

## Madalyn Letellier

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**From:** bill.williamfrese.com [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 1:31 PM  
**To:** Public Comments; All City Council; Planning1; Gregory Jenkins; Michael Rosenberg; Rachel Strutt; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fabrication District Letter

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Greetings Somerville City Council & The City of Somerville Planning Board.  
February 15, 2024.

My Name is Bill Frese & I currently have an Art studio in the Milk Row Building in Union Square. I have known this remarkable Collective, New Alliance, since the mid '90's & have endured together numerous re-locations.

I am tired of the cycle of displacement of the Arts & the enormous logistical challenges that must be met to continue as a productive local Artist.

Artists are an essential element of the community's fabric: open sharing of diverse ideas, respectful stewards of historic buildings & grounds, & engaging daily with the local economy.

I strongly believe that the A.C.E. Amendment must remain in-place within our Fabrication District. Without A.C.E. & our City Councilor's diligence, out of town profit driven developers will incrementally tear-away at Somerville's unique creative fabric.

Sincerely,  
Bill Frese

[REDACTED]  
Milk Row Studios.

## Madalyn Letellier

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**From:** Liliana Jimenez [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 1:04 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** FAB Zoning Classification

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**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Somerville City Council and the City of Somerville Planning Board,

My name is Liliana Jimenez and I have been a part of the Somerville community for 2 years.

I am a staff member who works and trains at Esh Circus Arts, located in a FAB district on Park Street. Esh has been a home for recreational and professional circus artists for more than 14 years, and has been in Somerville for more than 10 years. I am here to tell you how much current and future artists and residents of Somerville need the Fabrication District to protect spaces like this one.

When I found Esh, I was looking for training that I could not get unless I travelled to New York monthly (lots of money!) and my coach recommended this place to me to help reinforce my training since this kind of space is very limited already in Massachusetts, or access to it is super limited (reserved for gymnastic and cheer teams only). When I found Esh I was thrilled and finally relieved I could train appropriately and safely surrounded by amazing people! I quickly found myself working at Esh, and they are the reason I was able to realize I can do this on my own, and I can work in an incredible environment that fosters equality and access to the arts regardless who you are.

I personally also opened my own dance studio, and from my experience of just getting property, it was brutal. No realtor wanted to have me because they felt it was a risky move, and it really sucked to keep getting rejected, or be shown poor condition places where I would have to invest so much money that I as a sole artist could not even begin to imagine to afford. Grateful to find a realtor who finally wanted a dance studio and by the sheer luck of the universe we crossed paths.

Affordable, long-term space for artists is important, and Somerville needs more. Please help us preserve and grow our city's culture, and please continue to support the arts. Spaces like Esh are quite rare, and it would be devastating for it to be compromised to the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Liliana Jimenez

## Madalyn Letellier

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**From:** Ted Vessenes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 1:17 PM  
**To:** Public Comments; All City Council; Planning1; Mayor; Gregory Jenkins; Michael Rosenberg; Rachel Strutt; [REDACTED]; Ellen Waylonis  
**Subject:** Concerns about proposed FAB changes  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Dear Somerville City Council and the City of Somerville Planning Board,

I'm Ted Vessenes, and for the past 15 years, Somerville has been my home. I live on Campbell Park, near the heart of Davis Square.

I'm also a student at Esh Circus Arts, which is in a FAB district on Park Street. Esh has been the home in Boston for both recreational and professional circus artists for as long as I have lived in Somerville. Esh is respected as one of the top circus schools *anywhere* in the United States, with the quality of its instructors only rivaled by a few exclusively professional circus schools across the world. Esh is one-of-a-kind, and the residents and artists of Somerville depend on the Fabrication District to protect spaces like Esh.

In the 15 years I've lived in Somerville, I've witnessed it transform into one of the most desirable cities in the Boston area to live in. That happened in large part due to Fabrication District protections! FAB districts support artists, and artists contribute to the soul and character of the city. That soul is **why** Somerville is why so many people love the city and make it their home.

I understand that when a city becomes desirable to live in, non-artistic businesses also want to move to the city. That's also important for Somerville's long term health. But we absolutely **cannot** make space for businesses by compromising the protections Somerville has put in place for artists! If we do this, Somerville will lose the very character that makes it so precious to its artists and residents. And **that compromises the very reason those businesses want to be a part of Somerville**. It doesn't even benefit them in the long term.

**It would be a waste and a tragedy to throw away the decades of hard work our elected officials have put into making Somerville such an amazing place to live!**

What Somerville needs is more affordable long-term spaces for artists. I sincerely believe this will benefit our residents, our artists, *and* our non-art businesses. Please help us preserve and grow our city's culture.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Ted Vessenes