



ARTIST STUDIO

regulatory review



Photos courtesy Eastside Culture Crawl. From top left: **Borgi Borga**, photo: Michael Scales | **Jerry Whitehead**, photo: Michael Scales | **Carla Tak**, photo: Michael Scales | **Hungry Thumbs Studio**, photo: Michael Scales | **Arnt Artzen**, photo: Wendy D Photography | **Janna Hurtzig & Astrosatchel**, photo: Michael Scales | **Michelle Sirois-Silver** (photo courtesy: Michelle Sirois-Silver) | **Jerry Whitehead**, photo: Michael Scales | **Noel Hodnett**, photo: Wendy D Photography | **Donna Cowan-Alan**, photo: Wendy D Photography | **Kathryn Young**, photo: Wendy D Photography | **Goby Catt**, photo: Wendy D Photography | **Ralph Moscovitch**, photo: Wendy D Photography | **Neil Chung**, photo: Michael Scales | **Jeff Burnette**, photo: Michael Scales | **Carylann**, photo: Michael Scales |



Artist Studio Regulatory Review

OVERVIEW

Under the Culture Plan for Vancouver 2008 - 2018, the Cultural Facilities Priorities Plan 2008 - 2023 found Vancouver's regulatory system (by-laws and processes) to be one of the major impediments to the sustainable creation and operation of cultural spaces. As a result, the City of Vancouver is conducting a series of regulatory reviews to better support cultural spaces:

- Live Performance Venues, launched October 2009
- Artist Studios, launched December 2010

What is the Artist Studio Regulatory Review?

What is the Purpose of this Review?

The purpose of the review is to improve opportunities for artist studio creation, presentation and operation through a review of City policies, regulations and programs.

The multi-year review will be guided by recommendations approved by City Council. Staff are seeking public feedback on proposed recommendations as outlined on the Key Issue panels.

What is the Timeline?

Fall 2010	Winter 2010/2011	Spring 2011	July 2011	September 2011	2012	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of Artist Studio Regulatory Review • Two Community Roundtables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Roundtable • Artist Studio Tour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community & Staff Joint Roundtable • Develop Draft Recommendations • Open House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations to City Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement short term recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement medium term recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement long term recommendations



Artist Studio Regulatory Review

OVERVIEW

What Spaces are Included in the Review?

For the purpose of this Review, artist studios include work studios and live-work studios (individual and multi-tenant) for all disciplines. Recording, rehearsal and other larger productions studios will be the focus of a future review.

What Key Issues Are the Focus of the Review?

1. Affordability, shortage & loss of studios
2. Clarity & flexibility of regulations
3. Artist tenure in their studios
4. Knowledge, understanding & communication (artists and City staff)
5. Safety & functionality

How were the Issues and Recommendations Identified?

The issues and recommendations were identified through a series of 4 roundtables held with artists and City staff.

Who Participated?

Participating artists represented diverse disciplines and practices including acting, dance, design, film, glass, magazines and zines, murals, music, painting, photography, printmaking, puppetry, sculpture, music, fibre and weaving, wood and metal work, writing, new and mixed media.

City of Vancouver participants included staff from Development Services, Fire and Rescue Services, Building Inspections, Business Licenses, Planning, Real Estate Services and Cultural Services.



Artist Studio Regulatory Review

KEY ISSUE #1: Affordability, Shortage & Loss of Studios

objectives	RECOMMENDATIONS		
	short term	medium term	long term
Studio affordability, availability and retention: THROUGH POLICIES	Assess existing policies and their effectiveness.	Explore other policies, incentives and strategies.	Comprehensively update and coordinate policies.
Studio affordability, availability and retention: THROUGH PROGRAMS	Encourage artist & non-profit organization collaborations to apply for the Cultural Infrastructure Grant. Sustain and grow the City's Artist Studio Award Program.	Explore availability of existing spaces (civic & other) for studio use.	
Studio affordability, availability and retention: THROUGH ALTERNATIVE MODELS		Explore options for an arms-length studio development agency.	Explore financing options/ partners to develop purpose-built artist studios. Consider development of alternative studio types.

What are Your Thoughts?



Artist Studio Regulatory Review

KEY ISSUE #2: Clarity & Flexibility of Regulations

objectives	RECOMMENDATIONS		
	short term	medium term	long term
Updated by-laws with broader, flexible, "future-friendly" definitions	Review interpretation and application of current by-laws.	Amend by-laws to permit associated uses in artist studios (e.g. retail, etc.).	Explore other "use" classifications that can permit some studio use (e.g. allow offices to be used for low impact artist studio activities).
	Review and update definitions for artist studios.		
Improved process & consistent interpretation	Clarify existing permit application processes.	Ensure by-laws are applied correctly and consistently, and improve protocols for City inspections (e.g. site access).	Streamline and bundle permits and licence processes, where possible.
	Launch program to assist artists with by-law issues and enforcement action during the course of the Review.		

What are Your Thoughts?



Artist Studio Regulatory Review

KEY ISSUE #3: Artist Tenure in their Studios

objectives	RECOMMENDATIONS		
	short term	medium term	long term
Consistent use of artist designated space by artists	Encourage artist studio buildings to have artist-run management bodies to oversee occupancies and use.	Require multi-tenant studio buildings to post City-approved uses (i.e. artist studio or artist live-work studio) in common areas of the property.	Explore the use of covenants to preserve studio spaces.

What are Your Thoughts?



Artist Studio Regulatory Review

KEY ISSUE #4: Knowledge, Understanding & Communication (artists & City staff)

objectives	RECOMMENDATIONS		
	short term	medium term	long term
Greater understanding of art creation spaces and regulations	Offer engagement and learning opportunities between staff and artists such as studio tours for staff and training workshops for artists.	Regular opportunities for artist involvement on the City's artist studio programs.	Develop How-to and Best Practice guidelines.
Informative, up-to-date resources	Create "one stop" resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online information with links to City approval process for studios; • Staff-community liaison. 	Explore online access options for inventory of multi-tenant studio buildings.	
Foundational research	Develop an inventory of multi-tenant studio buildings.	Research models for affordability and improving studio stock.	Consider a needs assessment review.
	Research studio rental terms, rates and ownership.		

What are Your Thoughts?



Artist Studio Regulatory Review

KEY ISSUE #5: Safety & Functionality

objectives	RECOMMENDATIONS		
	short term	medium term	long term
Safe and functional studios	Review Design Guidelines for Artist Studios (e.g. ventilation, etc.).	Review all by-laws affected by Design Guidelines.	Implement and enforce Design Guidelines in all City permit approvals.
	Research and document studio design types in Vancouver.		

What are Your Thoughts?



Artist Studio Regulatory Review

Please place your dot in the category that applies to you

Artist renting a studio

Artist owning a studio

Artist looking for a studio

Artist working from home or elsewhere

Owner of artist studio(s) (not artist)

Supporter of artists (not artist)

Other?



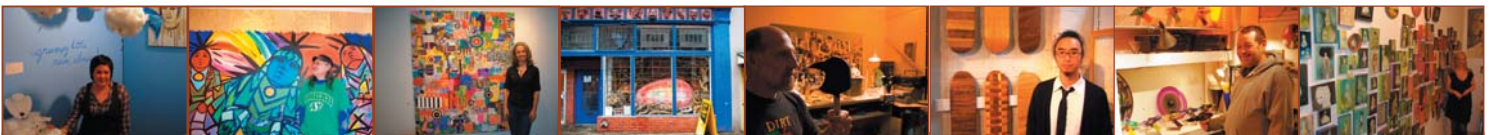
Artist Studio Regulatory Review

Other thoughts?

Ideas?

Comments?

Suggestions?





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PHOTO CREDITS

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Arnt Artzen, photo: Wendy D Photography, courtesy Eastside Culture Crawl.

Janna Hurtzig & Astrosatchel, photo: Michael Scales, courtesy Eastside Culture Crawl.

Michelle Sirois-Silver in her Clark Drive studio works on a hand hooked rug for an upcoming exhibition, photo: Michelle Sirois-Silver.

Jerry Whitehead, photo: Michael Scales, courtesy Eastside Culture Crawl.

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