

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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**From:** Sarah Lewitus <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2022 2:40 PM  
**To:** DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** Ward 4 Resident support for Dance Loft/Heleos development project— ZC Case No. 21-18

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Members of the Zoning Commission ,

I am a Ward 4 resident writing to express my strong support for the redevelopment of the Dance Loft on 14 building, located at 4618 14th St. NW. DC's Comprehensive Plan sets out a vision of a city that is more affordable, inclusive, and environmentally-friendly, as well as better-served by neighborhood-based arts and culture.

I am an arts administrator, a dancer and an expert in the field of performing arts and community engagement; I am currently the program officer for performing arts at Mid Atlantic Arts and until recently I was a curator and producer at Dance Place, a theater and school for dance in Ward 5. I am submitting testimony on behalf of myself and not any organization I am affiliated with.

The arts in DC are at risk, and along with them, the culture, joy and beauty of this city. Artists need space to live and work, just like any other worker. However, because the market does not value artists like it values other types of labor, it is often very hard for artists to exist inside of expensive cities like DC.

I have seen firsthand how the development of Dance Place in Northeast DC has been a boon to that community and created a home for so many dancers, young people and community members in Brookland/Edgewood. Dance Loft on 14 has an opportunity to do that with their proposed project and I hope the committee will support it wholeheartedly.

This project will create a first-class arts and cultural space for Dance Loft, and allow this fantastic non-profit to continue serving children, school groups, and artists from all over DC with one of the few dedicated neighborhood arts spaces in the District.

This project will support businesses in our neighborhood, by bringing appropriate residential density to this commercial corridor. More than half of the apartments in the new building will qualify as affordable housing. This area will soon also be home to new retail at the redeveloped Northern Bus Garage across the street, and additional density will help both current business and the expected new businesses prosper.

I strongly support this project's multiple benefits of more housing that is deeply affordable, a new home for an established neighborhood arts organization, and support for local businesses in our neighborhood. I encourage the Zoning Commission to approve this request and support this project's potential to contribute to a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community.

Thank you for your work and service, as well as your consideration of this matter.

TO:

Commissioner Hood

Commissioner Miller

Commissioner Shapiro

Commissioner Imamura

Commissioner May

CC:

ANC Commissioner Ulysses Campbell, 4C03

ANC Commissioner Paul Johnson, 4C07

ANC Commissioner Maria Barry, 4C02

ANC Commissioner Vanessa Rubio, 4C01

ANC Commissioner Yvette Marbury-Long, 4C04

ANC Commissioner Audrey Duckett, 4C05

ANC Commissioner Namatie Mansary, 4C06

ANC Commissioner Clara Botstein, 4C08

ANC Commissioner Alan Wehler, 4C09

ANC Commissioner Jonah Goodman, 4C10

Councilmember Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4  
Will Perkins, Ward 4 DC Council office

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