

I am a resident and artist of Watertown CT, and hope that you will support SB-726 to introduce a Renaissance District within the town. Both Oakville and Watertown have seen a very severe decline- almost non-existent - economic development. Many storefronts on Main Street in Watertown are vacant. Only one “gallery” – Reworx, resides in Watertown and no galleries are presently in Oakville.

And with proper incentives, this bill would bring in artisans and artists who could utilize the spaces and bring back life and activity to the areas.

Many towns in the surrounding area have galleries and/or arts councils.

The northern Route 8 corridor would benefit greatly with the development of an “Artist Corridor” from Waterbury to Winsted.

I have participated in the “Holiday Marketplace” held before Christmas in Watertown, but that is one event. The Watertown Arts League doesn’t have a venue to show any of their work. More can be done, with the help of your support to create a location that will benefit the town and the people.

The arts should be a continuous part of our lives – for those who create and for those who enjoy the creations.

Thank you for your time and efforts in helping our small section of CT.

Sincerely,

Claudia Duhamel