



Los Angeles Downtown Arts District Space

October 31, 2017

Endorsement of Jose Huizar's Motion in Support of
Affordable Housing for Artists

The board of Los Angeles Downtown Arts District Space (LADADSpace), a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to preserving and promoting the Arts District as a true creative community, endorses the motion proposed by Council Member Jose Huizar to determine the legality and feasibility of creating 'artists' as an eligible category for targeted housing.

The Arts District has lost perhaps 75-percent of the artist residents for whom the community is named over the past decade as rising rents and gentrification have dramatically reduced the availability of live/work and studio production space. This is a shame because the Arts District was in the past a remarkably productive community, nurturing the talents of artists, actors, writers and musicians, among them Paul McCarthy (who attracted Hauser and Wirth to Los Angeles), the sculptor George Herms, actors Forrest Whitaker, Jenna Fischer and Mariska Hargitay, musicians Beck, Meshell Ndgegeocello and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, and the writer Michael Blake (*Dances with Wolves*). These artists have enriched world culture and the local economy and their accomplishments are a testimony to the value of a vibrant arts community.

The LADADSpace board is also aware that a Los Angeles is in the midst of a housing crisis and encourages any and all measures that might increase the availability of housing for lower and middle income residents and opposes measures that make achieving that goal difficult, including restrictions on density and building materials. LA is a world capital of culture and commerce that should support a thriving arts community and an urban population that is economically and racially diverse.