



Ward 8 Arts & Culture Council

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RE: ARTIST HOUSING AT 2255 MLK AVE SE

To Whom it May Concern :

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Ward 8 Arts & Culture Council in support of affordable housing for artist at the 2255 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue development site. The Ward 8 Arts & Culture Council is a Non Profit organization based in Ward 8 that facilitates socio economic development via arts and culture. We have over 60 active members and are growing. We are in tune and in touch with the needs of creative and creative industry in Ward 8 and the district of Columbia. The creative economy accounts for 12% of all jobs in our city has seen a 37% percent increase in average wages between 2001-2012. The Districts creative economy strategy clearly implicates support for the needs of creative professionals and artist housing is one of those core values that must be implemented in development projects.

While the need for housing in the District will grow, we must make provisions to be inclusive of those who help build the cultural fabric of this city that attracts visitors and industry here; those are creative professionals. We encourage units set aside for artists in this particular development and developments to come.

Sincerely,

Tendani Mpulubusi El
Chairman
Ward 8 Arts & Culture Council