

# BRING BACK DANCING TO VENICE!

Venice is the number 1 tourist destination in Southern California. Until prohibition, it was the number one place for dancing in Los Angeles, with numerous dance halls and signs (even a Venice-style sign strung across the street) proclaiming dancing. As you can see from the picture, the forces of intolerance during Prohibition ended dancing along with drinking. Venice was targeted for its Bohemian life-style, much as Harlem's black bars and the West Village's Gay bars were targeted in New York. Cabaret laws in both cities were created as a way to keep joy restricted. <http://www.grubstreet.com/2017/10/new-york-city-will-finally-repeal-cabaret-law-banning-dancing-in-bars.html> The prohibition on alcohol was finally voted away but this law has remained and as a result, Venice now has literally 1 live music / dance license.

## NEW YORK DID IT!

This past year, New York City did away with the Prohibition-era law, as unfair, discriminatory and restricting the joy of its citizens. These laws were being enforced unevenly by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and others, as part of his "quality of life", a way to support gentrification of certain neighborhoods. The same is happening here. <https://www.spin.com/2017/10/new-york-city-council-votes-to-repeal-century-old-anti-dancing-law/>

When there are no legal places to dance, people seek out illegal venues that may be unsafe and that do not enforce building safety codes, age limits, health safety standards, etc. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/30/nyregion/new-york-cabaret-law-repeal.html> The Ghost Ship in Oakland was one of these illegal venues where 36 young people died seeking dancing.

## WE CAN DO IT.

Today, numerous visitor stay after the sun sets to explore Venice's nightlife and history of being a music and art incubator. Not having these options can hurt our culture and our economy.

Canal Club is one venue that wants to bring back dancing and live music. To do this, Canal Club must first change its CUP (Conditional Use Permit) in order to apply for a cabaret License. The Canal Club needs your support!

## WHO WE ARE

We are James Evans and Daniel Samakow. We opened the Canal Club in 1998, two years after opening James' Beach across the street. We are two long time Venice residents who have dedicated our lives to be contributing citizens of the artistic community we call Venice. Over the years we have used our time and passion to support Venice movements and institutions including the Venice sign, the Venice Sign holiday lighting events, the Venice Art Crawl, Venice Pride and others; along with causes and groups that help make life better here in Venice every day.

Being allowed to dance is a basic part of a pursuit of happiness as set in our American constitution. We can't turn back the clock, but we can offer responsible venues run by experienced, responsible locals, for locals and visitors to dance and enjoy Venice music is good for our community. Please support us by writing a letter of support. (An example is attached).

Please drop off letters to Salomon at Canal Club and Carl at James' Beach or [email it to Daniel @ Jamesbeach.com](mailto:Daniel@Jamesbeach.com)

PASS THIS ON, SHARE THIS

Thank you, James Evans & Daniel Samakow



# A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE CANAL CLUB

(Insert Date)

City of Los Angeles Planning Department

Attn: Zoning Administrator Office of Zoning Administration City Hall,  
Room 763 Los Angeles, CA. 90012

Re: Support for Case # **ZA-2018- 828-CUB-CUX**

Canal Club, Inc.

2025 S. Pacific Ave, Venice CA 90291

Dear Zoning Administrator,

I would like to express my support for the approval of a new Conditional Use Permit for the Canal Club located at 2025 S. Pacific Ave Venice, CA 90291. The Canal Club has been a neighborhood restaurant and bar since 1998. Since its inception, the Canal Club has been a great asset to the community, providing excellent food at reasonable prices.

Daniel Samakow and James Evans, who also operate James' Beach across the street, have been the Canal Club operators for all of its 20 years. They are both long time Venice residents. They have been considerate and caring to the surrounding community, of which I am a part. They consistently have an A health department rating and have nightly security that helps maintain safety on the last block of North Venice Blvd. As individuals, they have supported important institutions in Venice such as the Venice sign, the Venice sign lighting events, the Venice Art Crawl, Venice Pride and the Venice Nep-tune Festival. Through their businesses they support numerous local jobs and charities. They have created great locations for the community to meet as part of the Venice Task Force, Venice Chamber of Commerce, the Venice Neighborhood Council and for many other organizations.

Venice is the number one tourist destination in Southern California and a popular neighborhood for all Angelinos to visit. Today thousands of visitors are coming to Venice and staying after the sun sets at the beach to partake of Venice's dining culture and entertainment. Venice had a history of providing numerous dance halls up until prohibition. Yet, today, there are almost no dance hall licenses in Venice that allow dancing and live music in a safe and responsibly-operated venue. This forces visitors and young locals to go to unlicensed venues and parties where laws, building permits, legal hours and age may not be enforced. Visitors and locals want a safe place to enjoy the evening culture for which Venice has been famous for since its inception.

Their desire to change their CUP is to pave the way for Canal Club to apply for a Dance Hall license to allow dancing and live music. It is supported by the LAPD, the Venice Chamber of Commerce and the City Councilpersons office. Having such venues is in keeping with Abbot Kinney's mission that Venice be a destination for entertainment, and today, supports Venice's economy and its position as a world class tourist destination.

Visitors and locals want to enjoy live music and dancing in Venice. It is important to provide safe, legal venues for our locals and visitors to enjoy live music and dancing. It is equally important to have this be overseen by responsible, experienced operators who live in and care about our community. We vigorously support the approval of a new CUP for the Canal Club.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Insert Name & Phone Number & Address]