

From: [South Junction Triangle Grows](#)
To: [City Clerks - Heritage](#)
Subject: ITEM: PB29.1
Date: November 30, 2021 10:14:48 AM
Attachments: [letterhead-tagline.png](#)

Growing Responsibly, Organically, and Well

Dear Ellen Devlin and Members of the Toronto Preservation Board,

South Junction Triangle Grows is writing in support of preserving 221 Sterling Road (including active entrances at 225 and 227 Sterling Road) as an exemplification of a well loved structure that houses a vibrant cultural community. This community contributes to the history of arts and culture in the city at large. An arts community that was once so active in Old Toronto is being forced out by developers seeking to capitalize on dwindling industrial spaces which small-scale artists, mid-sized and smaller arts organizations have made desirable by their presence and contribution to the area in which they live. 221 Sterling Road as a structure also has a symbiotic relationship with the cultural community it provides homes to. One cannot live without the other.

Additionally, 221 Sterling Road has high ceilings and large open workspaces that artists need for creation purposes that, once gone, will never be able to be remade by newly constructed buildings. These unique artists, dance, aerial acrobatics and musician rehearsal and learning spaces can never be replaced in their original form and function. The design/physical value of these spaces in these historic manufacturing buildings is inestimable as part of our embodied memory of Toronto's manufacturing history as well.

The question a large and growing metropolitan city like Toronto needs to ask itself is "What makes a city interesting to live in and visit?" A city overly built up with glass and steel high rises having the same corporate franchises with street level store fronts, selling the same goods and services in every neighbourhood is soulless. A balance must be shaped between respecting our cultural/artist spaces, our makers, and city building. Culture is about a city's unique identity, quality of life, economic prosperity, social cohesion, and sustainability.

The majority of the small-scale artists, mid-sized and smaller arts organizations are sustaining what is left of the City of Toronto's culture. Many live below the poverty line yet contribute so much to our cityscape. Spaces like 221 Sterling Road NEEDS to be protected for their historical, associative value, and contextual value within what seems to be generic highrise condos across Old Toronto.

As a neighbourhood association, we ask that the Preservation board seriously consider the importance of 221 Sterling Road. No more displacement of cultural spaces and artists to highrises that can NEVER recreate the organic nature of cultural hubs like 221 Sterling Road.

Addendum links:

- <https://torontoartsfoundation.org/tac/media/taf/Research/2019-TAF-Arts-Stats-booklet-FINAL-web.pdf>
- <https://www.azuremagazine.com/article/on-torontos-sterling-road-an-artist-haven-faces-demolition/>

<https://www.thestar.com/entertainment/visualarts/2016/01/31/some-sterling-road-artists-facing-steeper-rents-plan-to-move-on.html>

- <https://trnto.com/toronto-artists-sterling-lofts/>
- <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/10/29/queen-west-artists-stand-against-demolition-of-studio-space.html>
- https://www.blogto.com/arts/2016/03/the_top_5_neighbourhoods_for_artists_in_toronto/

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Warmly,

Irmina Ayuyao

on behalf of South Junction Triangle Grows



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