

From: [Maria](#)
To: [PlanComm](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit #2023-00052
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Dear Chairman Macek, Vice Chair McMahon, and Commissioners,

I'm writing in support of Special Use Permit #2023-00052 for the Art League School at 800 Slaters Lane. When I worked on the Old Town North Small Area Plan, which was adopted in 2017, we talked a lot about trying to keep our existing arts institutions and hoping to create an arts friendly environment. The Art League School is one of those institutions. It has been located in Old Town North for decades, and I know that Suzanne Bethel wants to keep the school in Alexandria, specifically in Old Town North.

Since there isn't a suitable space in Old Town North itself, moving the Art League School to Slaters Lane will keep it as close as possible, which will be a benefit to the school and to the community of artists who teach and take classes there. But most importantly for Alexandria, the school's presence on Slaters Lane will benefit surrounding businesses and help to activate the neighborhood. When working on the SAP, it was documented that many of the students patronize businesses and dine in the neighborhood before and after classes. That would happen in the Slaters Lane neighborhood too.

When I took evening classes at the Art League School, I often saw students walking from the Braddock Road Metro station. This new location is almost exactly the same distance to walk and I'm sure many will do that.

Thanks for your consideration. I hope you give the Art League School a thumbs up!

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