



May 5, 2026

Dear Members of the Legislation Committee,

I am writing in support of the proposed text amendment to allow cultural facilities, including museums, as a permitted use in Industrial Light (IL) districts.

Board of Directors

Marc Mann, *Chair*
Fatima Rojas, *Co-Chair*
Mary Morrison, *Secretary*
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Executive Director

Milda Torres McClain

Haven String Quartet

Yaira Matyakubova, *violin*
Patrick Doane, *violin*
Linda Numagami, *viola*
Philip Boulanger, *cello*

Resident Musician

Jacob Wang, *piano*

Teaching Faculty

Miles Wilson-Toliver, *Choir*
Jillian Emerson, *Orchestra*

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As Executive Director of Music Haven, a tuition-free after-school music and youth development program serving young people and families across New Haven, I see every day how important access to arts and cultural spaces is for our community. Our students come from neighborhoods throughout the city, and opportunities to engage with arts and culture outside of the downtown core remain limited for many of them.

New Haven's Vision 2034 Comprehensive Plan calls for expanding arts and cultural resources into neighborhoods across the city, and the Cultural Equity Plan emphasizes the need to increase access for communities that have historically been underserved. This amendment is a meaningful step toward making those goals a reality.

We have seen firsthand how valuable it can be when young people have access to creative spaces that are close to where they live. Expanding the use of existing spaces for cultural purposes not only supports organizations like ours, but also creates more opportunities for students and families to experience, learn from, and participate in the arts.

This amendment makes it possible to turn underutilized industrial buildings into spaces that strengthen neighborhoods and expand access to cultural opportunities. I respectfully urge you to support this amendment.

Sincerely,

Milda Torres McClain

Milda Torres McClain

Executive Director

Music Haven, 315 Peck Street, New Haven, CT 06513