

Somerville
Art Space



**ART SPACE
CONNECTOR SUMMARY**
November 2022 - March 2023

April 2023



somerville arts council

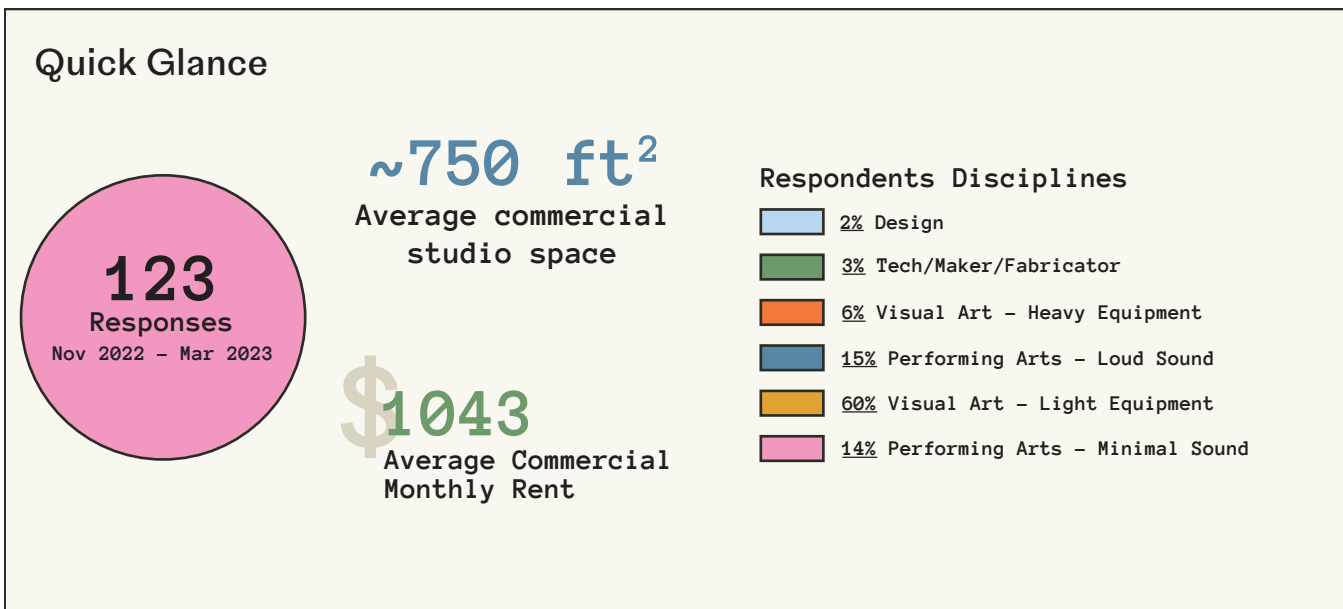
Somerville Art Space Connector Summary
November 2022 – March 2023
Published April 5, 2023

Somerville Arts Council
City of Somerville

Introduction

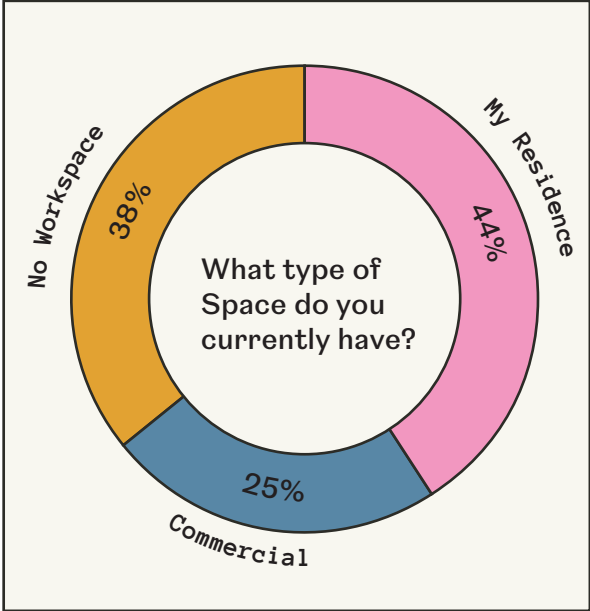
The Somerville Arts Council has been tracking the demand for art space through various methods since 2013. Art Space Connector form exists as a modification of the former Art Space Needs survey that was updated in November 2022. This form assesses art space demand as we develop policies and procedures to match art space needs with new development occurring in areas with an Arts and Cultural Enterprise (ACE) zoning requirement. The future of the connector will also allow for the Somerville Arts Council to match those who need space to new or existing spaces.

This summary captures the responses of 123 individuals that responded from November 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. The summary is broken down into 3 sections: Current Space, Space Needs, and Space Desires.



Current Space

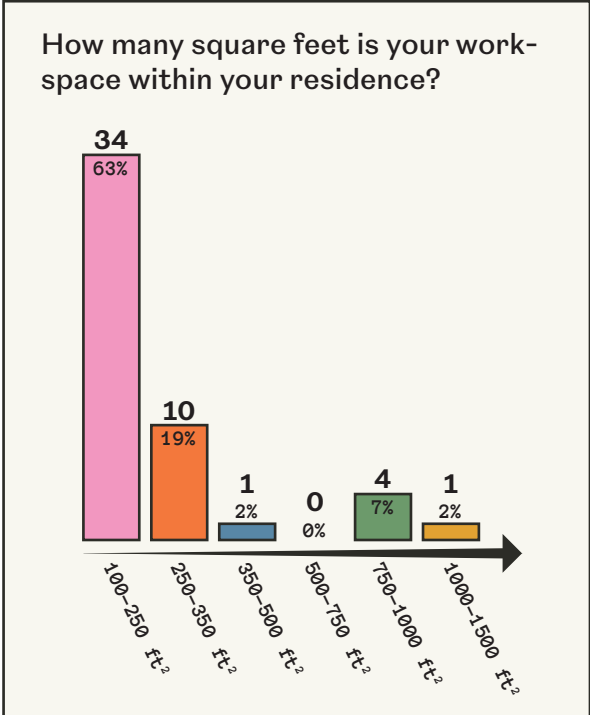
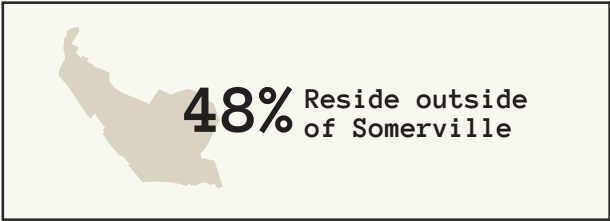
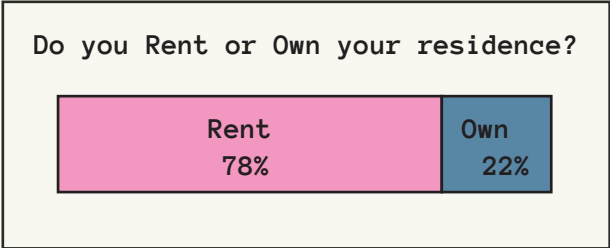
44% of all respondents said that their current work space is a portion of their own residence. 38% of all respondents do not have a workspace, while only 25% currently have a commercial workspace.



*Respondents were able to pick more than one choice

Existing Residential Workspace

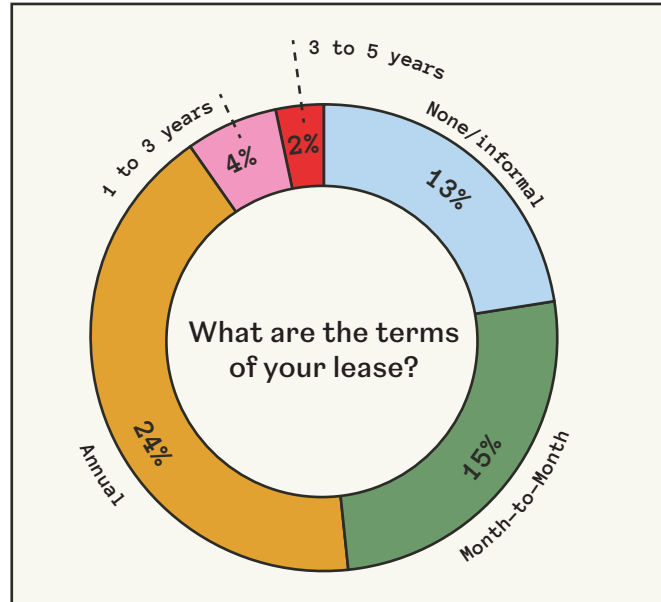
63% percent of workspaces in residential spaces are 200 sqft or less, and 78% of all residential work spaces are rented. 48% of those who have a workspace in their residence said they live outside of Somerville.



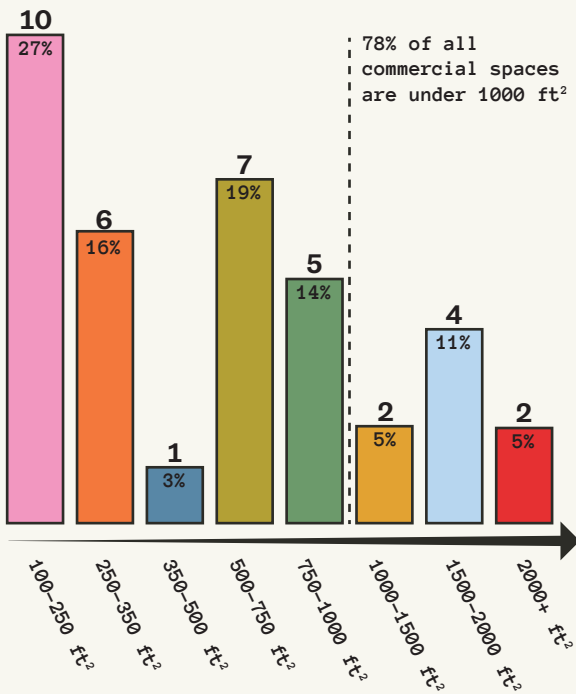
Existing Commercial Space

78% percent of commercial spaces are 1,000 sqft or less, with an average rent of \$1043 per month and median rent of \$793 per month. Almost all commercial leases have a term length of a year or less, with 13% not having any formal agreement. 38% of commercial space holders said their spaces were outside of Somerville.

~750 ft²
Average commercial studio space



How many square feet is your commercial workspace



\$793 Median Monthly Rent

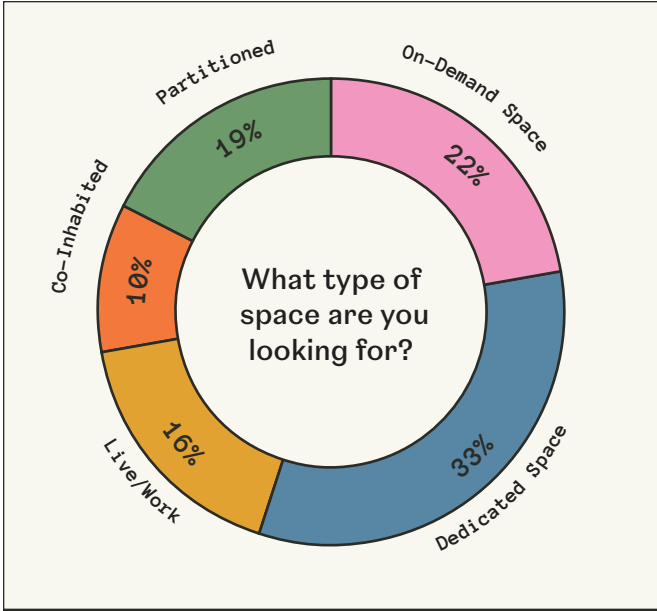
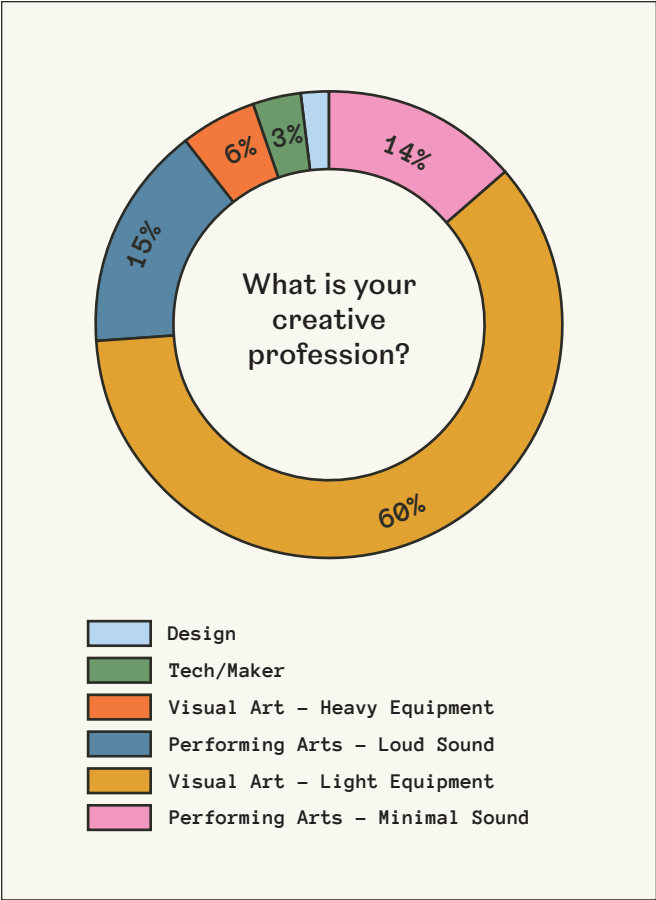
\$1043 Average Monthly Rent

Based on 28 Responses

39% Are outside of Somerville

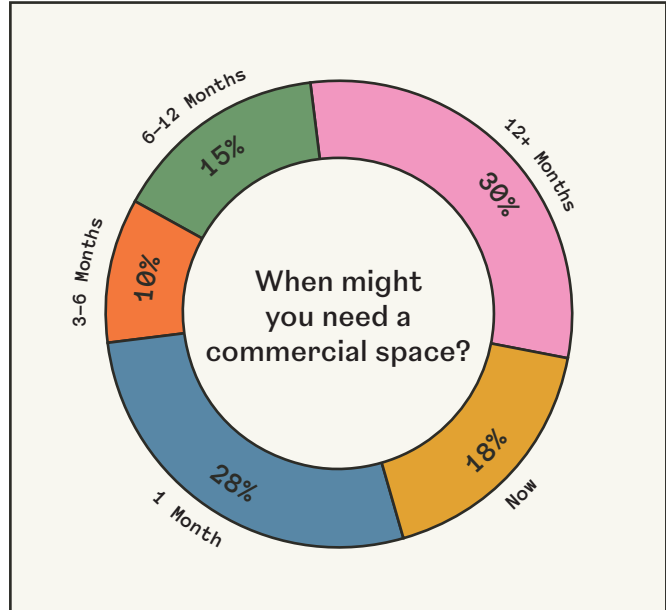
Space Needs

A majority of responses were from visual artists, but the space needs are varied. A Majority (33%) of people were interested in their own dedicated space, however the combined categories of On-Demand, Co-Inhabited, and Partitioned Space show that there is a large demand (51%) for shared spaces.

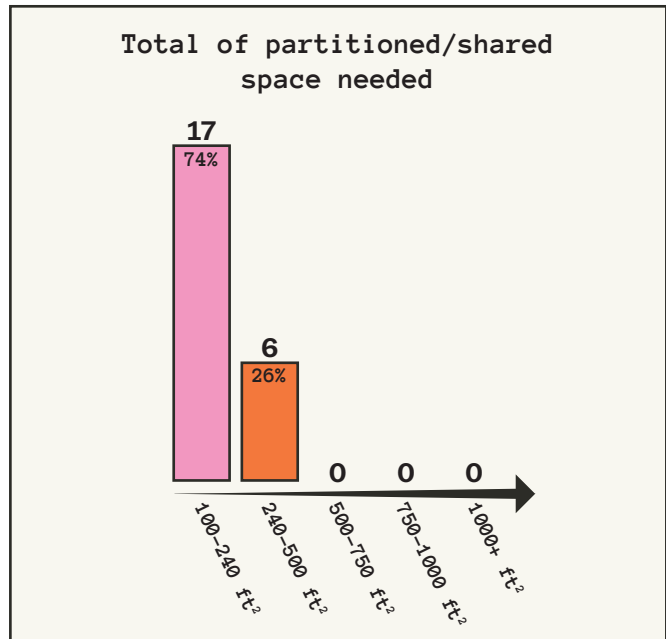
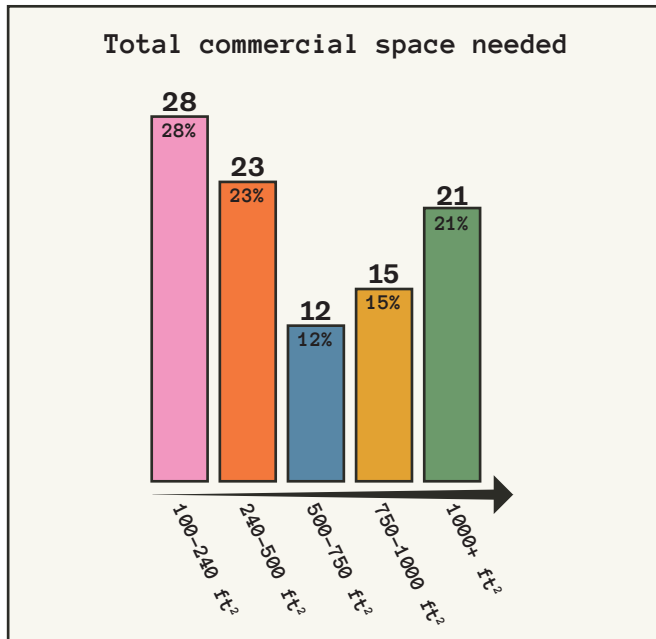


Commercial Space Need

The need and demand for commercial space is broad. A majority of respondents are looking for space under 500 ft², but there is significant demand for larger spaces. When looking for shared space a majority of people are looking for smaller spaces; 77% of these respondents want to be connected to other artists to share space.



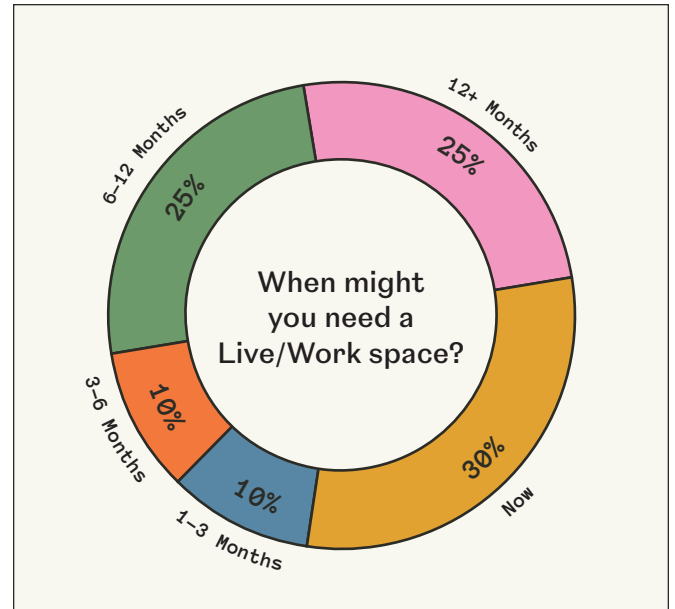
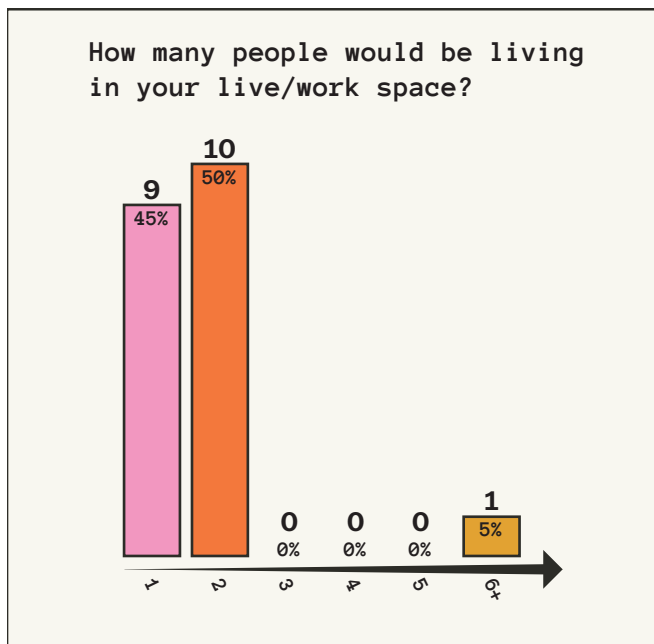
77%
 “I need to be connected with other artists or shared space”



17%
 “I have identified artists who can share the space with me/my organization”

Live/Work

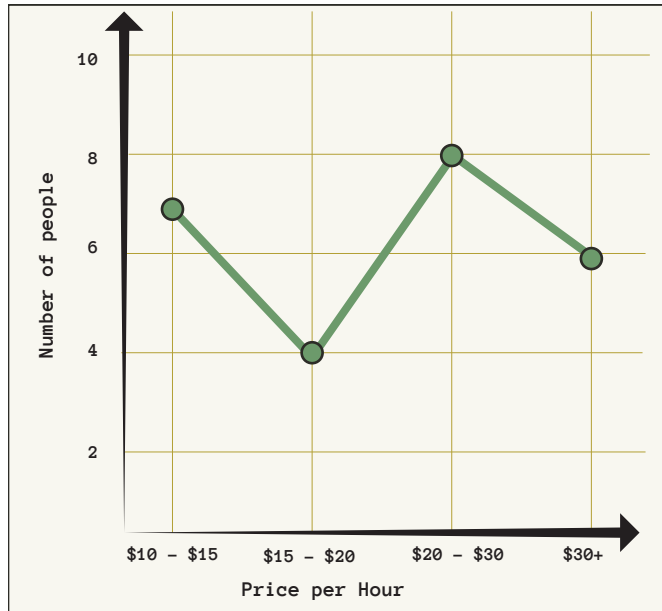
20 people responded that they were looking for live/work space, and a majority of them stated it would only need to house themselves and potentially one other person. The timeline of needing a live /work space is varied, with the largest subset being now, and 75% of respondents requesting within the next year.



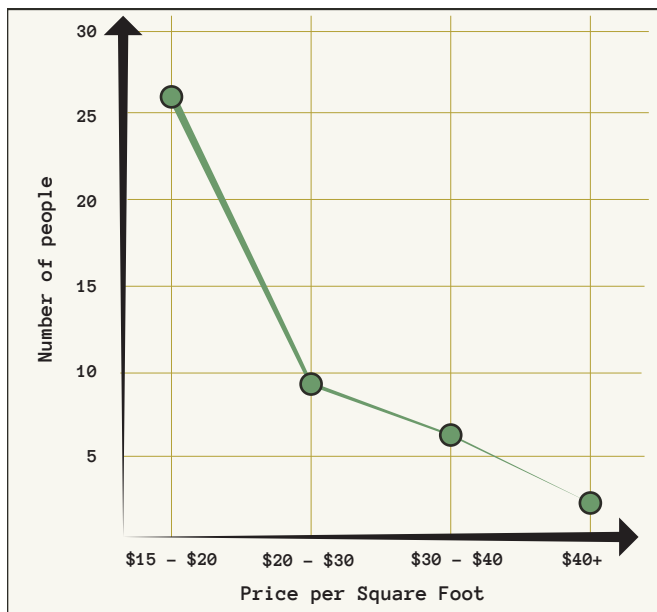
Cost of Space

Cost of space is a large factor in many artists' need for space. A majority of artists are looking for space that is low-cost. Those who want shared space and individual space both want to keep costs at or below ~\$20 a square foot. On-demand space had more flexibility in price, however the various sizes and amenities on-demand spaces can provide vary greatly.

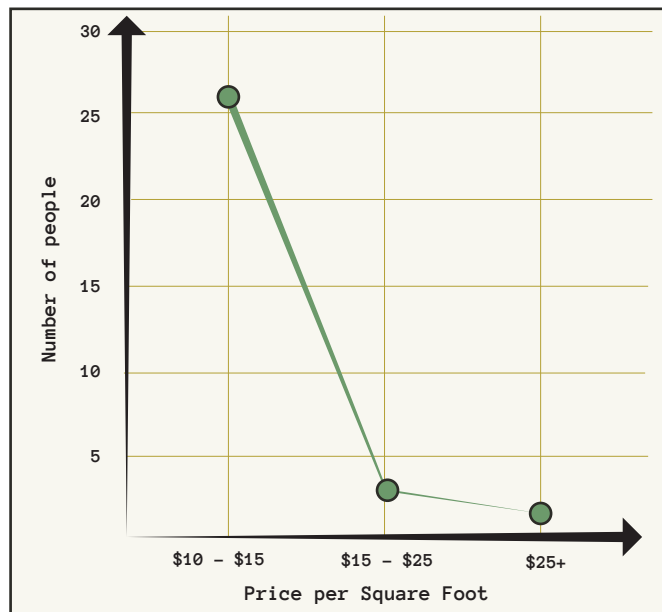
On-Demand Space



Dedicated Space



Partitioned/Co-Inhabited Space



Space Desires

Respondents were asked to rank the importance of different factors of spaces with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least. Price and Parking were the highest concerns.

