

Arts Habitat Edmonton: Arts Space Needs and Issues Survey

135 artists responded to the survey.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

- Nearly one half of survey respondents are mature artists - 45 years or older. (44.7%)
- A similar percent are establishing artists between 25- 44 years (45.5%)
- The remaining 10% are emerging or young artists between 18-24 years.
- Fully 75% or three quarters of survey respondents were female, a percentage which does not accurately represent the artist community
- 69.4% of respondents are either engaged full or part time in arts related work.
- 75.2 % make an annual income of under \$40K
- 41.4% make less than 10% of their income through their art. But on the other end of the scale, 21.8% make 100% of their income through their art practice.
- Artists work in multiple media so that the overall percentage count is over 100%. 69% of respondents do some kind of visual art, craft or installation. 30% do some kind of theatre, dance or music

SECTION 2: CURRENT ART WORKSPACE

	CULTURAL SPACE TYPOLOGIES - currently used to create art:	Response Percent
1	Artist studio – low impact	44.3%
2	Live presentation	33.9%
3	Storage	30.4%
4	Arts administration	29.6%
5	Artist live/work studio	28.7%
6	Rehearsal	27.8%
7	Office/ancillary	27.8%
8	Education/training	24.3%
9	Meeting / conference	22.6%
10	Artist retail	17.4%

11	Production workshop	16.5%
12	Other creation or production space	12.2%
13	Other	11.3%
14	Media based presentation	8.7%
15	Multi- functional	7.0%
16	Public service	7.0%
17	Media/recording studio	6.1%
18	Preservation/collection	5.2%
19	Artist studio – high impact	3.5%

- Artists indicated that they use more than one type of space when it comes to where they produce their art:
 - 59% use space in their home to produce their art.
 - 17.4% have a dedicated space in their home, inferring that most working from their home do not have an exclusive art space.
 - 10% work from residential outbuilding or garage.
 - Another 23.5% work from a commercial or industrial space.
 - 12% work out of a community or church building.
- Other uses include: cafes, libraries, theatres, dance studios, city property, offices, open rehearsal space, 118th Ave, live performance venues, condo amenity spaces FAVA, Schools, and live/work studios.
- Just over one half (56%) of respondents work alone, while the other 43.5% either share or work in groups.
- 39% of artists indicated they are currently looking for various spaces. Affordability is a common factor.

studio	performance /rehearsal	Affordable / free	production/ creation	office	retail	live/work	exhibition
space outside of home w air ventilation for oil painting and enough lighting	Rehearsal space is a big issue in the theatre community, especially for independent artists unable to acquire funding.	always looking for better opportunities + places but cannot afford anything in addition to my rent.	Glassblowing Hot Shop + Cold Working/kiln facilities	something affordable, a desk with some natural light, a plug-in, + wireless	space that will astound, intrigue, amaze visitors to SPEND THEIR MONEY	Affordable studio (prefer livable as well) conveniently located w moderate space. (eg. downtown or Whyte, 300 sq ft min)	yes
place to use oils and charcoal	More secure administrative + rehearsal space.	willing to share, but it must be the lowest cost - free is best	shared woodworking shop	an office - small quiet space w desk, natural light, internet.	Space w retail & studio	empty area, some windows, concrete floors, maybe live/work/display space	
studio, office, storage by AUG 1!	concert venue + private rehearsal studio	perhaps... depends on price + size + location	space for a photographic studio	co-office space w other writers/ designers & central			
large, clean, space w good, bare, floor	Rehearsal & Performance	low cost, large table access to internet					
Painting studio, 500 sq ft w street level access, shared	performance	affordable rental location in Old Strathcona area					
painting, sculpture	renovating the garage is ideal	Affordable performance space is a big issue.					
room for painting 200 to 300 sq ft	dedicated studio in home	Affordable performance space					

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painting studio w natural light & H2O	Dance studio	Affordable rehearsal space				
artist studio to paint in, not to live in						
multi-functional, sidewalk-level with windows; affordable						
a studio space suitable for working on textile/fibre arts						
Studio to work on big projects and use as a marketing tool						
pottery studio and kiln firing facility						
studio with sinks and a clay trap for some sculpture						
Ideally a shared studio outside the home.						
dedicated studio space outside home						
Always looking for space but have a rental studio						
visual studio space						
sound - proof space						
renovating the garage would be ideal						
Ideally a dedicated studio in home						

- **Artists ranked the TOP REASONS artists FOR SELECTING CURRENT ARTSPACE as**

1	AFFORDABILITY	112/115	97%
2	EASY ACCESS	108/115	93%
3	PROXIMITY TO LIVING SPACE	104/115	90%
4	CHARACTERISTICS OF SPACE	100/115	87%
5	APPROPRIATE AREA FOR ART ACTIVITY	99/115	86%
6	SERVICE/FACILITIES NEARBY	96/115	83%
6	PUBLIC TRANSPORT	96/115	83%
7	NEIGHBOURHOOD IMAGE	91/115	79%

- Interestingly, 25% of artists have had their workspace for 10 or more years, while 50% have only had their space for two years or less. The remaining 25% have had their space between 3-10 years.

SECTION 3: CURRENT ART WORKSPACE LOCATION (107 responses)

CULTURAL MAPPING OF ARTS ACTIVITIES BY CURRENT WORKSPACE ADDRESS: See Appendix 1

- **40.2% of 107 respondents describe workspace as being in a residential neighbourhood**
 - 29% - downtown and 28% - urban area
 - 13% - commercial (along main arterial or other)
 - 12% - suburban area and 12% outside Edmonton city limits (rural or otherwise)
 - 11% - other - mixed zones, university, decrepit, school, multiple.
 - 7% - industrial area
- **33% indicate their current workspace is located within a larger artist community.**
- Respondents were fairly evenly divided between needing their space to be near public transportation or not, with 53% indicating "yes".
 - 60% either have artspaces in their home or are close enough to walk or bike to their studio,
 - 30% drive,
 - 10% use bus, taxi or carpool.
- **60% of artists say they exhibit/perform in Edmonton spaces.**
- 11% say they use spaces in local communities
- 22% described those primary performance/exhibition space types as...
 - National and international galleries or performance venues, and public and commercial gallery space
 - Calgary, St. Albert, Spruce Grove, Sherwood Park, Leduc
 - local theatre venues
 - gift shops, Library galleries, churches, festivals, markets, fairs
 - on-line
- **50% have not moved in the past 10 years to practice Art.** Of the 50% that have, 2/3 of those have moved 2 and more times. This question does not capture artists who have moved and not returned.
- **Most moves were due to:** work/school opportunities (22), better space (16) home/children reasons (15), evictions/sales of property (11), better art opportunities (8), better arts community opportunities (7). "Work" is not defined as a "job" or as art practice. "School" is usually described as art curriculum.
- **Factors limiting art activities due to current location are cited as:**
 - Inadequate building size (31%),
 - **Limits on parking, hours of operation or the impacts their use has on the surrounding area (37%),**

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- Of the 40 respondents that describe other limiting factors, 50% cite issues around inadequate space and/or conditions to work in,
- Only 5 respondents say that zoning is a factor.

SECTION 4: CURRENT WORKSPACE ATTRIBUTES (92 responses)

ART ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE THE MOST IMPACT ON CURRENT ART WORKSPACE

- Artistic activities range from 2D processes such as writing, drawing, painting, printmaking and photography to 3D processes such as ceramics, sculpture, wood, metalworking, multimedia installation processes and live performance activities such as theatre, dance, music, sound installations, circus, and arts festivals.
- Across the board, space was most commonly noted **as limiting art production** either in terms of impacting scale and quantity of production, or in terms of impacting ability to rehearse and perform. While space itself is ubiquitous, **artists want dedicated space, appropriately equipped for their uses.**
- Art activities that require special equipment, ventilation to deal with dust and fumes, and easy access were mentioned most frequently, followed by a need for adequate storage specialized for the use, the ability to bring in retail or audience components.
- Some hazards are present, mostly dust, noise, and in specific instances, chemicals or toxic materials and heat.
- **64% say “No, there are NOT multiple studios/workspaces in the facility where I create my art”.**
- **THE SIZE OF CURRENT PERSONAL ARTWORK SPACE** Summary:
 - < 250 sq. ft. (38 out of 92 responses)
 - 250 – 750 sq. ft. = (27/92)
 - 1000 + sq. ft. = (11/92)
- Nearly 50% (or 43 responses) say their current studio is a space within their home.
- Other spaces a personal artwork space is contained within include: commercial space (6), arts building/centre (5), church spaces (4), any big empty, free space, theatre, or garage (8 all told), group space in apt building, shared industrial space, library, school or auditorium (5 all told).
- **TOP KEY ATTRIBUTES OF CURRENT ART WORKSPACE** (92 responses) were:

1. High speed internet	48.9%
2. Open space	42.4%
3. Large windows and quiet	41.3% each
4. Access to public transportation	35.9%
5. Ability to make noise	29.3%
6. More than one safe means of exiting	28.3%
7. Shared washroom	27.2%
8. Concrete floor	26.1%
9. Wood floor	25.0%
10. Basement location and Administration/office space	23.9% each
- Other significant attributes include: Specific neighborhood/community, Private washroom, Shared common area, High Ceilings (over 10’), Secure Storage.
- 11% indicated location on-grade as a desirable attribute.
- **58 RESPONDANTS IDENTIFIED AND PRIORITIZED THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR SIGNIFICANT ATTRIBUTES:**

1. Natural light - sun orientation:	65.5%
2. Support for specialized equipment:	50.0%
3. Parking:	44.8%
4. Public access for visitors, openhouses, classes:	43.1%
5. Access to group or gathering space:	34.5%
6. Extra utility needs:	32.8%
7. Safety requirements:	22.4%
8. Access to outside services:	17.2%
9. Other:	13.8%
- **HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH ART IMPACT HOW AND WHERE YOU WORK** (92 responses)
 - 37% of artists say their work has no impacting hazards.
 - However, 30% say fumes and dust, 24% say chemicals, 21% admit to making excessive noise, 13% cite levels of heat or open flames.
 - 6.5% use a lot of water and 4.3% use a lot of light.
 - Many of these issues are repeated in the “other” reasons that 13% described previously.

MOST URGENT CURRENT ART WORKSPACE NEEDS, (87 responses) include:

- **1 Studio/work space** (specify use ie/ blacksmith, watercolour): 47%
- **2 Production space** 40.2%

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- **3 Rehearsal /production space** 39%
- **3 Storage** 39%
- **4 Workshop / instruction space and Fabrication space requiring tools, noise** 32% each
- **5 Presentation/Performance venue** 31
- **6 Exhibition venue (specify type ie/ small craft, large format photography, 3D installation)** 30%
- **7 Audience space** 26
- **8 Meeting space** 25
- **9 Administration/ Office space** 24
- **10 Live/work space** 23
- ¼ of the respondents detailed the particulars for the above or listed other urgent needs.
- **51.1% of artists say their current space is not adequate for their needs.** Main reasons cited are:
 - **too small/too crowded** 54%
 - not properly appointed - not a proper space for art making 25%
 - not adequate because its in my home, and issues with noise/need soundproofing 13% each
 - need proper ventilation 10%
- **34% list cost or affordability of a properly appointed space as the major “other” impacting need** (not listed in the previous set) that far outstripped all other needs.

SECTION 5: ZONING, PERMITS AND LICENSING RELATED TO CURRENT ART WORKSPACE (86 responses)

- 35% of respondents say they know the zoning of their land. 50% of the respondents who do know the zoning list it as residential.
- 70% of respondents assume their activities do not require a permit or are unaware their activities might require permits. Another 13% don't know if the owners of their space have them. Another 10% say their workspaces are outside the city limits.
- Of those that have acquired permits or licenses, most are business licenses (11.6%), followed by development permits (5.8%).
- **4.7% applied for building permits. Interestingly, the same number submitted applications the city did not approve.**
- Only one respondent sought rezoning approvals.
- Of the only 13 respondents who indicate they suspect they might need permits or licenses to create from their current spaces, 4 say the process seemed to be incomprehensible to undertake, 3 say the cost is an inhibitor, and 2 don't want to find they would have to move, one admits its just easier not to investigate. Other reasons include:
 - Landlord reluctance; being in the process of rezoning for various reasons; applied for, but not yet approved.
- **EXPERIENCE CITED IN OBTAINING THE ABOVE PERMITS, LICENCES OR REZONINGS include** (23 responses):
 - The website is too hard to find anything and the office is only open when I am working...
 - It seemed stupid. They had to call us a dance studio, which we are NOT. **There was no proper category for non-profits.**
 - Very black and white approach - if you don't fit their definition, the door is closed.
 - Light Industrial allows for dance studio use while Medium industrial does not. **More flexible zoning rules** would allow for multiple uses of currently empty and affordable space regardless of zoning.
 - **Only landlords can apply for rezoning** and they understandably will not do so for an arts organization especially if the group is a minor tenant.
 - Our building is owned by the city, and the lot is designated green space. We have submitted a proposal to the parks department for their approval to rezone. The application for rezoning by the city seems to be based on our willingness to spend several hundred thousand dollars renovating the building.
 - Impassible and no way anybody can do rezoning, no understanding and treating art creation like gas production or steel
 - Lengthy, confusing, difficult, costly - information is unclear/hard to find; does not describe the actual process one has to go through.
 - Had to get OSCAM & hoarding permits for our current mural project - we did, but it was a very difficult/confusing process to navigate
 - Departments at the city are detached from one another - no flow.
 - Avenues of appeal are time consuming and costly.
 - I was refused at first but I appealed the decision and got the business license granted.
 - Parking
 - We didn't have trouble obtaining the low impact business license but may have had trouble with a higher impact one.
 - 4 indicate they have had no difficulties.

SECTION 6: CURRENT ART SPACE AFFORDABILITY (84 responses)

- **To pay for their art workspace**, 51.2 % of respondents rent or Lease; 32.1% Own. 8.3% say “Other” while 7.1% say it is free, and 1.2% pay using some kind of non-monetary exchange.
- 29% use their current workspaces for free while another 11% do not have a workspace at all.
- 30% pay under \$300/mnth, 15% pay over \$1000/mnth

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APPROXIMATE PORTION OF THE TOTAL MONTHLY COST FOR THE ART WORKSPACE if sharing? (43 responses)

- 44% of respondents say they use their space for free.
- 23% say they pay 100% of the shared monthly costs for their workspace;
- 12% say they pay 10% of their shared costs.

- **Other ways of paying include:** Using cafes or other public spaces, paying member dues, or rolled into housing/utility, taxes, or school expenses.

- About ½ the artists who responded pay by the month, 1/3 by “other” means, 15% by an individual rate and only 5% by sq. ft.

- 88% say their current space is affordable/fair.

FACTORS RESPONDENTS THINK ARE DRIVING THE COST OF THEIR CURRENT ART WORKSPACE INCLUDE:

- Location (34.5%); landlord interests (30%); the market (27.4%) size (26%);
- Other reasons including costs of renting or owning; Utilities and general building operation costs; Lack of revenue to offset costs; Access to funding, Insurances, and historical long-term use. (28%)

SECTION 7: SPACE AVAILABILITY (84 responses)

- **70 % say they are having trouble finding space for:** Creating (33.3%), Storage (26.2%), Performing (20.2%), Rehearsing (19.0%), Exhibiting (16.7%), Other (11.9%) Administrating (6.0%).

- **The top 3 reasons are cost (79%), scarcity (56%) or that space is available but in the wrong location or neighbourhood (28%).** Others include accessibility issues (23%) hours of operation (17.5%) and safety at 15.8%. Zoning and other permit or licensing issues are cited as only 7% of the trouble for finding space.

SECTION 8: IDEAL WORKSPACE (82 responses)

- **IDEALLY, RESPONDENTS WOULD BE USING THEIR ART WORKSPACE ...** Alone (47.6%), Sharing (26.8%) or with a Group/organization (25.6%)
- 61% said their ideal workspace would be a dedicated space **separate** from their home
- 37% said their ideal workspace would be a dedicated space **IN** their home
- 8.5% said it would be other things like: a Gallery and Studio, as it is now, but in a city with a really active art community, multi-functional exhibit, films, workshops, production, library & retail sales, live above a commercial or industrial property, public space that draws visitors, a studio close to other artists.
- **IDEALLY,** respondents would pay for of their space by owning (35.4%), any means, (23.2%), co-op arrangement (18.3%), renting (15.9%)

- **Respondents say the IDEAL LOCATION for their art workspace is**
 - **Downtown (39.0%),** or another Urban area (18.3%)
 - Residential neighbourhood (12.2%) or In a space located in a residential neighbourhood, but not a residence (8.5%)
 - Rural area outside City of Edmonton limits (3.7%) or a Commercial area – along a main arterial (2.4%)
 - Other (13.4%): anywhere is fine, as long as it is an affordable space conducive to creating, somewhere accessible by public transport, Easy to access and safe.
- **Central downtown and Strathcona are the main areas** artists indicated as ideal locations for their art workspaces.
- Others include the nearby Whyte Ave, and the 118th, an emerging arts district in its own right.
- Other specific locations include the closed schools downtown.

- **Area requirement increases are needed** at both low & high end of **primary space** uses:

DESIRED: need for increased space:	VS. EXISTING:
1000 sq ft+ = 20 out of 82 respondents (25%)	1000 + = 11 out of 92 respondents (12%)
250 - 750 sq ft = 41 out of 82 (50%)	250 - 750 = 27 out of 92 (29%)

- **40% of USES FOR THIS IDEAL PRIMARY SPACE are for creation, exhibition, storage** (painting, sculpture, pottery, glass, paper making),
- **20%** are for rehearsal, and approximately 12% are for administration uses and for another for workshop/classes.
- Less than 10% are for low-impact studio spaces and another 10% for performance spaces.
- 6% are for computer work while 5% is for production work (sound- and post-).
- 3% wanted to uses this primary space for meeting/gathering, multifunctional centre, large rehearsal/ training/ teaching and retail. Other minor uses include wet lab, equip maintenance, media uses.

- **58.5% of 82 respondents need AUXILIARY SPACE.**
- Of those 48 respondents, 37% need less than 250 ft2, 25% need 251- 500 ft2.
- At the other end of the scale, 23 % need more than 1000 sq. ft. for auxiliary spaces.

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- **USES FOR IDEAL AUXILIARY SPACE:** of the 37 who responded to this question, 46% would use an auxiliary space for storage. Other minor uses for this space include office, gallery or shop, workshop, or performance.
- **AFFORDABILITY IS KEY:** 57.3% indicate they cannot pay more than \$500/month, with half of those indicating that over \$200 is too much for their art workspace. And, **IF PURCHASING SPACE,** (of the 20% of the 82 respondents who said this could apply to them) 12% can afford under \$100K, 6% could afford up to \$200,000k, 5% could afford up to \$500K, one respondent could afford over \$1million (organization).
- **THE TOP 20 ATTRIBUTES OF AN IDEAL ART WORKSPACE ARE IDENTIFIED IN ORDER AS:**
 - large windows
 - secure storage
 - high speed internet
 - open space, access to public transportation
 - ability to make noise
 - more than one safe means of exiting
 - high ceilings 10'+
 - quiet
 - large workspace
 - gallery space
 - admin/office space
 - special ventilation, shared common area
 - shared kitchen
 - wood floor, oversized doors
 - concrete floor,
 - specific community/neighbourhood
 - fire sprinklers, rehearsal space
 - loading dock
 - high intensity lighting, elevator access, special electrical wiring
 - sprung floors
 - location on grade
- Others include more parking, natural light, storage area, flexible space, ability to be messy, and the ability to wash down floors. (drainage).
- In order of preference, significant attributes identified by 53 respondents as significant to their use:

○ Natural light - sun orientation:	58.5%	Other significant attributes include: (9.4%)
○ Public access for visitors, open houses, classes:	47.2%	• natural light
○ Parking/loading :	47.2%	• parking / public access
○ Support for specialized equipment:	37.7%	• support for specialized equipment
○ Safety requirements:	32.1%	• safety requirements
○ Access to group or gathering space:	30.2%	• access to group or gathering space
○ Extra utility needs:	20.8%	• extra utility needs
○ Access to outside services:	7.5%	• access to outside services
- **ADDITIONAL FACILITIES NEEDED TO BE SUCCESSFUL (82 responses)**
 - 29% of artists said they need no other facilities to be successful.
 - 24% need retreat space
 - **20% need live/work studio space downtown**
 - **18% need performance space not already available**
 - 17% need classroom/meeting space
 - 10% need a recording/audio studio facility
 - 12% stated other spatial needs like: yoga and dance workshops, childcare, Multi-functional Exhibition space; visibility, landscaped space, and, an audience!

SECTION 9: DEFINE ARTIST STUDIO (68 responses)

- **The top attributes defining artist studio are:**
 - space - open//flexible/multiuse
 - natural light/bright light
 - **accessibility**
 - **neighbourhood/location(central)**
 - **exclusive to artists community**
 - **public invited in**
 - special equip/tech/elec needs
 - **retail/gallery/public/event space/ability**
 - **group studio or multiple studios**
 - proper ventilation- fresh + mech
 - affordable
 - storage for unique materials
 - safe/secure
 - for messy work
 - **ability to make noise/music/sound**
- Of the 58 **2-dimensional visual and craft artists** who responded, the top attributes that would define an artist studio are:
 - natural light/bright lighting
 - space - open//flexible
 - **exclusive to artists/artist community**
 - **public invited in**
 - for messy work
 - **accessibility**
 - **group studio or multiple studios**
 - **neighbourhood/location(central)**
 - storage for unique materials
 - special equip/tech/elec needs
 - **retail/gallery/public/event/ability**
 - proper ventilation- fresh and mech
 - safe/secure
 - plumbing/paint-materials disposal
 - affordable
 - **parking/loading**
 - separate from home/close to home

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- **Almost everyone would simply call this space a “STUDIO”.**
- 42.7 % would enjoy creating from an artist studio that is open to the public, while 37.3% would not. 20% don't know.

SECTION 10: DEFINE LIVE/WORK (82 responses)

- 68% CURRENTLY LIVE AND DO PRACTICE ART FROM THE SAME SPACE.
- If 'LIVE/WORK' LOCATIONS were more available, 42.7% would live and work from the same space, 32.9% would possibly live and work from the same space and 24.4% would not.

Of all responses:

- 80% are **NOT** looking for live/work space
- 8.8% are looking for Co-op live/work space
- 7.5% are looking for live/work space for their entire family; 7.5% are looking for live/work space in a residential area
- 6.3% are looking for live/work space anywhere
- 5.0% are looking for live/work space for themselves only (not family)
- 3.8% are looking for live/work in a commercial area
- One is looking for live/work in an industrial area

2D artists only:

- 77% are **NOT** looking for live/work space.
- 11.4% are looking for Co-op live/work space
- 5.7% are looking for live/work space that would allow their family to live there as well and 5.7% are looking for live/work space in a residential area
- 8.6% are looking for live/work space anywhere
- 2.9% are Looking for live/work space for themselves
- 5.7% Looking for live/work space in a commercial area
- None are looking for live/work space in an industrial area

- **When asked if materials or processes are used that might impact working in a residential neighbourhood, 76 respondents answered**
 - Practice loud music or produce loud noise in the creation of art that would require soundproofing 11.8%
 - Work with hazardous chemicals or other dangerous materials 1.3%
 - Need for large amounts of room for performance space 9.2%
 - Other (including): 6.6%
 - Outdoor raku firing that produces some smoke
 - A small kiln and work that might require heat, open flame, chemicals, power tools, and make dust and mess
 - Need for large amounts of room for exhibition space (visual art, films, library/archive)
 - Glass Hot Shop

- **2D artists only:**
 - hazardous materials 3%
 - loud music or noise 3%

Respondents envision their LIVE/WORK SPACE INCORPORATING:

Answer Options (all)

- **Multiple studios / shared studio space** 34.2%
- **Gallery open to the public** 27.4%
- **Viewing of “artist at work” open to the public** 23.3%
- None - just space for me/my family to live and work 20.5%
- Employees working on site 13.7%
- Other: 8.2%
 - teaching space; live in the house - work in the "home studio" in the garage; Private living space 'separated' from publicly-accessible areas; cafe/restaurant and/or bar, other retail; maybe "viewing" at select hours only.

2D artists only:

- **Gallery open to the public** 45.5%
- **Multiple studios / shared studio space** 45.5%
- **Viewing of “artist at work” open to the public** 36.4%
- None - just space for me/my family to live and work 18.2%
- Employees working on site 15.2%
- Other (please specify) 9.1%
 - cafe/restaurant and/or bar; other retail; Private living space 'separated' from publicly-accessible areas, live in the house - work in the "home studio" in the garage.

- **THE AMOUNT OF SPACE NEEDED FOR A COMBINED LIVE/WORK SPACE is:**
 - **1001-1500 ft²** 26.7%
 - **501-1000 ft²** 16.0%

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- 2001 ft2+ 13.3%
- 1501-2000 ft2 10.7%

- Of the 55 respondents that said they need live/work space ... 75% indicate they need less than 50% of the space to work in, with the remainder being living space.
- **Of the 2D artists only:** 64% say they need **33% to work in**, leaving 67% to live in. But note that 18.2% say they would need **50% or more to work in**, with the remainder as living space.

Preferred access to unit:

- private (ie/ a residential type) 43.8%
- private/separate (ie/ a storefront type) 13.7%
- shared (ie/ a warehouse type) 11.0%
- Other (please specify) 6.8%

In terms of ownership, 76 respondents said they would prefer to

All responses:

- Own 35.5%
- Rent 15.8%
- Rent to Own 7.9%
- Co-op arrangement 7.9%
- Other 3.9%
- Lease 1.3%

2D artists

- own 32.40%
- rent 20.60%
- co-op 11.80%
- Rent to own 8.80%

THE MAXIMUM monthly payment respondents would consider to rent or lease a combined LIVE/WORK SPACE, including utilities

- \$751 - 1000 18.7%
- \$1001 – 1500 14.7%
- \$501 - 750 12.0%

The maximum amount respondents could afford if considering purchasing LIVE/WORK SPACE,

- \$101 – 300,000 37.8%
- \$301 – 500,000 31%
- Up to \$100,000 31%

THE TOP ATTRIBUTES THAT WOULD DEFINE AN “ARTIST LIVE/WORK” SPACE are identified as

- 1 separation between living/studio
- 2 open, big, flexible space
- 3 natural light/operable windows
- 4 central location
- 5 storage, vent/mech/elec/plumb
- 6 sales/gallery/commercial space, family/child, public invited in
- 7 ability to make noise/soundproofing
- 7 full amenities
- 8 affordable, accessibility, high ceilings, dance /rehearsal/performance studio, access to green space, proximity to artist community, safety, artist operated.

SECTION 11: DEFINE REHEARSAL SPACE (37 responses)

- USE: **weekly (10)** - dance/movement; writing, training, meditating, drumming/dance, band practice; rehearsal, performances,
seasonally/ intensively (8) - readings, workshops and rehearsals for speeches, singing, dancing, acting, staging; Group meets; performances
irregularly (7) - special events, film pre-production, rehearsals
daily - Rehearsing, practicing, teaching, Dance training
- All preferred rehearsal locations are central/downtown

THE AVERAGE RENTAL RATE respondents would expect to pay for REHEARSAL SPACE

48.1%	27%	33%	(33%)
\$ per hour	\$ per day	\$ per week	Other
free - \$20	\$30-\$100	\$50 - \$1,000	Free - max \$1500/mnth
Avg \$10/hr	Avg \$50/Day	weekly	monthly

THE MINIMUM DIMENSIONS OF REHEARSAL SPACE identified are (length x width x height)

- 100x100x10
- 50 x 50 or larger
- 50x50x50
- 50 x 25 x 10
- 50 x 20 x 10
- 50 x 30x10

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- 50x25x1540 x 25 x 12
- 40 x 35
- 25' x 30' x 24'
- 25X25X10
- 20x20x8
- 10X20X8
- 4m x 4m
- 200 ft square
- 1000 sq. ft.
- large
- depends on the project

THE TOP 5 FEATURES IN A **REHEARSAL SPACE**

<u>Top:</u>	<u>2nd tier:</u>	<u>other significant:</u>
• 1 tech support + furnishings	• 6 clean	• 8 height
• 2 space - open/large/flexible/clear walls/floors	• freedom/control of environment	• ventilation
• 3 lighting	• 7 safe/secure	• large storage
• 4 accessibility	• affordability	• wc/kitchen/ location
• 5 can make adjustments to walls/flrs/space	• acoustics	• make noise/soundproof
	• private	• wood floor
		• 9 sprung floor
		• waiting area/change area
		• natural lighting

OTHER USES **COMPATIBLE WITH A REHEARSAL SPACE** WHEN MULTIPLE USES SHARE A BUILDING OR SPACE:

<u>Top responses:</u>	<u>Others:</u>
• meeting	• other art creation
• classroom/workshop	• quiet space
• gallery	• rehearsal space is completely separated
• studio performance or other rehearsal spaces	• storage

MODELS OF AN IDEAL **REHEARSAL SPACE**: THIRD SPACE, FAVA, LYLE VICTOR ALBERT CENTRE, Bonnyville

SECTION 12: DEFINE PRESENTATION SPACE (51 responses)

USE ALL:

- periodically** public performances, classes, cabaret-style revue shows, plays, tech + rehearse daytimes, show at 8 + drinks, close by midnight, public readings, fundraisers and full productions, special events, films and parties, screenings, public visual art exhibitions
- seasonally** in-studio presentation for pre-show or work in progress, concerts, performance space, installation and media shows, festivals - outdoor park and plazas
- weekly** dance/movement, theatre events, performance space, music, visual exhibits, film screenings, workshops

2D artists only:

- seasonally** installation and media shows
- bi-weekly** visual exhibits, film screenings, workshops

• 46.8% say they are NOT currently enough appropriate **PRESENTATION SPACES IN EDMONTON**

- The two most cited issues artists say they are experiencing with presentation space they currently use are **affordability and unavailability** of space or overbooked space. This is followed by inflexible arrangements, access to established galleries, and not enough venues. Finally a myriad of issues from:
 - affordable + appropriate size/location, or being inaccessible to the public,
 - inadequate operating hours or seasonal due to weather
 - ambient noise or poor acoustics; inappropriate distribution of space; bad sightlines; and having to share space with others who have incompatible space needs;
 - no bar or needing liquor licenses;
 - and poor audience turnout.
- Of the 56.6% who responded they are in need of space, 40% are looking for **Small performance space (<450 seats)**
 - **Small performance (< 451 seats) 39.6%**
 - Mid performance (451 – 1300 seats) 3.8%
 - Major performance (1301 – 6000 seats) 3.8%
 - Outdoor performance 1.9%
 - Arena/stadium (> 6000 seats) 0.0%
 - Other (please specify): 7.5%
 - 750 sq feet is fine - small - up to 2000
 - much smaller performance space (50-200 seats)
 - we usually only have 6-12 people watching except for events but it is still small

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THIS **PRESENTATION** SPACE would be called a **THEATRE/SMALL THEATRE (50%)**. Other names include -performance venue/performing arts venue / black box venue. 2D artists only would all this presentation space a **GALLERY/ EXHIBITION SPACE (25%)**

Respondents would like to access this presentation space primarily in the downtown/central or urban core area, which includes Strathcona and Whyte Ave. Other areas should be accessible by public transport such as the university, Bonnie Doon, Southside, Alberta Ave and Glenora.

THE AVERAGE RENTAL RATE respondents would expect to pay for their **PRESENTATION SPACE** is...

47% \$ per hour	41% \$ per day	41% \$ per week	44% Other:
\$9 - 15	<\$30 - 200	\$200 - 2400	\$350 per event
			\$1000/m max 1500
			City / Parks - we only pay for services
			a percentage of door sales
		(2D)	free
		(2D)	If 'permanent', up to \$2000/mo.

The most important FEATURES in the PRESENTATION SPACE INDICATED:

- specialized lighting/sound equip/systems
- Location: easy access for public
- good/complete backstage area, wings, dressing, wcs
- access to facilities, front of house areas, include bar production area, green room, library/archives
- seating- flexible/soft/tables
- comfortable & inviting/presence
- affordable
- access to parking
- versatility
- good acoustics
- space - open, big, appropriate
- height/fly space

OTHER compatible uses with this PRESENTATION SPACE when multiple uses share building or space:

- THEATRE**, rehearsal space, **DANCE**, music and dance performances
- Visual arts exhibitions, poetry readings, painters show their work in combination with sculptors, filmmakers, spoke-word performers 'live' in same space
- films, workshops, classes, meetings, parties...
- sublets to other dance and percussion groups, personal training
- Conferences, other types of presentations
- MULTI**. possibilities are endless; A wide variety; fabrication, etc. is not a part of our operation.
- Most of our sites are parkland. SWCS is a multi-use presentation space.

SECTION 13: SPECIFIC ISSUES

Specific Case(s):

<p>I have been on a waiting list for an affordable studio space for a year and there is no indication as to when I can move in. I have recently discovered that my ability to move into a studio space in a building owned by the City of Edmonton is on hold because several tenants are using several studios as personal storage space. There is no mandate and no formal application procedure and although I was recently instructed to obtain liability insurance for my space for the month of July, I was later advised that I need to wait until the artists move out their personal belongings. Several artists currently have several rooms to themselves for personal and studio interests.</p> <p>This has put my artistic activities on hold because the space I currently reside and paint in limits the scale of production and the ability to hold studio visits for critiques. A studio space in proximity to other professional artists would have a positive impact on my development as an artist and of my artwork. My studio practice is isolated from the larger arts community. I am limited to drawings and acrylic paintings on a small scale and do not have wall space and floor space to experiment with the presentation/installation of my artwork. Larger works have been damaged in the past due to flooding and environmental damage because I store my work in an unfinished basement in a residential area. The lighting and lack of wall space in my house makes it difficult to document my artwork for portfolio.</p> <p>High rents in Edmonton also limit the ability to afford studio space. I currently produce artwork in a shared residence where I do not have room to work in oils or experiment with other mediums on a large scale because of potential damage to property and paint fumes.</p>
<p>I have a garage that I currently can only use in the warm months as I would have to upgrade the gas furnace which I think would require a permit. Also I want this space to be used for gallery and studio space and to do that I would have to renovate but I am afraid to 'waste' my money if zoning/permits, etc are too expensive, too strict to be doable or successful.</p>
<p>I think we need artist studios and/or artist live-work spaces that are accessible by artists who are also parents, and so require childcare and/or family-friendly live-work places.</p>

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<p>Currently the organization is using space that is not zoned for arts activity. There is no danger to participants or the public it is simply a zoning technicality. As a result the group cannot advertise and the surrounding residential neighbourhoods do not even know there is a great opportunity for their kids to access subsidized dance training in ballet, jazz and contemporary dance disciplines. The group will have to move, again, and finding affordable space that is zoned and located appropriately is really difficult. The group may have to cease operations rather than continue to operate outside the rules. Insurance may be an issue as well because of zoning. Volunteers cannot be expected to expose themselves to personal liability risks to keep a arts organization going. The city has to make a choice between healthy arts programming for youth or expensive police and judicial services, that in part happens because lack of activities for kids means greater youth inactivity and/or youth negative activity.</p>
<p>though my understanding is that what i am doing is NOT illegal.. i have the feeling that a vindictive neighbor or any kind of complaint could form the basis for shutting me down--bec what i do is quite unusual in a residential neighborhood.</p>
<p>We are putting an addition on our home so I can have a studio. Because we have a low income, we can't afford to hire contractors at their very expensive rates so we are doing the work ourselves. We have to work on our renovation and work on art to support the family so we are not as fast as a contractor. Our neighbor has complained to everyone available -bylaw, fire marshal and even reported that we are a drug house. This has been very stressful and I have had times when I was so upset I could not work. The city bylaw officers have been generally very helpful but there should be some way to resolve this kind of thing. Also we did not call the extra space a studio- just a bedroom -I don't know if that would have made a difference with approvals.</p>
<p>accessible and affordable studio space</p>
<p>The building we are in (a former church) at 11516 103 Street was leased to a Theatre in 1983 by the City of Edmonton. When that occurred, the zoning was never changed from residential zoning. The city administration only "discovered" this is 2008. They expressed a willingness to change the zoning, but it seems to be on the condition we spend several hundred thousand dollars renovating the building. In addition, they are uncertain what zoning best covers uses of a theatre's administrative offices and rehearsal space. This has been a process of trying to fit a square peg into a round hole, since artistic creation space doesn't seem to fit into any specific zone or use.</p>
<p>I am a visually impaired artist who has very little extra income. My space at home is very limited, especially storage. I am looking for a place to create and sell my art.</p>
<p>We are an organization that supports arts & culture activities, organizations and professionals in Edmonton.</p>
<p>Finally I have built a studio that meets my needs, but I am in my 60's . I hope my colleagues will have better luck than I did. Not only do we need space but we need more informed curators, directors, producers, dealers, galleries, shops, venues, magazines, TV programs, public art. And enlightened policies from the city and the province and the federal government.</p>
<p>I/we want large, central & *affordable* space so that we can consolidate our (4) current living, production & multiple storage spaces (and upgrade to include public exhibition space too); we are tired of 'living out of suitcases' and want a combined 'home' for everything, saving us much time constantly running from one place to the other. I would love to live in the same building that our ideal public space would operate from (an extension of 'working from home' but not exactly 'live/work' space as it is now defined).</p>
<p>It is always a question of money.</p>
<p>In my current work space, a basement suite which I live in, I feel very isolated from other artists. I believe strongly that as artists, even if we work in a traditionally individual medium, such as oil painting that we can grow and help others grow by making art in shared spaces. Spaces that meet out individual needs and gives us access to conversation with other creative individuals</p>
<p>SNAP is a good facility, well set up for printmaking, but I feel uncomfortable using the space there. I am not doing much printmaking right now because I can't do it at my house, and it is inconvenient to go to SNAP</p>
<p>I really enjoy working out of my home. My workspace is in the house but somewhat separated from the main living space. Working out of my home allows for the flexibility that both myself and my husband require. Also we plan on eventually having children and being in the house would be a huge asset. I enjoy the privacy of my home studio, and use other venues to meet customers and sell my work (consignment shops and galleries, retail shows).</p> <p>I've been working out of my home for less than six months and have not yet applied for any permits or licences. I'm worried about the cost (of insurance as well as permits etc.) I also worry about being denied and then having to find another space. If there was a more specific designation for craft artists I think this would make the process easier.</p>

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Spaces are simply not available, too expensive, or poorly located. Where's all the cheap loft spaces? Eg. Montreal
had studio space in Red Strap Market. Space was ideal for my practice, in size, location, and ability to work with materials. Several issues with the space however: 1) not adequately maintained (plumbing was terrible, windows were broken and drafty, boiler for furnace failed regularly in winter, freight elevator was unsafe), 2) owner refused to look at options for providing 24 hour access, so studio hours were limited to operations of the market below (11 - 5, 7 days a week).
We need a collaborative office space with on-site but separate childcare for writers/designers
In the past, at 6805-104 St, we lived above the Capoeira academy, and I had my studio in the back bay. That was ideal at the time. Later the academy was forced to move (landlord had richer tenants to move in) and my studio no longer had access to running water or bathroom. That was not as good but still ok. I envision an integrated space with multiple uses (things we are involved with or want to do in the future - Capoeira, sculpture, sculpture & drawing classes, Açai bar, crossfit gym, and possibly a home all under one roof.
building regulations do not permit interesting and inspiring architecture, and discourages creating spaces for outdoor relaxation or landscaping.
Hi - I tried to answer this as it relates to the space needs of the Winter Light festival organization in most parts. We had a very difficult time finding an appropriate space for our needs, but the one we found is generally excellent. I think we were lucky - in our search, we didn't find anything else that even came close. We did a lot of reno and prep to turn a commercial space into a place that holds office/meeting space/workshop/kitchen. As an individual artist, I have had two different but generally good studio spaces, but in both cases a significant rent-hike made it too expensive and I left. While I am busy with my current activities as a festival director, I still hope to have a studio again one day, and always keep my eyes out for potential space I might be able to afford. My thoughts about live-work space are conflicted. On one hand, for many artists, I think it's a good idea. For me, living where I work has some fairly significant down sides - I never leave work. And the production materials are not always suitable for use in a home unless there is very good ventilation and disposal methods. Painting and clean up have fumes etc that shouldn't be in your environment 24/7, not should they drain into the general water supply on a regular basis. In general I heartily support the need for more live/work space in Edmonton, and encourage your efforts.
I had difficulty getting a permit for my studio/garage and also difficulty getting a business license and thought it should have gone easier.
I started the Ellis Building in 1985 after graduating from the Uof A. About 12 artists shared an 800 sq foot space. We each paid about \$100 each for our 12x12 space, with a common area. We had a darkroom, models for drawing classes and a yearly show. I moved away to CA and that studio opened up to the entire floor with about 33 artists. The problems we had were the heating bills and the temperature of the space- too cold. The next studio was near GMMC that had artists in most of the floors. We had large windows, floor space and cheap rent. Both of the buildings were turned into expensive Condos. So, I had lost my artistic community and I moved my studio into my basement.

FURTHER RELEVANT COMMENTS

Thank you very much for taking the time to create this survey in order to assess and better serve the needs of artists in Edmonton.
sigh. it is exhausting. without space I cannot work.
Affordable. And by family friendly I do not mean artistically G-rated--just that a one-bedroom suite isn't going to cut it.
One reason I don't like surveys is that it is difficult to exactly cover all the possibilities and variations -- that is why I would sit and talk if it's helpful. I have limited experience in all this and thank you for doing this so that it will be easier for the next person that comes along on their artist journey.
Now that I have taken this survey I have decided that my ideal space would be a residential neighborhood dedicated to artists. There would be single family dwellings(to buy), apartment space(to rent), a centre with gallery space and larger work/classroom spaces(like city arts centre), an art/craft market and a centre for rehearsals etc. I think it would be an artist utopia-hey, I would live there!
I mentioned this somewhere in the survey, but I do all my art from my computer because it doesn't have to deal with all the problems surrounding art space.
I think this is a really good thing. Art space costs a lot of money and people like me don't know where to turn to get it. Thank you.
Northern Alberta Pioneers and Descendants Association, owners of the Log Cabin in the river valley, is planning an expansion. There may be room for the inclusion of office, performance and gallery space within the expansion. I'd contact them to see what they might be able to accommodate to meet growing artists and art organization needs in Edmonton. They are central and have ample parking. It's an historic building.

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<p>Thanks for doing this survey (though it was difficult to reply to many questions, given our 'unique' situation of actually already having multiple but not-exactly-functional spaces).</p> <p>Mobilize progressive politicians to support our needs. Convince the City to buy/invest in buildings we can use instead of selling them to shithead 'property owners' who care only about profit and gentrify/commodify our ideal neighbourhoods. Mobilize the public to vote out the Conservatives!</p>
<p>Happy to have helped- and yes, I have just started to look for a studio space outside of my home.</p>
<p>I greatly look forward to the development of specifically designed co-operative housing projects for singles, couples and families (in the Strathcona area) that has a visual art/artisan focus.</p>
<p>I have been looking for a studio separate from my home for some time now and I have not been able to find anything. There are long wait lists for the ones i know about or they are not affordable.</p>
<p>Thank you. I'm lucky and have a good job but for younger artists cheap space is a must. As you know most artists subsidize their studio practice, or invest in themselves to a great extent. Helping them keep their overhead low at least gives them a chance to cover their costs and hopefully their artistic practices may pay for themselves.</p>
<p>No two artists will necessarily need the same thing in terms of size, access, or special needs. However, everyone needs a good home - one that is non-toxic, secure and 'livable' in important ways. People always need light, air, safety and comfort, so these things must always be at the top of the list for 'live/work' space. I have a persistent concern that artists are often expected to compromise - part of the mythology of the artist garret I suppose - and I think this project can do a lot to help raise standards and expectations for artists live and work spaces. Good luck!</p>
<p>I really want to see the 5 closed downtown schools to be used for artist studios. I think this is a better direction to go than finding apt and studio space for artists. Artists like to live a different location to the studio. Our warehouses have all been taken and made into condos. I would not want to work in an unsafe area at night, so the schools are the best solution for all stakeholders.</p>