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Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

June 17, 2009

Dear Councilors:

I am a resident of Cambridge who would like to express my utmost support for the zoning changes in Porter Square, petitioned by Lesley University, for the new Art Institute of Boston building on Massachusetts Avenue.

I spend a great deal of time in the Porter Square area, and to be honest, I feel that it is lacking some vitality. An art school would not only be a tremendous asset to Porter Square's energy, but to the city of Cambridge as well.

The historic church is a lovely building whose integrity has been lost over the years. The proposed re-purposing will be a great service to its original aesthetic intention and a welcomed incorporation of a public-accessible arts library and gallery. The thought of not having to cross the river into Boston to view the work of emerging artists is exciting and inspirational to me. I welcome more art and culture to our city and couldn't think of a better location than Porter Square.

As we know, Cambridge has its share of unsightly buildings, mostly institutional and without sustaining aesthetic integrity. Not to mention the seemingly lack of consideration for the spaces around them. The plan drawn up by Lesley University for the use of space and design for the new AIB building is nothing like those monstrosities of the past. Its elegant lines and form create a beautiful place for new and old to meet and merge into Porter Square.

I urge you to pass this zoning proposal to bring art and culture to the people of Cambridge.

Sincerely,

Lisa Crow
Otis Street: 02141