



Marit Stiles
MPP / Députée, Davenport

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December 2, 2021

Dear Ellen Devlin and Members of the Toronto Preservation Board,

I am writing in support of preserving 221 Sterling Road (including active entrances at 225 and 227 Sterling Road) as an irreplaceable aspect of Ward 9 (Davenport), as well as part of the City of Toronto.

As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Davenport, the boom in condo development and related loss of artist space in Toronto over the past 20 years is a major concern both for me personally and for the community as a whole. A balance must be shaped between respecting our cultural-artistic spaces, our makers, and city building. Culture is about a city's unique identity, quality of life, economic prosperity, social cohesion, and sustainability.

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. Demolition is easy but these unique artist and musician rehearsal spaces can never be replaced in their original form and function.

The majority of the small-scale artists, mid-sized and smaller arts organizations are sustaining what is left of the City of Toronto's cultural core. Many artists and creative sector workers live below the poverty line yet contribute so much to our cityscape.

Davenport has always been a centre for industry and art in Toronto. While the riding has been gentrifying and changing, there are holdouts from Davenport's past that remain, including several factories and artistic spaces. Still, there are only a few of these remaining. 221 Sterling Road not only embodies in its structure the history of this neighbourhood as an

industrial-artistic centre for the city, but actually keeps that history going by providing space for artistic and cultural workers to create, record, and build. We need to protect spaces like 221 Sterling in order to preserve Davenport's historical character.

I am asking you to seriously consider the historical importance of 221 Sterling Road to the community of Davenport. We cannot continue to displace organic cultural spaces like this. These are not the types of things that can be easily replaced or replicated, and so it is crucial that we preserve the ones that we have.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marit Stiles', with a stylized, cursive script.

Marit Stiles
Member of Provincial Parliament for Davenport