

October 22, 2021

Lara Kritzer  
Community Preservation Program Manager  
City of Newton Planning & Development Department  
1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Kritzer,

I am writing in support of the New Art Center's CPA pre-proposal request for funding to conduct a feasibility study on the Church of the Open Word at 19 Highland Ave, Newtonville.

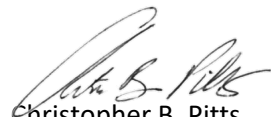
The New Art Center offers everyone, at all levels of ability, exceptional opportunities to make, exhibit, view, think about and talk about art. Founded in 1977, the New Art Center is the cultural cornerstone for visual art in Newton and the local region. Having enrolled tens of thousands of adults, teens and children in art making and art education programs, the New Art Center is also an important local employer, with staff of 10 and faculty of 50+.

CPA funds would allow the New Art Center to conduct a feasibility study to determine if the Church of the Open Word facility allows for much needed organizational growth in order to serve more residents, students and community partners.

Moreover, rehabilitation, revitalization and activation of the Church of the Open Word property would enhance Newtonville significantly, by preserving an iconic local landmark, reducing vandalism and loitering on the property and creating a cultural destination that would benefit local businesses as well as residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this important and exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,



Christopher B. Pitts  
1756 Beacon Street, Waban MA 02468

Austin Street Partners LLC  
c/o Dinosaur Capital Partners LLC  
28 Austin Street, Suite 101  
Newton, MA 02460

October 22, 2021

Lara Kritzer  
Community Preservation Program Manager  
City of Newton Planning & Development Department  
1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Kritzer,

I am writing in support of the New Art Center's CPA pre-proposal request for funding to conduct a feasibility study on the Church of the Open Word at 19 Highland Ave, Newtonville.

I write as a direct abutter, as an owner of 28 Austin, the energy-efficient and fully-accessible 68-apartment building that includes 23 affordable homes, Caffe Nero, the popular coffee shop, Henry Bear's Park, the toy store, and our beautiful and heavily used 28 Austin Plaza as well as a 26-year Newton resident whose family has enjoyed the extensive offerings of the New Art Center.

The New Art Center offers everyone, at all levels of ability, exceptional opportunities to make, exhibit, view, think about and talk about art. Founded in 1977, the New Art Center is the cultural cornerstone for visual art in Newton and the local region. Having enrolled tens of thousands of adults, teens and children in art making and art education programs, the New Art Center is also an important local employer, with staff of 10 and faculty of 50+.

CPA funds would allow the New Art Center to conduct a feasibility study to determine if the Church of the Open Word facility allows for much needed organizational growth in order to serve more residents, students and community partners.

Moreover, rehabilitation, revitalization and activation of the Church of the Open Word property would enhance Newtonville significantly, by preserving an iconic local landmark, reducing vandalism and loitering on the property and creating a cultural destination that would benefit local businesses as well as residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this important and exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,  
  
Scott Oran

*Gloria M. Gavrís*  
*21 Monadnock Road*  
*Chestnut Hill, MA 02467*

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October 21, 2021

Lara Kritzer  
Community Preservation Program Manager  
City of Newton Planning & Development Department  
1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Kritzer,

I am writing in support of the New Art Center's CPA pre-proposal request for funding to conduct a feasibility study on the Church of the Open Word at 19 Highland Ave, Newtonville.

I am currently a Parks, Recreation & Culture Commissioner, Chair of the Board of Newton Community Pride (*a 501c3 nonprofit in the City of Newton building community through arts and culture programming*) as well as the former Chair of the committee selected by the Fuller Administration to publish the CREATE Newton Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for the City of Newton. In all these capacities, I hear repeatedly from the arts community and have become acutely aware of the need in our city to have accessible community space for visual arts, performance arts and art classes. As such I wholeheartedly endorse the proposal before you by the New Art Center.

The New Art Center offers everyone, at all levels of ability, exceptional opportunities to make, exhibit, view, think about and talk about art. Founded in 1977, the New Art Center is the cultural cornerstone for visual art in Newton and the local region. Having enrolled tens of thousands of adults, teens and children in art making and art education programs, the New Art Center is also an important local employer, with staff of 10 and faculty of 50+.

CPA funds would allow the New Art Center to conduct an important and vital first step of conducting a feasibility study to determine if the Church of the Open Word will allow the much needed organizational growth for them to serve more residents, students and community partners.

Moreover, rehabilitation, revitalization and activation of the Church of the Open Word property would enhance Newtonville significantly, by preserving an iconic local landmark, reducing vandalism and loitering on the property and creating a cultural destination that would benefit local businesses as well as residents.

I respectfully ask for your support for this request and thank you for your consideration of this important and exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,

Gloria M. Gavrís

October 20, 2021

Lara Kritzer  
Community Preservation Program Manager  
City of Newton Planning & Development Department  
1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Kritzer,

I am writing in support of the New Art Center's CPA pre-proposal request for funding to conduct a feasibility study on the Church of the Open Word at 19 Highland Ave, Newtonville.

The New Art Center offers everyone, at all levels of ability, exceptional opportunities to make, exhibit, view, think about and talk about art. Founded in 1977, the New Art Center is the cultural cornerstone for visual art in Newton and the local region. Having enrolled tens of thousands of adults, teens and children in art making and art education programs, the New Art Center is also an important local employer, with staff of 10 and faculty of 50+. Speaking from a personal point of view, my own daughter, when in elementary school, greatly enjoyed summer and vacation programs at New Art, exposing her to new and different forms of art and perspectives than any other location in our City.

CPA funds would allow the New Art Center to conduct a feasibility study to determine if the Church of the Open Word facility allows for much needed organizational growth in order to serve more residents, students and community partners.

From my years on the Council On Aging, and as a founding board member of the Senior Center, I know that the village often suffers from vandalism and loitering. However, rehabilitation, revitalization and activation of the Church of the Open Word property would enhance Newtonville significantly, by preserving an iconic local landmark, reducing vandalism and loitering on the property and creating a cultural destination that would benefit local businesses as well as residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this important and exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,

  
Susan M. Paley

1525 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02465



Newton Cultural Alliance

*Uniting Culture & Community*

October 22, 2021

Lara Kritzer  
Community Preservation Program Manager  
City of Newton Planning & Development Department  
1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Kritzer,

I am writing today in support of the New Art Center's CPA pre-proposal request for funding to conduct a feasibility study on the Church of the Open Word at 19 Highland Ave, Newtonville.

In my role as Managing Director of the Newton Cultural Alliance, of which the New Art Center is an active member, I have come to know the excellent work this organization does, the lives it touches and the community enrichment it provides. The New Art Center offers everyone, at all levels of ability, exceptional opportunities to make, exhibit, view, think about and talk about art. Founded in 1977, the New Art Center is the cultural cornerstone for visual art in Newton and the local region. Having enrolled tens of thousands of adults, teens and children in art making and art education programs, the New Art Center is also an important local employer, with staff of 10 and faculty of 50+.

CPA funds would allow the New Art Center to conduct a feasibility study to determine if the Church of the Open Word facility allows for much needed organizational growth in order to serve more residents, students and community partners.

Moreover, rehabilitation, revitalization and activation of the Church of the Open Word property would enhance Newtonville significantly, by preserving and restoring an iconic local landmark, reducing vandalism and loitering on the property and creating a cultural destination that would benefit and enrich the vitality of local businesses and the lives of Newton residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this important and exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Hartzell Knudsen  
Managing Director