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I'd like to see Bellingham in the forefront as a community that supports artists. Artists bring life to the community. The G-P area would be a great location for the renovation of an existing warehouse for a centrally located subsidized-housing artist community. This work-live situation would not be out of reach for artists' limited budgets and would give back to the community and create a 'people-place' on the waterfront.

This is a concept that other cities have created in old factory areas of Baltimore, Monterey, and San Francisco with Project Artaud (named after 1920's playwright and Dada artist named Artaud). This artist co-op was named after him in San Francisco where they do dance, theatre, music etc. These are condo spaces in a co-op arrangement for artists who live and work together and offer their art to the community in a very public setting.

Monterey is a vital place for artists and has a combo of retail on the ground floor and artist lofts and studio/work places. This creates an energy that people and tourists love with galleries, restaurants, work below and live above multi-use arrangements. Soho has similar artist character, but it's very expensive which is very unlike the Bellingham she has grown to love.

It's difficult for artists to make a living and they need an affordable stake in real estate. It's very scary to see the housing prices go up so quickly knowing that an artists' wages will never allow them to own real estate and continue to live in Bellingham in the future. It's key that artists be able to live in the community they enhance. They add so much to the community's character and make a significant contribution to its authenticity and vitality.

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