



ShoreLake Arts
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www.shorelakearts.org

Registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit (EIN 91-1475914)

May 6, 2022

Debbie Tarry
City Manager
City of Shoreline
17500 Midvale Ave N
Shoreline, WA 98133-4905

Re: Request for assistance paying for Artspace Market study for affordable artist housing/space for ShoreLake Arts project in Shoreline

Dear Debbie,

Thank you for meeting with me, Board President Tracy Thorleifson, and Board Member Eric Friedli last month to discuss the results of Artspace's Preliminary Feasibility Study regarding the possibility of a development that would provide affordable housing for artists and a home for ShoreLake Arts. We appreciate your support for our vision for expanding opportunities for the arts and for artists in the City.

As we discussed, if we are to move forward with this project, we need to raise \$47,500 for more detailed studies of the project's viability. We cannot do that alone! We are asking the City of Shoreline for \$20,000 to \$25,000 to help fund these studies. We are also seeking funding from other government partners.

To briefly recap, ShoreLake Arts engaged Artspace, the national leader in developing space for artists and arts organizations, to do a Preliminary Feasibility study on the potential for an Artspace-type project in Shoreline that would create both a permanent home for ShoreLake Arts to host community arts events and 40 – 75 units of affordable housing for artists. (Artspace's local projects include the Schack Arts Center and the Artspace Everett Lofts in Everett and the Hiawatha Lofts, Mt. Baker Lofts, Tashiro Arts Building, and Tashiro Kaplan Artist Lofts in Seattle. See <https://www.artspace.org/our-places>.)

As part of the study, Artspace conducted four focus groups of potential stakeholders, speaking to artists, BIPOC artists and art supporters, civic leaders, and funders, and held a public meeting in September and October 2021. They released the final report in January 2022. The final report, available on our website:

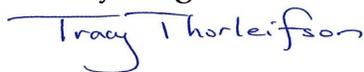
<https://www.shorelakearts.org/reports>, found that it was feasible to place an Artspace development in Shoreline. They noted that there is the political will and know-how to move a project forward, and that a huge step has already been taken by involving the right people and organizations early in the process. That said, they also noted that funding would be the biggest challenge to moving forward, especially in such an expensive real estate market. The steps towards an Artspace Project, and the associated costs, are outlined in Appendix A to the report.

The ShoreLake Arts Board reviewed the report and voted to move forward with finding funding for the next steps in the Artspace project: a market study (\$35,000) and project concept refinement workshop (\$12,500). The Board noted that both studies would be useful even if we did not end up partnering with Artspace.

Artspace has strongly urged us to find funding to begin the Market Study by September, so we can keep momentum for the project going (and because land is not getting any cheaper!). In addition to seeking funds from the City of Shoreline, we are speaking with Councilmember Rod Dembowski, and plan to approach the City of Lake Forest Park, Sound Transit, and anyone else we can think of that might have funds available.

Please let me know if you have any questions about our request, the Market Study, Artspace, or any other aspect of this project. We deeply appreciate the City's support for the arts in our community and for our organization. With your partnership, we're creating great arts opportunities for Shoreline residents, and I know that with your support we can make this new vision of a home for ShoreLake Arts and dedicated affordable artist housing a reality. We look forward to working with you over these next (and sadly, last) six months!

Thank you again,



Tracy Thorleifson
President, ShoreLake Arts Board



Quinn Elliott
Executive Director