



LEAGUE OF INDEPENDENT THEATER

collective voice for our independent community

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Performing Arts Platform

**As a pro-performing arts
elected official, I will work to:**



1. Support
**transparent,
searchable
access** to city
and community
spaces for
rehearsal or
performance.

Proposal: Searchable
database for
privately owned
public spaces.

[Completed]

Proposal: Searchable
database of
Community
Facility Spaces.

Proposal: Searchable
database of
unused or under-
utilized city-
owned spaces.

*[See: #CitySpaces
proposal co-
sponsored by CMs
Kallos, Van Bramer,
Cumbo, and
Rosenthal]*

2. Create
program for
artists to
exchange
participatory
workshops for
rehearsal/performance
space

Proposal: Exchange
workshops with
public school
students for
rehearsal/performance

space within
schools. *[Piloted at
a public school in
Queens]*

Proposal: Exchange
workshops with
seniors for
rehearsal/performance
space within
senior/community
centers.

Proposal: Exchange
workshops with
NYCHA residents
for
rehearsal/performance
space.





3. Reduce zoning and tax **barriers** to preserve existing performance spaces and encourage creation of new ones

Proposal: Exempt owners' property tax for square footage rented to not-for-profit arts organizations at below market rate. *[Unanimously ratified by all 12 Manhattan community boards]*

Proposal: Designate Cultural Zoning (similar to manufacturing zoning) that would earmark certain spaces for cultural use that cannot be converted into other uses, to

4. Reduce high costs of electricity and utilities for non-profit independent theater.

Proposal: Include non-profit performance venues in the favorable electricity and utility rates enjoyed by religious institutions and the VFW.

Proposal: Enable utility companies to donate the cost of utilities to non-profit arts organizations as a tax deduction.

Proposal: Provide seed funding for an Independent Theater solar co-op.

preserve the character of cultural districts.

Proposal: Rent controls or stabilization for small business, similar to residential rent control.

Proposal: Property tax reductions for developers that are purchasing assemblages in exchange for temporarily activating their space for rehearsal/performance.



5. Secure **affordable, low-cost housing** for working artists.

Proposal: Create clustered units of affordable housing



6. Secure **affordable, healthcare** for working artists.

Proposal: Create a Single Payer health system for New York.

with live/work space included.

Example: Westbeth Artist Housing, housing 300 artists with live/work space.

Example: PS109, 89 units of affordable live/work space in East Harlem, 50% of which must be drawn from the local community.

Proposal: Ensure any future healthcare proposals understand the fiscal need of artists.

Proposal: Support grants to current healthcare initiatives, such as the Actor's Fund.

Proposal: Support rent control and rent stabilization protections.



7. Commission an **economic impact study** for



8. Support **cultural exchange**, and **multilingual**

independent theater.

arts organizations.

Proposal: Establish an International Artist Liaison to connect organizations looking to work with international artists to legal and funding resources.



9. Expand existing Department of Cultural Affairs programs to include independent theater.

Proposal: Expand the Cultural Institutions Group to include independent theater anchor venues.

10. Recognize the history and impact of independent theater

Proposal: Designate new cultural districts.

Proposal: Install plaques at sites of historical import for Independent Theater.

Proposal: Rename streets after founders of the

Proposal: Expand the Theater Subdistrict Fund to include arts organizations with budgets below \$250,000/year. independent theater community.

Want to fight for this platform?

CONTACT US

The platform above was drafted by the [Politics, Research, and Outreach](#) working group.



Your voice is important to us.

Please contact us to get involved!

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