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**Fwd: Peter Valentine Art House - sorry for a late letter**

1 message

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**Julie Ayaz** <julie@honeyjonesstudio.com>

Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 8:28 AM

To: "tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org" &lt;tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org&gt;

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

From: **Julie Ayaz** <julie@honeyjonesstudio.com>

Date: Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 8:25 AM

Subject: Peter Valentine Art House - sorry for a late letter

To: &lt;citymanager@cambridgema.gov&gt;, ooriordan@cambridgema.gov &lt;ooriordan@cambridgema.gov&gt;, &lt;council@cambridgema.gov&gt;, &lt;tevans@cambridgedevelopment.org&gt;

Cc: cathzusy@gmail.com &lt;cathzusy@gmail.com&gt;

Dear City of Cambridge Officials and Concerned Citizens,

I am writing this letter to express my support for the vision and intentions of the Valentine Art House Advisory Board who are seeking a beautiful new life for the building at [37 Brookline Street](#) in Central Square; an incarnation that would promote community well-being through accessible artistic opportunities.

Having lived in multiple Cambridge neighborhoods over the past more than 30 years, I feel that I have known and loved the city well. As a resident, mother and business owner, I've been active in community and community arts endeavors and believe firmly in the power of artistic expression and the inherent potential dialogue it offers as being vital to a healthy life and society. And though our city enjoys a reputation for having a welcoming mindset, cultural diversity, and a premier range of academic and scientific offerings, I am often disheartened by the dramatic disparity in monetary wealth which seems to be at ironic odds with the actual quality of life, which I believe has been compromised by multiple factors, including the undervalued investment in and funding for the arts.

It is often the neighborhood citizens with the least financial standing but deepest concern and love who perform the grassroots work needed to preserve community; a meaningful life as residents and neighbors.

Historically, it is often the weakest and meekest communities from which the most powerful expression is born and adopted by others. It doesn't have to be so. We can normalize the *artistic process*. The city can compensate individuals and communities for the benefits we *all* receive from *its* existence by investing in communities when they ask for help.

What is the City's vision on behalf of its inhabitants for a sustainable existence, in terms of our human individual and collective worth? The proposed Valentine Art House seems to offer the promise of an improved quality of existence in this pocket of Cambridge and beyond, by example and association. The City of Cambridge has an opportunity here to not only embrace the grand yet simple vision of this group, but to perhaps offer support forward.

Thank you for your consideration in reading this letter.

Sincerely,  
Julie

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