

February 4, 2025

To the Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government,

According to Section 3-7-16.3 of the General Laws, only the towns of Newport and Burrillville are permitted to issue Class T licenses specifically for non-profit and cultural organizations. **This amendment proposes to include the Town of Jamestown, enabling the Jamestown Arts Center (JAC) to apply for a Class T license.**

The Jamestown Arts Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded by artists and dedicated to fostering creativity in all its forms. We offer hands-on art classes for all ages, exhibit contemporary art from local and nationally recognized artists, and host artist talks, workshops, film screenings, and live performances that bring a global perspective to our island community. Our programs reflect our core values: empowering living artists, fostering accessibility, and creating transformative arts experiences.

Lowering our overhead costs is essential to delivering these programs, many of which are free of charge for the visiting public.


Currently, each of our events—whether it’s a lecture, film screening, artist talk, or other program—requires a separate event permit. If we serve beverages at our events, this is an additional permit. **The ability to apply for a Class T license would enable the JAC to serve beverages at our programs, as we already do, but would eliminate the need to outsource catered bar services that are cost-prohibitive.**


A Class T license would allow the JAC to:

- Streamline permit applications (one event = one permit)
- Reduce overhead and improve the efficiency of our small staff
- Lower program costs by eliminating the need to outsource catered bar services
- Help us deliver our mission to Rhode Islanders: provide meaningful and accessible arts experiences

Our aim is to ensure the JAC remains a vibrant and welcoming space for everyone to experience the arts. We extend our gratitude to Representative Alex Finkelman for his understanding and support on this matter, as well as to the Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government for helping us sustain our mission and better support our community through this amendment.

Sincerely,


Christine Cocca
Executive Director


Didi Suydam
Chair, Board of Director