautifully active and engaging space to enhance our community and bring us together for exhibits and in shared experience! It would preserve the richness that Cambridge has at it's core, and continue Peter's legacy of inspiration in new and exciting ways.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sincerely,
Meredith Blodget
[100 Auburn Street](#)
Cambridge



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

My adamant support of Cathie Zusy's visionary proposal: The purchase by the City of Cambridge of the Peter Valentine property

1 message

hartweiner@aol.com <hartweiner@aol.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 1:55 AM

Reply-To: hartweiner@aol.com

To: "citymanager@cambridgema.gov" <citymanager@cambridgema.gov>, "ooriordan@cambridgema.gov" <ooriordan@cambridgema.gov>, "council@CambridgeMA.Gov" <council@cambridgema.gov>, "tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>, "cathzusy@gmail.com" <cathzusy@gmail.com>, "agprat@hotmail.com" <agprat@hotmail.com>, "agprat.art@gmail.com" <agprat.art@gmail.com>

To the following: Yi-an Huang, citymanager@cambridgema.gov; Owen O'Riordan, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov; City Council, council@CambridgeMA.Gov; Tom Evans, Ex. Director, CRC, Owen O'Riordan, Owen O'Riordan, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov; Catherine Zusy.

To those who will be weighing in on the decision,

I write in emphatic support of Catherine Zusy's most recently forthcoming vision to enrich the cultural and economic life of our City, particularly, Cambridgeport.

As all must know, Cathie has headed up and made come to fruition scores of projects to enhance Cambridge resources -- including her 8 years supervising the transformation of Magazine beach on this side of the river as a nature preserve in pristine manner, raising all of the matching funds needed through her personal work in connecting with city and state and private officials. She has overseen the ecological endurance of this natural "gift" to anyone in the city, with landscape design, while rendering our riverside park litter-less and safe.

At the river, Cathie personally organized programming, oversaw the conversion of the "Powder House"-- after it's complete renovation, in the physical sense, and she envisioned what it could be: an art center, a café with a view of the river, a gallery. This past year, she succeeded in enticing the MA Audubon Society into occupying this space -- offering tours of the abundant and widely diverse bird life in the park! As far as the opportunities to use the park, Cathie has brought new ones each year. Free Zumba and Yoga are offered, Celtic music, and much programing for children, including educational, exploratory, and joyful, Music is offered evenings. In watching the climate change to astounding heats: Cathie has overseen the dramatic improvement and appeal of the city pool at Magazine Beach, including renovated changing rooms, and a spray deck. The view from the pool to the river is now unimpeded. Moreover, the parking lot next door is in the process of being returned to the beach it once once, perhaps a hundred years ago-- leading down to a Kayak launching deck.

What does this have in common with Cathie's vision for her former friend, and support of his imaginative thing, Peter Valentine? I may not be accurate in this, but I believe it was Cathie who was instrumental in getting Cambridge and MIT to allow Peter, with his philosophy about mankind, and womankind, and art-- an individual of the natural arts of the 60's --sewing his own clothing, teaching classes at his household in philosophical topics of Zen, himself an artist, love based in nature. I believe that Cathie was instrumental in convincing the city and MIT to deed this property to Peter, and original, an artist and a

gem. He did not have or could never have possessed the kind of money it took to live near Central Square. He painted, he shared his philosophy, he loved nature. Until his recent passing away during Covid, he was one of the few reminders of what Cambridge meant to so many of us who have lived here decades.

In Summary:

I, Harte Weiner of 293 Sidney St, 100% percent support Cathie's proposal that the City purchase Peter's home. His family does Not want luxury condos there. Neither does the neighborhood. Like Cathie, what most thrills me and is most a legacy of Peter is an Arts center, That would be the natural continuation of Peter's influence, and the recent years of a renaissance of arts and artists in Cambridge, as with Open Studios. I am a poet and editor, not a visual artist. But over here past years my life has been entirely tremendously enriched by going to galleries and curated displays here in Cambridge, and of course, the Open Studios weekend. Through these experiences I have feel intensely the value of art in my life. Also, I have met some of my closest friends, who are painters and other sorts of artists. As a somewhat isolated individual, this has meant the world to me.

I furthermore recognition my own urge to become involved in the visual arts, perhaps through an MFA class, as soon as I am able. But moreover, I have had the enriching experience of admiring and becoming a discerning admirer of other's visual art. I would love to be able to take a class up the street! There is community in art. We cannot have a city of Cambridge that does not celebrate the arts, and offer residencies, and workshops, and opportunities for meetups. Think of Provincetown.

And, if not to be a center for the arts, bringing many of us unknown to one another into a true community where we become, not just neighbors, but friends and fellow admirers -- I would most emphatically be in favor of the City buying Peter's house and yard for transformation into affordable housing. The location is ideal. Affordable housing is scare. MANY single, older individuals, speaking for myself, fear our futures-- even after having lived half our years or more in the City of Cambridge. I have no idea what my future will hold... in that the pandemic inflicted lots of financial loss still to recover, and I am a single mother, now of an adult son, 25, These days, PhD's in the Humanities have as difficult a time at making ends meet, especially if they are single and aging, and in this way are alongside those who never had the opportunity to get the education they deserved, Where will I be at 70, 75, 80. Again, returning to Cathie's first idea-- community areas where we can interact with others make our lives most meaningful and possible, and create, well, a true neighborhood. Optimism.

I emphatically vote in favor of he City's purchase of Peter Valentine's house, for these reasons. We are a rich city. Let's put our money where it matters. Cathie understands and has proven this again and again with the successful projects she has brought to fruition in this City, Cambridgeport in particular, the exact practical steps to be followed, how the finances stage by stage are obtained, and with your backing, and her years and years of successes, a great win for the neighborhood can be achieved,

All the best,

Harte Weiner, [293 Sidney St, Cambridge, 02139; harteweiner@aol.com](mailto:harteweiner@aol.com)



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Gallery 263 in support of the Valentine "Art House"

1 message

kirsten sims <kirstensims@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 10:21 AM

Reply-To: kirsten@hellosmall.com

To: "council@CambridgeMA.Gov" <council@cambridgema.gov>, "citymanager@cambridgema.gov" <citymanager@cambridgema.gov>, "ooriodan@cambridgema.gov" <ooriodan@cambridgema.gov>, "tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org" <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>, Cathie Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>

Hello City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Council, and Former CRA Director,

Other than he often called me his "Cosmic Wife," there is likely nothing I could say about Peter Valentine that would surprise you. And while he has left us in body, there is no doubt that his energy reverberates thorough every creative molecule in Central Square, Cambridgeport, and Cambridge overall--a city he saw as a kaleidoscope of possibilities that anyone would want to realize. Personally, the Peter Valentine "Art House" is just what we--what anyone, really--need.

As a member of the Gallery 263 Board of Directors, working with local and national artists and the neighborhood community to make art accessible and alive for everyone, the opportunity to build more available working, education, and exhibition space for creative development and artistic works both honors Peter in a lasting way that would forever give back to the community he loved, but also aligns with the commitment we often hear from the city that **we will keep the arts alive**.

The arts are the backbone of humanity--the most poetic and prolific ways we relate and communicate. They bring truth and power and beauty to time and space that is as much about ourselves as it is about the work. The arts are vision. The arts are voice. Peter's house is a creative expression unable to be shared any other way. And his home should undoubtedly stand to offer that opportunity to so many others who create and share their own visions to make our community more human and more whole.

On behalf of Gallery 263 and myself (a 23-year Cambridgeport resident), I urge all of you to ensure that both Peter's energy live on in his inspiring space and that his lasting gift to the community become a reliable and accessible home for inventing, convening, and expressing--the very things that all art and artists need to thrive in sharing their work with the world.

Thank you,

Kirsten Sims
2 Newton St. #1
Cambridge, MA 02139

--

Kirsten Sims

.....
kirsten@hellosmall.com
617-515-7381
2 Newton Street, #1
Cambridge, MA 02139



Tom Evans <tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Support for public use of Peter Valentine's House

1 message

Emily Lam <emilylam@bu.edu>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 10:45 AM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov, tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org, cathzusy@gmail.com

City Leaders:

As a tenant of Cambridgeport for the last 6+ years, I fully support the use of Peter Valentine's home as an avenue for the arts. I did not know Peter Valentine personally, yet his house stood as an artistic inspiration. I hope many others will continue to reap the benefits I did.

Emily
7 Newton St. #3



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Please Support the Purchase of Peter Valentine's Property for the Good of Cambridge

1 message

Jaime Guyon <jaimeguyon@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:37 AM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org, cathzusy@gmail.com, kirsten sims <kirstensims@gmail.com>

Hello Cambridge City Management and Council,

I never had the pleasure of meeting Peter Valentine personally but have been regaled with stories of his creative spirit and impact in the neighborhood for as long as I have lived in the city. If nothing more, Peter's home is a visual embodiment of what is cool and weird and amazing about the people and the arts in our community.

As a board member of Gallery 263, just down the street, I implore the council to consider keeping Peter's home as an accessible space for the arts or affordable living space--> these are ESSENTIAL resources!

Thank you,
Jaime Guyon



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Letter in support the purchase of Peter Valentine's property

1 message

Benjamin Wallace <wallace.benjamin.s@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 12:52 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, council@cambridgema.gov,

tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Cc: cathzusy@gmail.com

Hello,

I would like to briefly share a letter of support for the public ownership of Peter Valentine's property at 37 Brookline Street.

I was a resident of Central Square living one block away from the property at 1 Brookline Place from 2013 to 2016. The house always interested me, and it wasn't until I joined the board of Gallery 263 in 2015 that I learned from fellow board members about the artistic significance of it, and the arts programming Peter produced there.

Central Square is arguably the last portion of the city to still have a strong sense of soul. Peter and his house was and is a part of this. Market forces are turning neighborhoods in the greater Boston area into sterile blocks of unaffordable residential and commercial units that all look the same. Those who are able to afford to either live or open businesses in these areas find themselves in a void of culture, of community, and of art. Action must be taken on the part of the city in order to turn this trend around. If it continues, fewer people will want to live there, or even be able to live there, and more of the region will become unaffordable parcels of investment properties.

Unfortunately, I've already made the decision to leave the Boston area after renting in Cambridge a combined 6 years. My move was due to unaffordability, and the sense of disappearing culture. I hope as Cambridge city leadership, you will make the right choice to invest in the soul of the city, particularly Central Square, and give people more reasons to stay.

I know that our board and staff at Gallery 263 are excited about this possibility and committed to offering anything we can to help make a reimagining of Peter Valentine's home a success.

Thank you,

Ben Wallace
Secretary, Gallery 263
President 2018-2020, Gallery 263
Former resident of Central Square and Harvard Square.



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

37 Brookline St

1 message

Melanie Bernier <melbo.elbow@gmail.com>
Bcc: tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 1:25 PM

Hello,

I am a Cambridge resident who is writing in support of public use for [37 Brookline St.](#), specifically for the construction of the Peter Valentine Center for Cosmic Creativity.

Thank you

Melanie Bernier
364 Washington St
Cambridge MA

--

Melanie
melaniebernier.com



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Valentine Art House LOS

1 message

David Craft <davideatsmainlyveggies@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:59 PM

To: citymanager@cambridgema.gov, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov, tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org, David Craft <david@gallery263.com>, council@cambridgema.gov

Cc: Cathie Zusy <cathzusy@gmail.com>, Kirsten Sims <kirsten@hellosmall.com>

Dear City Manager, Cathy, and others:

I hereby support the creation of the Peter Valentine Art House. His house has a chance to become a lasting art center--able to provide programming, studio space, residencies, and many other things that would truly be a testament to Peter and his legacy and reflect his commitment to the neighborhood and city of Cambridge. As the founder of Gallery 263, I would love to have even more art for our community to engage with. Our recent call for exhibitions garnered 62 submissions for only 1 slot. We need more art spaces, and Peter's place would be fantastic.

Thank you,

David Craft