

From: [Kimberli Kienia](#)
To: [Planning Info](#)
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: Planning Board > Body Blocks
Date: Monday, April 8, 2024 8:14:07 AM

Submitted on Sun, 04/07/2024 - 11:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Name

Robin Albert Lehman

Email

ralbert52@hotmail.com <<mailto:ralbert52@hotmail.com>>

Subject

Chapter 10, Article 15

Message

Hello. I am a member of the Portsmouth Arts & Cultural Commission, however I'm speaking here as an individual citizen and not as a representative of the Commission. I would like to speak in favor of allowing arts lessons and classes in homes. This is a choice between the teaching artist (be it visual arts, theater, music, etc.) and the adult student or parent of a minor student. It will support teaching artists and increase educational options for those who wish to study. Thank you.

bcc-email

chellman@TNDEngineering.com,plbritz@cityofportsmouth.com,pmstith@cityofportsmouth.com

April 24, 2024

Rick Chellman, Chair
City of Portsmouth Planning Board
1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

RE: Amendment to Change the Definition of a Home Occupation

Dear Mr. Chellman and members of the Planning Board:

As members of the Portsmouth arts and cultural community, we are in support of changing the definition of a home occupation found in Chapter 10, Article 15 Definitions, pursuant to Section 10.150 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for art classes and lessons in homes. We are requesting this change based on community input documented in the 2001 and 2023 Cultural Plans for the City of Portsmouth.

Arts and culture are a critical part of the fabric of Portsmouth, however the City has experienced an exodus of its artisans and musicians primarily due to rising rents and general lack of affordable living spaces. Some individuals have sought out other NH cities and towns or neighboring states with fewer zoning restrictions related to in-home art instruction. By allowing artists to teach small classes in their homes it will help minimize financial burdens on artists, enrich artistic offerings to the community (including children and seniors), and better enable artists to remain in Portsmouth.

- Recommendations contained in the **2001 Cultural Plan** included:
 - Examine zoning regulations impacting the arts and develop a pro-culture approach to land and building use.
 - Address zoning issues and building codes that are barriers for artists, including limitations on combining living and working spaces.
- Recommendations contained in the **2023 Cultural Plan** include:
 - Advocate for additional artist live-work space to retain local talent.
 - Advocate for zoning changes/adaptations as necessary to eliminate barriers to creating artmaking and arts education spaces throughout the City.
 - Allow more flexibility for in-home instruction space for music, visual arts and other cultural education programs.

Portsmouth has a deep-rooted culture in the Arts – however, by not allowing small art classes in homes, we will continue to lose artists and not allow the city and community to achieve its full creative potential. We are respectfully requesting a change to the definition of a home occupation to allow art classes and lessons in homes.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Aichele, Theatre Artist
47 Orchard Street

Sachiko Akiyama, Associate Professor
Sculpture
University of New Hampshire
161 Aldrich Road

Alan Chace

Jeffrey Cooper

Jessica Dickey

Ellen Fineberg

Kenneth R. Goldman

Jason Goodrich

Russ Grazier, CEO
Portsmouth Music and Arts Center

Eli Kaynor
Citizen of Portsmouth, Member of Arts and
Cultural Commission,
Professional Cellist, Arts Educator

Amanda Kidd-Kestler, Executive Director
NH Art Association

Robin Albert Lehman

Barbara Massar, Executive Director
Pro Portsmouth

Robin Lurie-Meyerkopf
53 Whidden Street

Courtney Perkins, Executive Director
Prescott Park Arts Festival

Karen Rosania, Artist/Owner
Oliveteal Arts

Catherine Saarela

Emma Stratton, Executive Director
Portsmouth Historical Society

names above appear based on preference of the individual