





Housing Affordability for Artists

We know that cities with a mission to maximize economic growth and strengthen communal bonds must create and sustain opportunities for cross-sector interactions, learning, research, experimentation, and development. Artists are essential to this process in and of themselves, and as a stimulant for innovation through collaboration with other creative fields like science and engineering.

While cities like San Francisco and Seattle have invested in affordable artist housing as a means to attract and retain artist residents, San Diego stands by and watches as artists struggle to survive and eventually relocate, taking the valuable resources they have to offer with them. Artists who do find a way to stay often manage to survive by working in other sectors, prohibiting them from realizing their full creative potential.

Of the 10 most expensive cities in the United States, only San Diego has yet to establish permanent affordable artist housing.



WHY SPACE 4 ART?



Space 4 Art is a community-based arts space, focused on providing affordable housing and studios. For the past 12 years, we have saved San Diego artists hundreds of thousands of dollars in rental costs. Our current rental rate for live/work space is less than half the cost of the average residential rental in San Diego County, and our rate for studios is about 62% of the average cost for local commercial space. Artists have access to communal space and a wood/metal shop, and all utilities and high-speed internet are included, providing additional savings. Space 4 Art is a creative incubator where artists of various disciplines, cultures, and backgrounds come together to inspire one another and collaborate.



Space 4 Art further invests in our community by paying artists to bring the work they create as professionals into classrooms and after-school settings. We provide free, meaningful, mentor-based educational outreach to students in underserved neighborhoods through our innovative "STEAM to the Streets" program. We combine STEM+Arts with project-based learning to help students acquire skills, engage with the arts, and increase civic engagement. We believe art empowers all of us, and that inclusive, culturally sensitive art-making leads to healthy growth in marginalized communities.

OUR MISSION IS TO ESTABLISH A DYNAMIC CREATIVE CENTER WHERE ARTISTS LIVE, WORK, MENTOR YOUTH, AND INTERACT WITH THE COMMUNITY IN AN INNOVATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT.





THE TIME IS NOW

San Diego and Tijuana recently won a joint bid for World Design Capital in 2024. Space 4 Art's own Board Vice President, Emily Knapp, was an integral part of this win. Embarking on our Arts Center project now allows us to capitalize on the publicity our region will receive and prove that San Diego is truly a desirable place for artists to move and STAY. Space 4 Art has a robust history of cross-border and cross-disciplinary collaborations and projects, and is uniquely positioned to make the most of this opportunity.



- To move from precarious rented quarters to a permanent, custom-built facility, allowing us to secure our mission, expand our programs, and increase our community impact.
- To connect with like-minded individuals and organizations who share our dream of realizing longterm housing affordability for artists in San Diego.
- To develop an innovative approach and partnership, building on Space 4 Art's foundation and propelling us to the next level of impact and sustainability.



