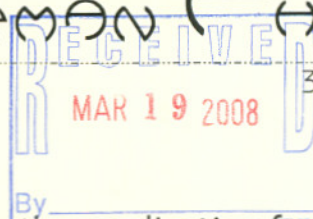


SUMNER SILVERMAN Ph.D.

LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST



3/14/08

Dear people,

Since I will be unable to attend the meeting to adjudicate the application for a permit for the Bradley Square project, I am writing a letter in support.

I have been working with artists in my psychotherapy practice for the last thirty-five years. I am myself, a professional jeweler and on the board of a metal arts school in Waltham, MA. Over fifteen years ago my wife and I purchase a home on Martha's Vineyard. Three and a half years ago I moved from Cambridge, MA and now live here fulltime. My wife is soon to follow.

I have been amazed and gratified by the range and talent of the island artists. Here as well as on the mainland, the major issues that concern artists are living/ working space, retail space (preferably in a context that attracts crowds), and convivial places to gather and share creative energy.

One of my clients is a hard-headed economic planner. He has studied the positive impact of art communities on the economic health of the larger community. Also, he documents the harm associated with the loss of the creative element of a community. A vibrant artistic scene is a vital element to a thriving and growing economy, especially one that hopes to attract visitors.

Providence, RI has made a strong push to encourage its artists and has benefited by that effort. Boston unfortunately has not and loses many of its best. I see this island at a juncture. It has always been known for its artists. However, the issues mentioned above have not been systematically addressed on this island. Housing and work space are particularly difficult to find. This project would be a small movement in the direction of amending that failing. Additionally, it would cement the development of the 'Oak Bluffs Arts District' and be a focal point for performance, teaching, and display. Truly a gem in the making.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sumner Silverman

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