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**From:** David Newton <davidinewton49@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026 2:41 PM  
**To:** Misty Maza <MMaza@newhavenct.gov>  
**Cc:** cynthia@lostinnewhaven.org <cynthia@lostinnewhaven.org>  
**Subject:** Lost In New Haven

Dear Members of the Legislation Committee,

I am writing in support of the text amendment to allow cultural facilities, including museums, as a permitted use in Industrial Light (IL) districts. I write as a long time New Haven citizen and engaged community member as well as a Proprietor of the New Haven Green.

This amendment advances the City's own adopted policy goals regarding arts and culture development.

New Haven's Vision 2034 Comprehensive Plan explicitly calls for expanding arts and cultural resources beyond the downtown core and into neighborhoods across the city, improving equity in access to cultural institutions and opportunities. It also calls for the repurposing of outmoded industrial spaces into mixed uses and cultural facilities.

Similarly, the City's Cultural Equity Plan identifies the historic concentration of cultural assets downtown and emphasizes the need to extend arts and cultural opportunities into neighborhoods, particularly those with large Black and Brown populations that have historically had less access.

We have a number of examples of important cultural assets occupying outmoded industrial buildings in New Haven, including Erector Square in the old A.C. Gilbert factory on Peck Street in an IL Zone and NXT HAVEN in Dixwell. Several of the IL districts are located near residential areas, including Westville, East Rock, and Fair Haven.

New Haven's extensive cultural offerings are a central reason for the recent, growing demand for rental apartments in the city by young professionals and retirees alike. This has resulted in dramatic increases in the tax base that would not have happened without conscious support for the success of these cultural assets.

Allowing Lost in New Haven to expand as-of-right will allow many other residents access to the museum's collection. This will lead to more paying visitors, as well as more opportunities for field trips, and community based events.

The proposed zone change is a reasonable, forward-looking policy that will help strengthen neighborhoods across New Haven, increase New Haven's role as a cultural hub, and build the City's economy.

I respectfully urge you to support the amendment.

Sincerely,

David I. Newton

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