

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Wanyi Ng <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2022 10:59 PM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: My Artist/Member support for Dance Loft/Heleos development project — ZC Case No. 21-18

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All Members of the Zoning Commission Members of the Zoning Commission,

I have danced with Moveius Contemporary Ballet, the resident dance company at Dance Loft on 14, since 2019. I am writing to urge you to approve this development.

Dance Loft on 14 provides valuable artistic exposure to children in the immediate DC community. This spring, our dance company held four outreach performances for Kindergarten through 3rd grade students in the local DC community. For some of the children, this was their first ever dance performance. During the Q&A with dancers, some of the children said "I want to be like you!" and were visibly inspired to move and be active. When I come to the studio for rehearsals, I see students of all ages having fun and working hard in their dance classes. Dance Loft on 14 serves students who are often underrepresented in the ballet art due to stereotypes and lack of opportunity. Their teachers include people who look like them. They also get to see the diversity of cultural dance, exercise, and martial art forms that rent space at Dance Loft. The current building is old, literally falling apart, and badly in need of refurbishment.

I moved from Maryland to DC in the summer of 2021. I directly feel the burden of housing prices in the area, despite holding a full-time job with the federal government. I see people living in tents and dilapidated buildings because rent prices are so prohibitively high and they have no other option. The affordable housing plan for this development is badly needed in the area. If not this development project, then I believe the next developer who purchases the land will likely still build a dense residential building without the benefits of affordable housing and a dance studio for the 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:

Dance Loft on 14

Wanyi Ng

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