

NYC ARTIST COALITION

“Legalize Dance in NYC” Panel

Repeal NYC's Racist 1926 Cabaret Law

The NYC Artist Coalition brings together experts to repeal NYC's Ban on Dancing

April 25 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Muchmore's Music Venue

2 Havemeyer St, Bushwick, Brooklyn

<https://www.facebook.com/events/212427345900529/>

Open to the Public

On April 25 the NYC Artist Coalition will host a panel discussion on the city-wide strategy to repeal NYC's racist 1926 Cabaret Law and end NYC's de facto ban on dancing. The event will take place at Muchmore's, a community space which targeted by the Cabaret Law became a headquarters in the fight to repeal it. The panel will also focus on the law's historic use as a conservative strategy to decimate cultural life, and give pragmatic tips on how to engage with city government in ways that are heard.

Cabaret Law Panel Discussion

The panel will include:

- **Andrew Muchmore**, currently challenging the Cabaret Law in court on grounds that it is unconstitutional
- **Greg Miller**, of Dance Parade, who brings a historical perspective on the law's enforcement and repeal effort
- **Avram Turkel**, a partner of Borstein Turkel, P.C. who as Legislative Director to New York City Council Member Alan J. Gerson spearheaded previous efforts to repeal cabaret law at the City Council
- **Dance Liberation Network**, who will discuss the current cultural impact of the Cabaret Law
- **Julia Fredenburg**, of the NYC Artist Coalition who brings a unique public policy perspective and strategies for being heard by city representatives

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- **Jerry Goldman**, attorney with national law firm Anderson Kill, and longtime dance activist, has worked with Dance Parade New York and Muchmore's on the Cabaret Law.

NYC Artist Coalition Repeal Effort

The NYC Artist Coalition advocates for the safety and preservation of informal community-driven spaces of cultural production that are critical to our city's artistic vitality and life-saving for the people they serve and support. Many community driven spaces are victims of arbitrary enforcement of the Cabaret Law. The criminalization, shutdown, and loss of these spaces pushes our community further 'underground' and into more unsafe environments. Repealing the Cabaret Law will increase safety and transparency for all.

"I helped with a venue that was afraid to let the Fire Department come in because they didn't have a Cabaret License," **Tara McManus**, NYC Artist Coalition Member

The NYC Artist Coalition has been working with **NYC Council Member Rafael Espinal** and the **Dance Liberation Network** to Repeal the Cabaret Law through a massive artist town hall with community members and NYC City Council Members <https://youtu.be/wbXXeuc2CkM> and formal public documents <http://nycartc.com/cabaret/>

Cabaret Law Use to Decimate Cultural Life

Created in 1926 with racist and discriminatory intent, the Cabaret Law has been systematically used as a conservative strategy to decimate cultural life. During the 1920s and 1930s it targeted African American jazz establishments and was used to halt interracial dancing. In the 1990s, it was redeployed by Mayor Giuliani against New York City's thriving nightlife culture and to target gay and lesbian bars. For almost a century this law has been used to intimidate marginalized groups and stamp out locations where culture thrives.

"We believe strongly that there is no place for such a law in a contemporary civil society"
Olympia Kazi, NYC Artist Coalition Member.

Cabaret Law Today

Currently, it is nearly impossible to receive a Cabaret License due to a combination of constraints and onerous zoning requirements. In fact, in many NYC Council districts, there are no legal locations for dancing. Among the thousands of places where New Yorkers dance, only 88 have such a license. Dancing in all other places happens illegally.

The NYC Artist Coalition has [mapped out](#) the data available on the scarcity of Cabaret Licenses and the zoning requirements that make it illegal to dance in most neighborhoods.

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Recent Press

Village Voice (March 30, 2017) - NYC's Racist, Draconian Cabaret Law Must Be Eliminated
<http://www.villagevoice.com/news/nycs-cabaret-law-is-racist-stupid-and-must-be-eliminated-9834234>

WNYC The Brian Lehrer Show (April 19, 2017) -Dance to End NYC Cabaret Law
<http://www.wnyc.org/story/bureaucratic-dance-end-nyc-cabaret-law>

NY Post (April 8, 2017) - These Footloose-inspired rebels are fighting NYC's dancing ban
<http://nypost.com/2017/04/08/these-footloose-inspired-rebels-are-fighting-nycs-dancing-ban/>

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The NYC Artist Coalition

The NYC Artist Coalition (NAC) is an emerging coalition of artists, creative organizations, community leaders, activists, policy makers, and specialists providing mutual support and advocating for informal and affordable community spaces in NYC.

For updates on this event, follow the [Facebook event](#), sign up for the [NAC newsletter](#).

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