

January 24, 2022

City of Cambridge Planning Board
344 Broadway
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Re: Use Determination at 650 East Kendall St., Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear City of Cambridge Planning Board:

The Dance Complex, a 30-year-old non-profit proudly serving Cambridge and the region with all kinds of dance from all corners of the world, is always seeking to expand its reach and impact. Our mission is to sustain the study, creation and performance of dance, understanding that each element is inseparable from the others.

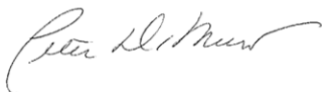
Through the invitation and gift of space from BioMed Realty, The Dance Complex has the opportunity to extend its reach of this three-prong approach to dance through *Complex @ Canal* at 650 E. Kendall St, Cambridge. Our philosophy, proven over these many years of successful community engagement, that classes, rehearsals and performance can bring our unique diverse community at home in Central Square to be in dialogue with a new community in Kendall Square.

We are asking the Planning Board for its review and approval for use of space not presently listed in zoning. The location of the space is Building B of PB-141, and is originally approved for retail, lab, & office uses. This building is in Office 3A & PUD 3. Section 4.28.1. PUD 3 zoning Section 13.42.4(6) allows Theatre use (4.35.h) including Performing Arts Center. We are requesting usage, in addition to those types already listed, as Performing Arts Studio.

As we understand, per 13.42.5, other unlisted uses can be allowed by PB determination if such use is consistent with PUD district objectives and is necessary to support the predominant uses in the district.

Respectfully, we ask that the Planning Board consider this usage for *Complex @ Canal* at 650 E. Kendall. Additional information on uses of the space, with graphics is included below. If I may offer more information, I am pleased to do so.

Sincerely,



Peter DiMuro
Executive Artistic Director

Background on Complex @ Canal intention:

Unique needs as a residency center, performance space and center for dance study and rehearsal. The space would offer a complement to our spaces in Central Square. On Mass Ave in Central, our business model is built on predominantly 1- 2 hour rentals for classes or rehearsal. With Complex @ Canal, our intent is to focus on longer arc-ed rehearsal blocks and continuous day residencies, allowing artists a deeper investigation of their practice- their teaching, their creation of new dance works. Complex @ Canal brings a new facet to the region's dance field. And, much like the science practitioners of its Kendall Square community, this wing of The Dance Complex takes on the culture of research, of creativity in practice to bring new remedies for what ails the human spirit.

We are interested in celebrating unique voices in performance, with an encouragement to artists who blend boundaries among comedy, drama, spoken word, vocals, dance, movement and music. Visual artists that include performance, media or any mixed media are welcome to apply. Those artists with strong ties to Central Square/Cambridge are encouraged to submit interest, as are BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and those with Disabilities.

The space consists of:

- A main large room with a 30 x 40 ft sprung floor and adjacent space.
- Standard light plot, designed for both live performance and for live streaming and video shoots;
- An L-shaped gallery space, approx. 15 x 20 ft, potentially usable for an installation, writing, rehearsal space or other workspace. Glass walls to the adjoining lobby limit the visual privacy of the space
- A square space, approximately 12 x 12 ft with a door; good for installation or work space; partially shares a wall with the main large space, so sound bleed to/from is likely;
- A rectangular room with carpet, 12 x 25 ft;
- Two bathrooms/changing areas
- Utility closets
- A "floating" floor that can be used in different areas of the space
- Wireless internet connection available throughout the space

Attachments: architectural drawings (the space is dark grey on the plans), approximately 4000 square feet in total

Within this document: Photos: show the main auditorium, glass gallery, light grid, projector screen, main entrance

For BioMed Realty:

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