

Ian Bannon
Mayo Street Arts
LD 913

As the Executive Director of a small neighborhood arts center, I strongly encourage the esteemed members of this committee to reject the proposal outlined in LD 913.

With a team of only three full-time staff members, including myself, Mayo Street Arts does not have the capacity to constantly track and verify myriad resale platforms, nor to vet individual tickets at the box office.

Moreover, as a 78-seat venue we do not have extra seats to offer if someone is scammed and unwittingly presents a fake ticket. Everyone involved would lose in this scenario except for the grifter, skipping away with their ill-gotten gains.

Mayo Street Arts' tickets start at \$15 and we do not offer refunds. We have a pay-what-you-can policy that allows anyone to enter for free without question or burden of proof, minimizing any stigma and ensuring equitable access to our programs.

Any increased administrative burden would directly impact our organization's ability to keep ticket prices so low, which is already a difficult but important challenge.

Ticket holders who find they cannot attend an event at Mayo Street Arts are welcome to offer their tickets to a real life acquaintance or just consider their purchase a donation.

Engaging our community like this—person-to-person on a human scale—is an essential part of the work that we do. We build relationships with the individuals who attend our events. We help folks find community, meet people from different walks of life, and encounter other ideas and cultures.

Such spaces are dwindling in our country and we are increasingly isolated and polarized as a result.

Forcing small nonprofit arts centers to grapple with and try to operate at the same scale as multi-national corporations would undercut the essential work that we do every single day.

Ticket scalpers and basic trust in each other are indeed an issue but LD 913 is not the correct solution.

I strongly encourage you to vote against this proposed legislation. Thank you for your time.