



For Immediate Release
August 20, 2021

Maynard, MA - The Town of Maynard's Building Commissioner has issued a notice of reduced occupancy to ArtSpace Maynard, resulting in the closure of east wing and basement studios.

On August 9, 2021, the Building Commissioner reviewed renovation work that has been underway inside ArtSpace. The Commissioner identified various fire code violations. Additionally, efforts to design gallery spaces in the hallways create a "change of use" in the facility that triggers new code requirements and permits for demolition and renovation were not correctly managed. The demolition of certain areas has raised health and air quality inquiries. As a result, the studios adjacent to these areas will be closed to artists until the issues are identified, remediated, and a re-inspection can be performed to reinstate the building's full occupancy certification.

While the seriousness of the matter is sobering, ArtSpace's staff and Board of Directors are also buoyed by the resiliency of the artists and their love for the historic building. The team is working overtime to rectify the situation and is hiring a code consultant to create a comprehensive report to guide the architect and general contractor. The general contractor will oversee the project to maximize efficiency, provide oversight in this complex situation, and ensure all permitting and remediation is properly managed. While 51 tenants and subtenants have been displaced, there has been a much-appreciated outpouring of support to help these artists find temporary studio space until the situation can be resolved.

ArtSpace is a beloved institution, and the staff and board share that sentiment. They are working hard to not only remedy the immediate challenges but to bring ArtSpace back even safer and more beautiful than before.