



DATE: September 9, 2025

MEMO TO: Milton Dohoney, Jr., City Administrator, City of Ann Arbor
Mariah Walton, Deputy City Administrator, City of Ann Arbor
Joe Giant, Director of Economic Development, City of Ann Arbor

FROM: Marianne James, Executive Director, The Ark
Kathryn Huss, Board Chair, The Ark

SUBJECT: Neighborhood needs for Kline Lot development

Delivered by email

The Ark is a world-renowned, community-based nonprofit music venue with a 60-year history in Ann Arbor. The Ark presents over 300 shows annually to nearly 50,000 audience members. For the last 30 years, The Ark has been located at 316 S. Main Street, adjacent to the Kline Lot. In order for development of the Kline Lot to be a win for everyone in the City, it's imperative that these vital needs for The Ark and neighboring businesses are accommodated in the development plans:

- **Access:** maintain current sidewalks, alleys, utility and service access, public and private entrances.
 - This includes the current sidewalk running between the lot and the Ann Arbor Art Center, allowing artists to get to the back of The Ark without going around the block.
- **Alley:** assure continuous access to the alley for delivery vehicles at all times.
- **Oversized Vehicle Parking:** adjacent oversized parking for multiple vehicles on Ashley needs to be maintained.
 - Tour buses, school buses, and other vehicles need safe, close access to load and unload heavy equipment, house artists as they wait to go onstage, and get school children and others safely to our venue and other businesses.
 - Street parking on Ashley is currently available for this and needs to be maintained (or an equal or better option included as part of the development).
- **On-site Public Parking:** at minimum, the same amount of public parking currently available for customers, staff, volunteers, and artists needs to be maintained.
- **Construction Impact:** plans for assuring minimum disruption to businesses and residences during an expected lengthy construction period need to be outlined as part of the approval process.

On behalf of its constituents and stakeholders, The Ark continues to request **transparency, direct communication from the City, and direct community input** from the neighborhood and the citizens of Ann Arbor throughout the planning, approval, design, and construction processes. Thank you.