

Office of Nightlife, NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS)

2025-2026 Annual Report

18 May 2026

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

The Office of Nightlife (ONL) at the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) is a non-enforcement liaison between City agencies and the nightlife industry, serving business owners, workers, performers, patrons and residents in New York City's bars, nightclubs, performance venues, restaurants, and cultural spaces. ONL was created through Local Law 178 of 2017. That law requires ONL to conduct outreach, review information on complaints and violations, and issue a report on the activities and recommendations of the Office. Since ONL's formation, NYC has become a leader in the growing global movement of urban nightlife advocacy, which now includes more than 100 major cities across every continent.

NYC nightlife is a core part of the city's cultural and economic life, shaping how people gather, create, work, and participate in public life. These spaces function not only as businesses, but as cultural infrastructure that supports artists, workers, small businesses, and communities across all five boroughs. Nightlife also plays a significant role in how New York is experienced by residents and visitors alike, contributing to the city's identity as a global destination.

Nightlife intersects with a wide range of City priorities, including economic development, public safety, cultural production, workforce opportunity, and neighborhood quality of life. Reflecting these overlapping roles, ONL's work continues to span four primary areas of focus:

- 1) Support Business Development
- 2) Improve Quality of Life
- 3) Promote Safety, Equity, and Harm Reduction
- 4) Elevate Nightlife Culture

Over the last year, ONL has continued to advance an approach grounded in coordination, accessibility, and practical problem solving. This included ongoing program development, policy engagement, interagency coordination, and direct casework with businesses and communities. The office worked closely with industry partners, advocates, local stakeholders, and City agencies to support nightlife businesses while addressing recurring quality-of-life concerns. ONL remains committed to an education-first model that prioritizes compliance assistance and engagement before enforcement becomes necessary.

This report provides an update on ONL's major activities through April 30, 2026, including continued implementation of the CURE initiative, the launch of the Nightlife Grant initiative, ongoing public health and safety programming, conflict mediation through MEND NYC, regulatory coordination, and efforts to preserve and strengthen nightlife culture across the city.

1.0 SUPPORT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

CURE Initiative

ONL has worked with NYPD and other city agencies to revise the Multi-Agency Response to Community Hotspots (MARCH) operations with a new approach known as CURE or Coordinating a United Resolution with Establishments. CURE is ONL's primary framework for addressing public safety incidents and quality-of-life concerns at nightlife venues through an education-first process. The program centers on direct engagement between nightlife operators, ONL, and enforcement agencies to review incidents, communicate concerns, and identify practical steps to correct conditions. Rather than relying solely on immediate enforcement, CURE emphasizes coordination, clear expectations, and opportunities for businesses to come into compliance. Through this process, ONL works to help venues resolve issues, reduce the likelihood of fines or enforcement actions, and support safer, more stable operations over time.

As part of the CURE process, ONL works with NYPD precinct leadership and venue operators to review incidents, identify underlying conditions, and provide practical recommendations for mitigation. These engagements are paired with referrals to resources, training, and compliance assistance that support safer operations and long-term stability. Where businesses do not respond to outreach or fail to address conditions, matters may proceed to multi-agency inspection by NYPD and partner agencies. CURE continues to demonstrate the value of an education-first model for nightlife enforcement. By creating a structured process for communication between precincts and businesses, the initiative helps businesses understand concerns, gives them a meaningful opportunity to correct conditions, and provides agencies with a clearer record of cooperation or non-cooperation. The program does not remove enforcement as an option where urgent or persistent risks remain, but it ensures that enforcement is not the first or only response.

The shift to CURE reflects a move away from prior enforcement models that often relied on large-scale, multi-agency inspections that could be disruptive to business operations without necessarily resolving root causes. Through coordinated engagement and referrals to programs such as SBS's NYC Business Express Service Team (NYC BEST), ONL helps businesses identify potential violations, strengthen operations, and address issues before they escalate. ONL's involvement generally includes coordination with precinct leadership, outreach to business owners or managers, participation in CURE meetings, preparation of written recaps that documented recommended next steps, and coordinating follow up with business owners and local precincts to ensure recommendations are adopted. These recommendations commonly addressed security planning, incident notification, ID scanning or entry procedures, crowd and line management, communication with precinct personnel, camera systems, staffing, event promotion, sound management, and referrals to additional services where appropriate.

The CURE process also allowed ONL to connect businesses to other City and community resources. During the reporting period, referrals included connections to SBS's NYC BEST, MEND NYC mediation, NYPD Crime Prevention, OutSmartNYC bystander intervention training, and other best-practice or compliance resources. These referrals reflect ONL's broader role as a non-enforcement liaison, translating agency concerns into practical guidance and helping businesses address issues before they escalate.

CURE referrals

During 2025, ONL received 175 CURE referrals from NYPD, reflecting steady use of the program by local precincts. Of those 175 referrals, 85 resulted in CURE meetings held, while 49 were determined to not need a formal CURE meeting, often because outreach, referral, or other intervention was sufficient. An additional 19 referrals also received 30-day notices, 7 involved venues that were permanently closed, while the rest were not applicable or referred to other appropriate agencies. In 2026 year-to-date, through April 30, ONL received 83 referrals. Of those 83 referrals, 50 resulted in CURE meetings held, while 10 were categorized as "meeting not needed," in which issues were addressed through outreach or did not rise to the level of further intervention. Additional referrals are still ongoing, pending scheduling, or referred to other agencies. ONL and

NYPD have utilized the CURE process to engage businesses, identify corrective steps, and provide a set of recommendations and follow-up in the weeks following each CURE meeting. Most businesses enthusiastically cooperated with the CURE process. In 2025, 103 referrals were marked as cooperative, while only 26 resulted in NYPD inspections conducted; 85% of referrals did not proceed with inspection.

Referral activity across 2025 and 2026 was distributed across all five boroughs, spanning 92 unique ZIP codes and reflecting the broad geographic distribution of nightlife activity and enforcement concerns across New York City. In 2025, Brooklyn accounted for the largest share of referrals, with 66 referrals, followed by Manhattan with 48, Queens with 30, the Bronx with 21, and Staten Island with 8. In 2026 year-to-date, Brooklyn continued to represent the largest share, with 42 referrals, followed by Queens with 15, Manhattan with 14, the Bronx with 10, and Staten Island with 2. Common referral issues across both periods included disorderly patrons, elevated sound or chronic 311 complaints, public safety incidents, stabbings or bottle incidents, shootings or shots fired, larceny, robbery or theft, after-hours activity, traffic congestion, underage sale concerns, and unlicensed security guard issues. These categories often overlapped, with many referrals involving multiple concerns at the same establishment.

To help build awareness of this initiative across the nightlife business community, ONL has worked with NYPD and other agencies to host regular meetings in every borough, as well as with select NYPD precincts with high concentration of nightlife businesses experiencing issues. These meetings, typically attended by dozens of business owners, provide opportunities to share updates on programs and services as well as address local concerns. As ONL continues to track referrals, meeting outcomes, and follow-up activity, the CURE process will provide an increasingly useful picture of recurring nightlife challenges across the city. These case patterns help ONL identify where additional training, outreach, mediation, or agency coordination may be needed, and support the broader goal of helping nightlife businesses operate safely, responsibly, and in partnership with their communities.

2.0 IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

ONL is committed to supporting nightlife business operators while maintaining a high quality of life in the neighborhoods they serve. In a dense, mixed-use city, residents and businesses regularly share space, and ONL works to help venues and their neighbors navigate these dynamics in a practical and constructive way. This work includes mediation, interagency coordination, guidance on sound and crowd management, and early intervention to address concerns before they escalate.

Over the last year, ONL has continued to respond to concerns related to sound, crowds, lines, and other recurring issues. This also includes ongoing coordination with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to address sound concerns, including collaborative non-enforcement efforts between venues and nearby residents to better understand issues, improve conditions, and reduce complaints.

ONL's role is to assess each concern, determine whether it is appropriate for mediation, CURE, agency referral, or direct outreach, and help establish a pathway toward resolution. In many cases, having clear information about the source and nature of a complaint, including the ability to engage directly with affected neighbors, can help facilitate more effective resolution. These recurring issues highlight the need for clearer and more consistent tools to address nightlife-related impacts. ONL will continue to support approaches that prioritize mediation, early communication, and practical mitigation strategies, including sound management, security planning, and improved communication between operators and neighbors.

MEND NYC Mediation

The Office of Nightlife continues to work with the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings' Center for Creative Conflict Resolution on [MEND NYC](#), or Mediating Establishment and Neighborhood Disputes, a free mediation program for nightlife venues and their neighbors.

MEND NYC provides an alternative approach to quality-of-life disputes involving nightlife establishments. The program brings together venues and residents with a neutral third-party mediator to support direct communication and practical resolutions. Issues may include sound, crowd management, waste removal, closing-time behavior, or other recurring impacts that can be addressed through planning, communication, and clear expectations. The program is most effective when parties engage directly, with a clear understanding of who is experiencing the impact and how it is occurring. In practice, cases where concerns can be tied to specific conditions tend to result in more productive conversations and more actionable solutions.

Mediation remains an important tool because the underlying issues driving many nightlife-related conflicts may not be immediately solved by a summons alone. A complaint-driven enforcement process may identify a concern, but it does not always create a durable relationship between a business and its neighbors. MEND NYC helps parties establish expectations and communication channels that can prevent repeat conflicts and reduce the need for enforcement. By creating space for direct engagement, the program helps move issues from anonymous or repeated complaints toward shared understanding and resolution.

ONL continued to share information about MEND NYC with Community Boards, precincts, elected officials, agency partners, residents, and businesses. The program remains an important part of the City's broader approach to balancing nightlife activity and neighborhood quality of life.

As of May 1, 2026, MEND NYC had completed 113 successful mediations, resolving 87% of all cases that moved to the mediation process. The following table shows additional detail for MEND NYC inquiries, cases, and resolution:

STATUS	NUMBER
Total inquiries	1682

Eligible inquiries	1042
Ineligible and referred to other services	642
Successfully resolved	113
Successfully resolved (%)	87%
Total currently open	22
Open for intake (no parties have yet agreed to mediate)	6
Seeking second party's agreement (one party has agreed to mediate)	7
In mediation (including cases already scheduled and in process of being scheduled)	9
Mediation unsuccessful	17

MEND NYC referrals are generated through several channels. New Yorkers who submit nightlife-related complaints through 311 are informed of the option to pursue mediation, and those who opt in are connected with MEND NYC staff for intake and case development. Referrals may also be submitted directly through an online inquiry form. In addition, the program receives referrals through ongoing coordination with NYPD precincts, Community Boards, the State Liquor Authority, and elected officials. ONL continues to conduct outreach to these partners through regular meetings and public forums to ensure that mediation remains a visible and accessible option for resolving nightlife-related concerns.

3.0 PROMOTE SAFETY, EQUITY & HARM REDUCTION

New Yorkers rely on nightlife venues as spaces that shape social life and public well-being. Venue staff play an important role in maintaining safe environments, helping patrons gather and socialize responsibly while looking out for one another. ONL continues to prioritize the safety and well-being of the nightlife community through initiatives and policies that support harm reduction, safer spaces, emergency preparedness, and access to practical training for businesses and workers.

Narcan Behind Every Bar

Since 2021, ONL has worked to expand the availability of naloxone and other opioid overdose prevention and response tools provided by DOHMH. Through the Narcan Behind Every Bar campaign, ONL has helped increase access to harm reduction resources across the nightlife community, ensuring that venues, staff, promoters, and security personnel are equipped with overdose response training.

Over the past year, ONL continued to integrate overdose prevention into its outreach, CURE recommendations, training referrals, and public communications. All ONL staff are now trained to provide naloxone instruction and distribution, allowing the office to incorporate overdose prevention directly into meetings and engagements with nightlife businesses. Over the past year, ONL distributed 226 naloxone kits and provided training to hundreds of businesses and workers across the city. This work reflects ONL's view that nightlife venues are key partners in public health, with staff often positioned to respond quickly in emergency situations.

New York State has recently enacted a [law](#) requiring certain employers to maintain opioid overdose reversal medication, such as naloxone, in workplaces where maintaining a first aid kits is mandatory. The law includes requirements around making naloxone available and ensuring staff are aware of its presence and takes effect June 10, 2026. This change underscores the importance of continued training and distribution across the nightlife sector. ONL will continue working with public health partners to support awareness, expand training opportunities, and increase access to naloxone across nightlife settings.

Elevate Nightlife Health & Wellbeing Initiative

Nightlife work often involves late hours, high-volume environments, physical demands, and emotionally intensive interactions, all of which can contribute to stress and burnout. ONL continued to promote mental health and wellness resources through its Elevate Nightlife Health and Wellbeing initiative, connecting nightlife workers and operators with support services tailored to the realities of the industry. These efforts recognize that a healthy nightlife ecosystem depends on sustained support for the workers, artists, and patrons who participate in it.

NITE School and Safety Training

ONL continued to use its NITE School framework to connect nightlife workers and operators with practical training and information. Topics include de-escalation, emergency preparedness, venue security, sexual violence prevention, harm reduction, compliance, and safer spaces practices.

In November 2025, ONL co-hosted a "Respect the Night" event in partnership with the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) and OutSmartNYC, bringing together several dozen nightlife workers, advocates, and community members. The event focused on practical approaches to preventing sexual and gender-based violence in nightlife settings, including bystander intervention, harm reduction, and strategies for supporting safer, more inclusive environments. Framed around the idea that everyone in nightlife has a role to play, from staff and operators to patrons and bystanders, the event emphasized shared responsibility and small, intentional actions that can help prevent harm. Participants also

had access to resources and training, including information on ONL programs, reinforcing the role of nightlife spaces as places of care, connection, and community.

4.0 ELEVATE NIGHTLIFE CULTURE

Nightlife is at the core of New York City's cultural identity. ONL continues to work to support creative spaces, cultural workers, and policies that recognize nightlife as an essential part of the city's economy and civic life. Nightlife is not only entertainment. It is a platform for music, performance, fashion, mutual aid, public health, identity, and neighborhood connection.

ONL will continue to support efforts that recognize nightlife venues as important cultural spaces, including businesses that operate as gathering places, incubators for artists, and anchors for communities that have historically depended on nightlife for visibility, safety, and belonging.

Nightlife Grant Program

In September 2025, ONL launched the Nightlife Grant initiative to support community-based organizations, cultural producers, and industry leaders working to strengthen New York City's nightlife ecosystem. The competitive grant program provided targeted funding of up to \$40,000 to 11 non-profit organizations with projects that improve public safety, support small businesses, expand workforce development, and reinforce nightlife's role as a driver of culture and economic activity.

The Nightlife Grant initiative is designed not only to support programming, but to address persistent structural gaps facing nightlife businesses across New York City. Across applications, common challenges included limited access to safety training, workforce instability, language barriers for immigrant-owned businesses, rising operating costs, and a lack of coordinated corridor-level support.

At the same time, applicants emphasized that nightlife spaces function as critical cultural and social infrastructure. In many neighborhoods, they serve as primary sites of community connection, artistic production, and informal support networks, particularly for LGBTQ+, immigrant, and working-class communities. The Nightlife Grant initiative supports projects that strengthen these functions while also improving business conditions, public safety, and long-term sustainability. The FY26 cohort reflects a diverse set of strategies tailored to neighborhood-specific conditions and industry needs.

Grantees

In East New York, Brooklyn the **Queer Nightlife Community Center** is implementing the East New York Nightlife Initiative across the Industrial Business Zone and Van Sinderen Avenue corridor. The project combines cultural programming, workforce development, and community engagement, including a Nightlife and Safety Town Hall, mentorship opportunities in lighting and sound, and public activations designed to increase foot traffic and support local businesses. It also addresses workplace instability of queer nightlife workers, many of whom operate in informal conditions without access to training, benefits, or long-term pathways.

In Sunset Park, Brooklyn, **OutSmartNYC** is leading a neighborhood-based safety initiative that provides training, technical assistance, and on-site support to nightlife venues. Through partnerships with local organizations and service providers, the program equips workers with tools to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence while strengthening coordination between venues and support services. The project responds to gaps in nightlife safety capacity, particularly among immigrant-owned and multilingual businesses, where language barriers and limited access to training remain challenges.

In Jackson Heights and Corona, Queens, the **Anti-Violence Project** is delivering a bilingual nightlife safety initiative focused on queer and immigrant communities along Roosevelt Avenue. The program includes upstander intervention workshops, venue-specific safety protocols, and a bilingual toolkit addressing violence prevention, harm reduction, and immigration-related concerns. This work responds to safety and trust

challenges in immigrant-led nightlife spaces, where fear of enforcement and limited access to culturally competent resources have reduced participation and activity.

In Red Hook, Brooklyn, the **Bunker NY** is producing a durational sound and wellness experience at Pioneer Works that brings together live performance, ambient programming, and participatory installations. The project serves as a restorative cultural activation following the 2025 warehouse fire that displaced artists and disrupted the local creative ecosystem. It provides paid opportunities for displaced artists, engages local businesses, and introduces alternative models of nightlife that emphasize accessibility, reflection, and community connection.

Pratt Center for Community Development is leading a citywide research and mapping project focused on documenting former nightlife spaces, with an initial focus on Manhattan. Through public engagement, archival research, and data analysis, the project will produce a publicly accessible database and map of venues from 1980 to the present, alongside a narrative report on patterns of closure and displacement. This work responds to long-term pressures including rising rents, zoning shifts, and the loss of small and independent venues.

Nightlife United is expanding its VOX workforce development program, which provides training, mentorship, and paid internships in venue operations and live entertainment. The program connects participants from underrepresented communities to career pathways while helping venues build a more skilled workforce. It addresses a persistent gap where entry into technical and operational roles often requires prior experience, even as venues report difficulty finding trained staff.

In Bushwick, Brooklyn, **Future Meets Present** is developing the Nightlife Climate Constellation, a network-based initiative that supports venues in adopting sustainable practices. The project combines research, feasibility studies, and programming to demonstrate how nightlife spaces can contribute to climate goals through energy efficiency, waste reduction, and public engagement. Venues face barriers to implementing these changes, including cost, technical complexity, and limited access to guidance.

RedMoon Arts is implementing NYC Nightlife Safe Zones, introducing staffed hubs, digital tools, and cultural programming in the South Bronx. The project aims to improve perceptions of safety, provide real-time information, and strengthen coordination among venues in areas where late-night activity continues to grow.

On Staten Island, the **Alice Austen House** is leading After Hours: Preserving Queer Memory and Nightlife on Staten Island, a public programming series focused on documenting and celebrating the borough's LGBTQ+ nightlife history. The project combines archival research, oral history, and live events to connect past and present communities while increasing visibility and foot traffic in the St. George corridor.

Harlem Late Night Jazz is continuing and expanding its Harlem Jazz Club Revival festival, a multi-day series that activates venues across historic Harlem. The festival supports local musicians, drives tourism, and reinforces Harlem's identity as a center of live music and nightlife culture, responding to the long-term decline of historic jazz venues.

In Richmond Hill, Queens, the **Caribbean Equality Project** is implementing Carnival After Dark: Safe, Seen, and Sound, a corridor-based initiative along Liberty Avenue and Lefferts Boulevard that combines safety training, cultural programming, and workforce development. The project includes a Safer Spaces certification program, a storytelling campaign highlighting Caribbean LGBTQ+ nightlife, and a mentorship program for emerging professionals. It addresses challenges facing immigrant-owned businesses while increasing visibility and recognition of Caribbean and LGBTQ+ nightlife as a core part of the city's cultural landscape.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND POLICY DIRECTION

ONL's work reinforces several priorities for the future of nightlife governance in New York City. These priorities reflect consistent themes raised by nightlife operators, workers, and cultural producers through ONL's outreach, casework, and direct engagement. They are grounded in the lived experience of the industry and are intended to guide continued discussion and development.

Across meetings, roundtables, workshops, community events, and one-on-one casework, ONL continues to hear directly from businesses about recurring challenges in operating safely and sustainably. Even with recent reforms, operators and cultural producers continue to encounter uncertainty or barriers related to licensing, permitting, and regulatory interpretation. Business owners consistently raise concerns related to rising insurance premiums, commercial rents, inspection processes, liquor licensing timelines, limitations on hours and entertainment, and the need for clearer pathways to open, operate, and expand responsibly. Rising insurance costs in particular continue to present a significant operational challenge for many small and independent venues.

ONL's role is to translate these recurring issues into actionable insight, while also supporting individual businesses navigating City processes in real time. The office's approach remains grounded in practical problem solving. In many cases, direct assistance can prevent small operational issues from escalating into enforcement, conflict, or closure. At the same time, patterns identified through casework help inform broader policy direction, highlighting where processes can be streamlined, guidance can be clarified, and support can be made more accessible. The following recommendations form a policy roadmap driven by the nightlife industry to NYC's cultural infrastructure and address operational needs for small businesses.

Recommendations

Protect venues from complaint abuse and improve complaint resolution. The City's 311 system allows complaints that can trigger multiple inspections of the same venue without necessarily resolving root causes. Complaints to 311, as well as those to community boards and elected officials, are often used to reflect whether an establishment is considered in good standing when it applies for liquor license renewals. Continued efforts to improve complaint tracking, particularly for serial complaints, and increased mediation-first routing for recurring issues can help prevent misuse while ensuring legitimate concerns are addressed.

Ensure fair and transparent inspection processes. Nightlife businesses often describe feeling targeted by uncoordinated or duplicative inspections that undermine trust and consume valuable time. Streamlined expectations, written findings after inspections, and a cure-first approach for minor infractions can continue to help reduce redundancy, improve service, and support better communication between businesses and enforcement agencies.

Streamline business approvals and guidance. Opening a nightlife business in New York requires navigating permits and inspections across multiple agencies, causing costly delays and confusion for entrepreneurs. A coordinated interagency approach, including clearer points of contact, coordinated plan review, and integration with existing SBS support infrastructure, could shorten startup times, increase regulatory clarity, and create a clearer, more affordable path to compliance.

Address insurance and operating cost pressures. Liability insurance premiums for nightlife operators have risen sharply and unpredictably, threatening viability and leading many businesses to operate underinsured. Greater transparency from insurers, continued industry engagement, and coordination with State partners around insurance cost pressures could help inform future approaches to maintaining access to coverage for small nightlife businesses.

Improve protections for venues near new development. When new residential development rises near existing nightlife venues, incoming residents may file noise complaints that threaten long-standing businesses.

Without better tools to anticipate and mitigate these conflicts, the cost of noise mitigation can fall on venues that pre-dated nearby housing. Approaches such as acoustic guidance, disclosure, or negotiated mitigation frameworks could reduce neighborhood conflict, and provide clearer expectations for development near nightlife activity. This policy could help protect legacy venues, working with local partners and other agencies to define those characteristics that signify cultural significance.

Advance safer spaces best practices and workforce support. Nightlife workers and patrons face persistent safety risks, including harassment, discrimination, and assault, often without consistent industrywide standards or accountability mechanisms. Citywide safer spaces best practices, training, and voluntary certification models could build on existing peer-led and community-based initiatives while minimizing cost burdens on small venues. Expanded workforce training could also connect residents with entry-level and management opportunities, prioritizing underrepresented communities.

Ease permitting for temporary cultural use. New York's creative economy thrives on experimentation, but the current Temporary Place of Assembly process can be expensive and complex for DIY artists and producers to stage events. Vacant storefronts and transitional spaces remain challenging to reprogram for cultural use due to professional fees, complex approvals, and unclear safety requirements. Increasing flexibility for cultural use in permitting with clear safety standards and shared review protocols could provide an affordable route to safe, legal use.

Remove barriers to music and dance. Despite repeal of the Cabaret Law and recent zoning reforms, businesses continue to face barriers to cultural programming as legacy liquor licensing rules may require venues to seek explicit permissions for dancing or live music. Modernizing these rules and aligning regulatory frameworks with current zoning reforms could help normalize music, dance, and performance as standard cultural uses subject to clear safety standards.

Repurpose vacant and underutilized city-owned space for culture. Hybrid and remote work have left commercial office and retail spaces underused, while cultural organizations face displacement and a shortage of affordable rehearsal and performance space. Activating underutilized commercial space with studios, rehearsal rooms, small venues, or community-led cultural uses could restore foot traffic, diversify business districts, and strengthen the city's cultural base.

Explore 24-hour activity districts. Uniform closing hours can increase tensions when multiple groups simultaneously exit venues into public streets and sidewalks. A long-term planning framework to manage new, late-night cultural districts could help concentrate activity in appropriate, well-served corridors, pairing extended activity with proactive management, sanitation, transportation, and safety planning.

Enable cooperative ownership of cultural venues. Independent and grassroots venues face displacement from rising rents and speculative ownership. Without equity stakes or long-term control, venues and cultural collectives have less ability to invest in their spaces or communities. Cooperative and community-based ownership models, including long-term leases, nonprofit ownership, or community land trust partnerships, could help preserve cultural spaces, stabilize local economies, and create more durable infrastructure for nightlife and creative communities.