

I am writing to support bill 726 to create renaissance districts.

Thomaston CT, where I live, is blessed to have had a successful business that defined the town. That business is gone. Yet the value of the arts, supported by business and community leaders was instilled in Thomaston and manifested in our Opera House. Where excellent community theater is performed to this day.

Like a signature business that creates a web of support businesses and services, a signature arts venue creates an opportunity to build the same sort of synergies. The Warner Theater and The Nutmeg Ballet in Torrington are an excellent example.

Small and mid-sized Connecticut communities that currently have an anchor art venue would benefit greatly from a designation as a Renaissance District - with funding that would target organic growth surrounding those venues.

Bob Carr
Thomaston CT