



repeopled

James E. Hooper House

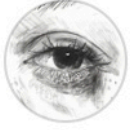


Why I Support Bill #21-0087

Friends and colleagues concerned with the art community in Baltimore have approached me about the rezoning of Hooper House (HH) and other properties on our block (see Bill #21-0087).

I've spent the past year growing my practice at HH, working with building owner Matthew Oppenheim to open an artist-run gallery that is planned for currently unoccupied space within the building.

I have not consented to any previous statements that spoke on behalf of the gallery or myself. I'm frustrated that a narrative has emerged from one individual that all HH tenants are in opposition to the bill. This narrative overrides my perspective, forcing me to make this post because a man decided he could speak for me without my input or consent (on multiple occasions).



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James E. Hooper House



100 E 23rd Street was once the historic home of James E. Hooper and has since been converted into office space (starting at least before the 1980's). The building was never re-zoned to reflect the changing use. So, under current zoning, I am unable to legally conduct business with the general public in a retail capacity.

I want to engage with the general public, to share this space with everyone in the city. The HH gallery is a space meant to showcase emerging Baltimore artists, supporting artists within HH as well as the Station North community. I also need access to commerce to maintain my studio practice. **This is why I support passing Bill #21-0087.**

On a personal level, as a non-binary artist with an active practice in Baltimore, I think it's important for voices like mine to be heard and not collapsed into statements painted in (inaccurate) broad strokes.

- Scout

5:53

◀ Safari



CURTCURTISURTY Posts



curtcurtiscurdy



I am in support of Bill 21-0087

If you have been in the Old Goucher then you probably have seen this beautiful Historic Building at 100 e 23rd.

A year ago I joined this creative space and was able to bless local artist, musicians and small business owners with the opportunity to operate and commerce out of our space. The rezoning of this building will make it possible to open shops and other neighborhood-serving establishments. For the past year we have been pushing to open the first floor as an artist-run gallery showcasing emerging Baltimore artist so please show up for us so that we can show up for our artist.



Liked by goldstreetagency and others

curtcurtiscurdy Spreading wealth! It's bigger than just one person! Feel free to share your thoughts w me!

[#rezonjng](#) [#art](#) [#oldgoucher](#) [#Baltimore](#) [#music](#)

1 hour ago



Nikka Saha <nikkasaha@gmail.com>

11:55 AM (7
minutes ago)

to eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov, robert.stokea, bcc: me

I am very much in support of allowing Hooper House the re-zoning that they need. My husband and I have been to art shows at Hooper House that promote Baltimore's up and coming talent and we need to encourage more of this in our city! Please vote to allow them the re-zoning so we can make Baltimore a home for the arts!

Thanks,
Nikka Saha

Alvin Saha <alvinsaha@hotmail.com>

11:51 AM (11
minutes ago)

to Eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov, Robert.stokes@baltimorecity.gov

Hello,

I am writing as a long time resident of Mt Vernon. I have visited Hooper House and have seen the good work they have done in promoting the local artistic community. I strongly support this bill, for the betterment of Old Goucher, the art community, and the city of Baltimore. Please vote to allow Hooper House the rezoning that they need, so we can promote the arts in Baltimore.

Thank You,
Alvin Saha

Matt Moses

Wed, Oct 27,
11:36 AM (5 days
ago)

to james.torrence@baltimorecity.gov, robert.stokes@baltimorecity.gov

Councilmembers Torrence and Stokes,

I am a resident of Baltimore City Council District 7, and I am writing to express my support for Bill 21-0087, which will rezone the building located at 100 E. 23rd Street in Old Goucher, known as the James E. Hooper House.

Several years ago, the historic building was purchased and activated into an artist space. The Hooper House is currently leased to a number of local artists, musicians, writers and other creative practitioners. The common area of the building has been home to artistic installations that highlight the work of local visual artists, and has attracted a crowd of Baltimore art enthusiasts to view these works. The small business owners that use the Hooper House space would be enabled by Bill 21-0087 to engage in commerce on the property, including the ability to open shops to sell their wares.

It is vital to the success of our local artists that they are able to access and engage in commerce in spaces that inspire and support their creative process. Please join me in supporting Bill 21-0087 for the rezoning of the James E. Hooper House.

Your constituent,

Matthew R. Moses
3822 Hickory Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21211

From: Kristin Zeminski <kritonnic@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:55:39 PM
To: robert.stokes@baltimorecity.gov <robert.stokes@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: Support Bill - 21-0087

Dear Councilman Stokes,

As a local artist who has shown in various Baltimore City galleries, I urge you to support Bill - 21-0087. The Hooper House (100 E 23rd Street) has a unique opportunity to be a pillar for the arts in a historic building for the revitalized neighborhood of Old Goucher/Barclay. A building offering affordable rates for artist housing as well as a gallery/storefront would keep this arts district thriving and help fund local artists and their projects. Creative hubs like the Hooper House provide a sense of community, a place to gather, and attract like-minded attendees from inside and outside the city.

The Old Goucher/Barclay revitalization effort would suffer a great loss if they lost The Hooper House as the creative hub of the neighborhood.

Again, please support Bill - 21-0087.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our neighborhood,
Kristin Zeminski

Dear Councilman Stokes,

I am writing this letter to express my support for the passing of Bill #21-0087.

By way of introduction, my name is Raj Randhawa and I am a longtime resident and business owner here in Baltimore City. My company, Brexton Commercial, has been headquartered in Baltimore (first in Mt. Vernon, then in the Bromo Arts District, and now in the CBD) since we started our business. Over the last 7 years we have been fortunate to lease hundreds of thousands of retail space in the City from South Baltimore to Northern Parkway.

I have personally known and worked with Mr. Oppenheim for the last decade, and I consider him to be one of the most honest, hardworking, and genuine people I've met in the business. He has an incredible vision and works with the local community to include members from all walks of life in his properties.

I witnessed Mr. Oppenheim purchase The Hooper House and significantly upgrade the property over the last several years. As a result, he has provided a safe and affordable space for artists, musicians, and other business owners. The property was in poor condition prior to his purchase and had become neglected due to a lack of investment by the previous owners. Mr. Oppenheim changed this immediately upon purchasing the property. He has significantly invested in the renovating and modernizing the property to restore it to its former glory.

The neighboring area is undergoing tremendous growth, and this rezoning will adapt the property to reflect the changing needs of the community. While this all takes place, the Hooper House will continue to remain a haven for artists and musicians. This rezoning effort will only benefit the community and continue to grow the burgeoning cultural scene in our City.

I am confident that through this rezoning effort, The Hooper House will become a central attraction and haven for our fellow Baltimoreans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Raj Randhawa', with a stylized, cursive-like script.

Raj Randhawa

From: Jill Gardner <JILLMGARDNER12@gmail.com>
Date: October 25, 2021 at 2:11:30 PM EDT
To: Robert.Stokes@baltimorecity.gov
Subject: Bill #21-0087

Good Afternoon Councilman Stokes,

I am writing to you today to show my support for bill #21-0087 and I would like to ask for your support as well. 100 E 23rd street was once the historic home of James E. Hooper and it has since been converted to office space (many years ago). The building was never rezoned to reflect the changing use. . The 15 plus artists who rent space at Hooper house are working with the owner on this rezoning effort to allow them to open a public facing gallery space which would be operated by some of the artists. Many of the artists are also involved in community outreach

I am very active in the community and am a long time resident. I have been to many art shows and openings at Hooper House and was always impressed with the art and presentation, as well as the great many supporters who always show up!

This building is one of few that offers artist's studio space to rent at a low cost and to work in a communal style setting with other artists when desired. It is a beautiful building and the owner is doing an amazing job of respecting the historical value of this property.

I would like to continue to see artists thrive here as a part of our ever growing art centric community.

We appreciate your support in passing bill # 21-0087

Margot Heller

Mon, Oct 25, 1:27
PM (7 days ago)

to robert.stokes

Dear Councilmember Stokes:

I am writing to ask your support of Hooper House , which is at 100E. 23rd St. Baltimore 21218. There are artists living and working at this special renovated Old Goucher College building and they would like to

have gallery openings in support of their work. It is important for the community as well.

Please vote in support of changing OR-2 to C-1. This would be an important service to the city of Baltimore as

well as to the neighborhood and entire art's community.

Thank you for the important work that you are doing for Baltimore.

With Sincere Respect,

Margot W. Heller

Former President of the Board of The Baltimore Museum of Art and
Honorary Trustee; The Baltimore Museum of Art

Margot W. Heller
mheller007@gmail.com

Bob Pyle

Tue, Oct 26,
11:41 AM (6 days
ago)

to robert.stokes@baltimorecity.gov, me

Dear Mr. Stokes,

I had the pleasure of renting an art space from Matt Oppenheim at 100 E 23rd St. until just recently, when I found a need to travel. I was there over 2 years and I hope to return there again! This wonderful old building and its' grounds are really ideal for artistic endeavors and community events of all kinds!

Mr Oppenheim, is a very inclusive person and landlord! He rents to people from all walks of life, and genuinely wants to encourage the arts and enrich this community! I was impressed that he rents his spaces at very reasonable rates and to all income levels, not only to MICA students! Instead of being an absentee landlord, he is extremely involved with improving this wonderful old building and keeping the tenants happy! He has recently, as I have personally witnessed, upgraded The Hooper House in many ways! He has installed a new long lasting slate roof, a new heating system, new windows, new paint, new outside landscaping, and the list goes on! It seems like this building and the community around it are his whole life! I am serious!

I have also seen the musical, and artistic events he puts on, and he is very respectful of the community and of everyone involved! He oversees each event with great care! Matt Oppenheim has great personal responsibility!

If you would consider rezoning this historic building as he is asking, I assure you, you will not regret it! The surrounding areas and Baltimore itself will be the winner! The art and cultural scene in Baltimore will be greatly enriched!

I am enclosing a short 45 second video of the work I accomplished in my time at Matt's building! It will show you what is possible in a nurturing and safe environment, such as The Hooper House!

If I can provide any more information to you, please feel free to contact me!

Best wishes,

Bob Pyle- artist and musician

443-364-1073