

The Billedkunstcenter is developing a big, we're working on this big development project for the harbor. So like, I think, starting next year, they're going to break ground down there, and the artists have to vacate by February 1. I think some of them are able to move into temporary studios, and then they're going to turn that that whole district into like hotels and restaurants and cafes. But then there's going to be like a kunstbyen, like an art city with a new office for us, and a new campus for Det Jyske Kunstakademi. And then Kirstine is really advocating for a collection of artist studios, and having like, professional production facilities down there. And then there's also talk about a frame for an artist-run space. So something where we can try and get artists to come in and do some programming.

But there's just concern if artists are actually going to be able to afford to be there when it opens, because for the last 30 years, they've been essentially squatting in the buildings down there, and having the studios for free. And so any introduction of rent is going to alienate the community that's down there. But because it's a private developer, property developer, their rental rates are beyond the reach of the artists. Even though they're actually getting the land at a partial discount, because they included an art city in the development package. So the municipality actually discounted their purchase of it. But that also means that the municipality doesn't necessarily want to subsidize the studios because they've already discounted the land purchase.

So I'm really interested in that whole problem of how... I mean economic sustainability and having good working conditions for artists is always interesting, but this is kind of like a really interesting opportunity where the developer and the municipality and artists all want the same goal. They all want artists down there in a sustainable way. But like, everybody has different interests and different means.

And so, like we've been talking about if there's a way of putting some kind of economic infrastructure in place that's not just like rent subsidies but some sort of agreements that look at the economy of the whole development, and all of the companies and everything that are down there, to see if there's a different way that...

I don't know if it's a matter of how the value is measured, or if the artists would contribute to some of the neighboring companies in some way.

I don't know what that would be. That would be kind of the focus of this Ph.D., it would be, is there a way to basically set everything up, or at least make some very detailed recommendations for the developer of like, okay, we've workshopped these ideas, we've talked to the neighboring businesses, we talked to the artists, we talked to you, like, if you kind of make these contracts, we think artists could probably afford to be in your area without external subsidizing.