
Radiate Art Space and the Town Center – A Discussion

— November 2023 —

Motivation for this presentation

Radiate Art Space would like to be considered as a tenant in the 2023-24 planning of the Richmond Town Center updates.



Who is Radiate?

- Radiate Art Space is a 510(c)(3) non profit organization
- We are a volunteer Board of Trustees
- Radiate is a community based group that provides arts for Richmond and surrounding communities

Radiate Art Space Mission

To provide an art space that fosters social and community building interactions around the arts for everyone

How Does Radiate Art Space Support the Community?

Art Programming

- Toddler Art Play Group
- After-school art classes
- Senior Center Art Exercise Group
- Library summer reading program
- OCCC camper sessions
- Summer art sessions
- Workshops (over 50 free workshops over the last five years)
- Birthday Parties



How Does Radiate Art Space Support the Community?

Community Involvement

- 'This is Richmond' Town Banners
- Annual Art Crawl (over fifty community artisans)
- Annual Town Center Murals
- Grants and Funding for Increased Art Opportunities
- Vermont Open Studio Weekends
- Christmas Market
- Open Houses
- Farmer's Market Booths
- Fourth of July Parade Floats
- Egg Hunt/Story Walks



What People are Saying about Radiate Art Space

Community Artist

<https://youtu.be/qchkbYgK7Vs>



Radiate Art Space Student

https://youtube.com/shorts/nc_D5TATYe0?feature=share

We Value ART in our Community

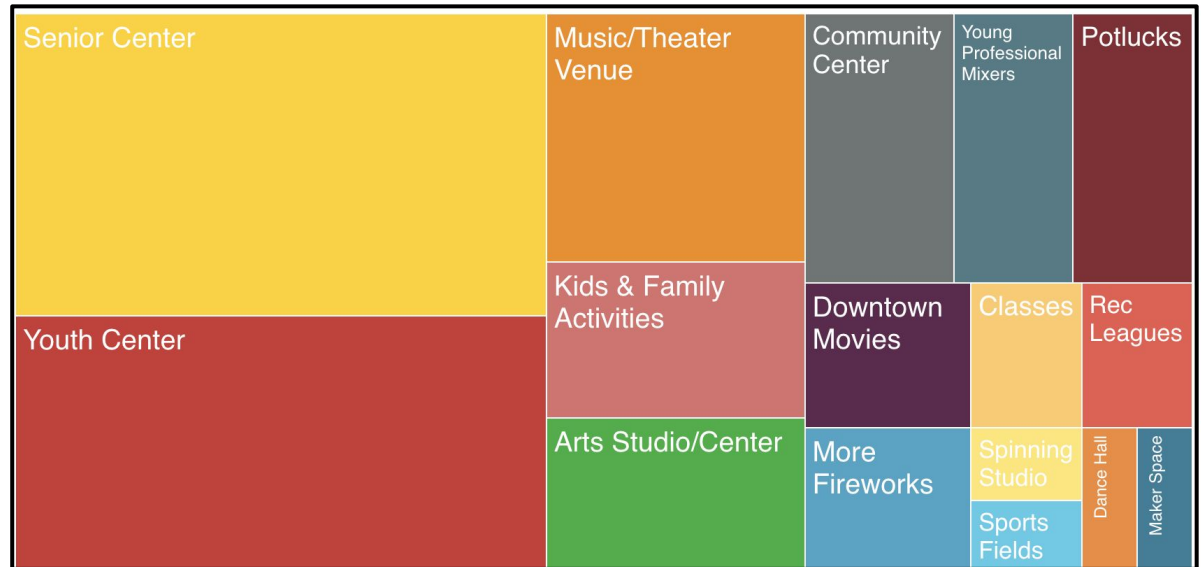
- Art is a way of **communicating**– it gives people voice-it encourages expression
- Art generates discussion on social issues (public window murals, climate action project, etc) and helps us **understand** other points of view
- Art helps communities **cope** in times of crisis (art kits to kids in pandemic)
- Art combats the loneliness epidemic and supports **mental health**
- Art gives us an **intergenerational** place to gather as a community
- Art creates a sense of community **identity** and increases community **engagement** (town banners, egg hunt)
- Art attracts people and businesses into **communities**
- Art creates **innovation** as it leads to creative thinking and problem solving
- **Art is joyful**

Richmond Community Input

According To Richmond Visioning in 2014, many of the things people are looking for in our community can be solved with a vibrant Radiate Art Space!

Desired Community Events & Facilities

You shared more than a dozen ideas for recreation facilities that would help you get out, be active and healthy in Richmond. Here are the most popular ideas.

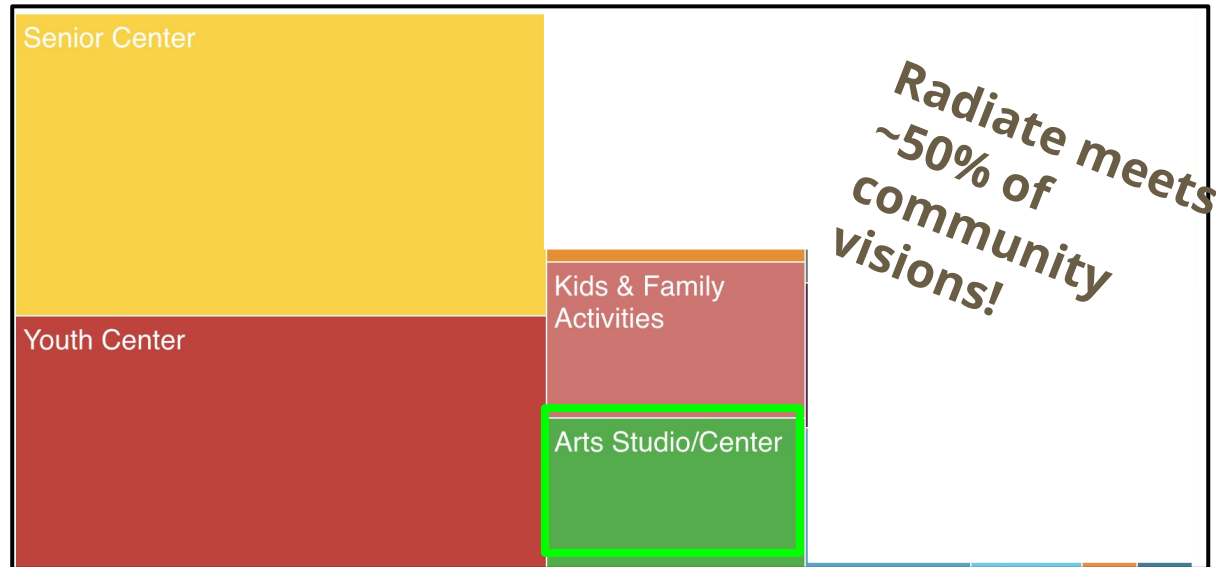


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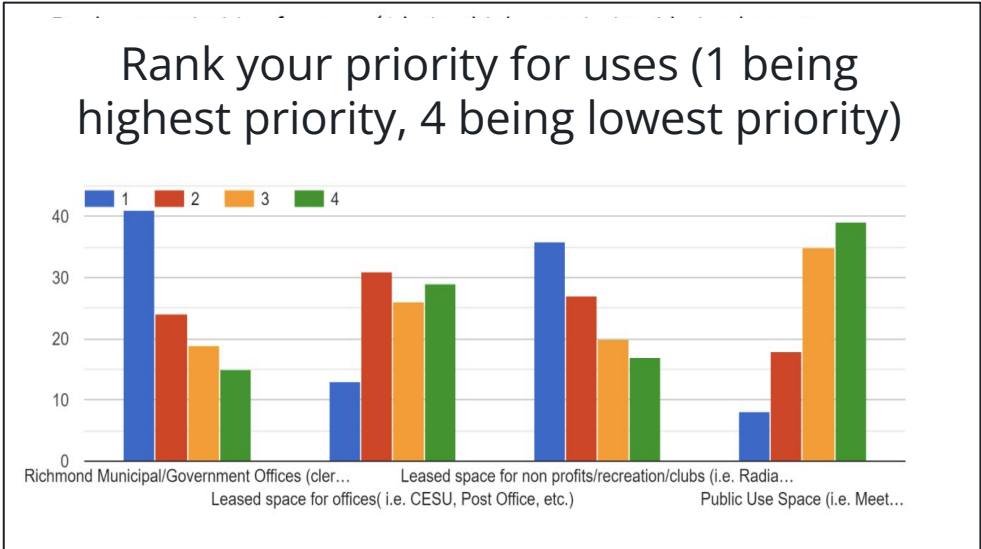
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Richmond Community Input

According to a community survey to collect input on community members visions for the Town Center – non profits and community spaces including Radiate Art Space were of high interest.



Almost the same number of respondents prioritized town offices and space for non-profits

Why are we here today?

According to the latest Town Hall Committee FAQ sheet: “The selectboard will determine how to allocate space in the plan to accommodate current and future tenants”

Given art's value to the community, and specifically Radiate Art Space as an amazing community focused asset we would like to request:

Consideration/reconsideration as a tenant in the Richmond Town Center 2023-24 planning and bond vote

- To include a re-examination of the physical layout of the renovations with an eye towards a strong community non-profit organization focus which includes Radiate Art Space

A Vision for Our Community

We believe that the Town Center renovation is important and we would like to support and help this plan include a vision which generates a hub in our community for art and civic engagement

Thanks for your time and consideration!