

Special Review Use for Children's Art Studio - 906 Main Street, Louisville

Project Overview

The applicant is requesting approval of a Special Review Use to operate a small, private art studio (*Art Shop*) providing creative and visual arts instruction and enrichment programs for children from 6 months through age 12.

The proposed use is intended to provide a welcoming, creative, and community-based space where young children and their families can explore the arts through age-appropriate projects, materials exploration, and guided instruction. Classes, drop-ins, and parties will be intentionally limited in size to maintain an intimate setting where children and their caregivers feel comfortable.

The studio will typically accommodate a maximum of eight (8) children at any one time. Certain programs will be structured so that a parent or caregiver participates alongside the child (these classes will typically be limited to five children). The proposed operation is therefore substantially different from a conventional childcare facility. The primary purpose of the business is arts education and creative enrichment rather than childcare.

Hours of Operation

The studio will generally operate Tuesday through Saturday, with activities occurring between approximately 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Actual hours will vary based on the class schedule, seasonal programming, and enrollment.

The limited hours and small class sizes are intended to minimize impacts on surrounding properties. The studio will not operate as a late-night business, and activities will generally occur during daytime and early evening hours.

Number of Children and Staff

The studio will typically have a maximum enrollment of eight (8) children present at any one time. The number of instructors and staff present will vary depending on the class or activity being offered. Staffing will be between one and two instructors. There may be the occasional workshop for individual families with adults or caregiver-based workshops. The small maximum occupancy is an intentional component of the business model and will help maintain a quiet, controlled, and individualized learning environment.

Nature of Activities

Activities will consist primarily of age-appropriate visual arts instruction and creative projects. Examples may include drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed-media projects, crafts, and other supervised artistic activities. Programming will be designed specifically for young children and will emphasize creativity, exploration, skill development, and positive interaction with art and peers. The studio will not host large-scale events, concerts, performances, or other activities that would generate significant traffic or noise. Any special activities will remain consistent with the small-scale nature of the studio and its maximum occupancy.

Parking and Traffic

The proposed use is expected to generate relatively limited vehicle traffic because of the studio's small maximum class size.

With no more than eight children present at any one time, the number of vehicles needing street parking between Main St. and South St. will be limited. No significant increase in traffic or need for parking is anticipated as a result of the proposed use.

Noise and Neighborhood Compatibility

The proposed use is expected to have minimal noise impacts. Activities will take place indoors and will primarily consist of art instruction and hands-on creative projects. The studio will not involve amplified music, large public gatherings, outdoor entertainment, or other activities typically associated with substantial noise generation. The limited occupancy, daytime-oriented schedule, and indoor nature of the use will help ensure compatibility with surrounding properties.

Safety and Operations

The studio will maintain a clean, organized, and age-appropriate environment. Art materials and equipment will be selected and stored with consideration for the ages of participating children. Activities will be supervised by studio staff, and operational procedures will be established to promote the safety and well-being of participating children. The studio will comply with all applicable building, fire, occupancy, health, safety, and other regulatory requirements applicable to the approved use and premises.

Community Benefit

"Art Shop is a small, child-led studio designed for young children and their families. We believe that art inspires inquiry, connection, and joy. Through process-based art experiences, open-ended play, and materials exploration, we invite children to discover the magic of art-making and bring the spirit of creativity into our community."

The proposed children's art studio will provide a small child-led community, educational, and cultural resource for Louisville families. It will offer children the opportunity to develop creativity, confidence, connection with peers, and an appreciation for the arts in an intimate, joyful and welcoming environment. The studio is intended to serve local families and complement the community's existing programming for young children. Because class sizes are intentionally low, the proposed use is designed to provide these benefits while minimizing impacts on surrounding properties.

Summary

The proposed use is a small, neighborhood oriented children's art studio. The studio will operate most often five days per week between approximately 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., with specific hours varying according to the class schedule.

The use will be educational and creative in nature, with some programs designed as caregiver/child collaborative experiences. The limited occupancy, small class sizes, daytime operating schedule, indoor activities, and lack of large events will minimize traffic, parking, noise, and other potential impacts.

The applicant respectfully requests approval of the Special Review Use so that the proposed children's art studio may provide a valuable children's arts and enrichment resource to families in Louisville while maintaining a scale and operating pattern that is compatible with the surrounding community.

Written Permission from Landlord- Jeff Raikes

We are excited to have Emily and her Children's Art Studio as new tenants for our space at 906 Main St. We really believe that Emily and her business will bring more people downtown and also add more diversity for a thriving downtown. Emily has signed a lease that would go into affect October 1, 2026. Please reach out if you have any questions at [303-912-0781](tel:303-912-0781).