

# SAFE(R) SPACE POLICY

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**SPACE** is dedicated to providing a positive experience at all our events for everyone, regardless of race, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, physical appearance, body size, age, religion, marital or veteran status, or any other vector of identity. Any and all artists and community partners who sign on to work in our physical home or on our digital platforms have to share in our commitment to create brave, inclusive, curious spaces for all.

This is an art organization and gathering space where we agree to work together to break down our implicit and explicit biases, have new experiences, and explore new ideas.

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**We ask that you join us in striving for these norms; please let any staff, volunteers, or the appropriate parties know if you have concerns, incidents, or experiences that contrast with these values & practices.**

**Make No Assumptions:** When asking questions of artists, joining us in community conversations, speaking to our staff, or meeting new people in our venue, avoid assuming you know an identity vector, and ask people for their preferred pronouns if you do not know them.

**Use Inclusive Language:** SPACE is interested in exploring the cultural legacy of language and has compiled an initial document of suggestions for language that can harm or dismiss people's identity or experiences. Please see our website ([space538.org](http://space538.org)) for resources.

**Center Accessibility:** Assume there are people with disabilities at any time within your immediate community and the audience and strive to be aware of your surroundings so as to not cause disruptions or physical obstacles. Accessibility requests for sign language interpreters or priority seating can be made by e-mailing [info@space538.org](mailto:info@space538.org) with as much notice as possible before an event.

**Content Warnings:** SPACE will strive to make content accessible and set healthy expectations based on social norms while balancing the need for surprise in programs. We value the human body as a social, not always sexual instrument, and hope you will join us in celebrating the body when possible in visual arts, film, and live performance. Meanwhile, SPACE will always question norms of violence, non-consent, racism, and other forms of oppression in creative expression. Audio/visual effects that are of health concern will always be marked as such. Ear plugs are always available for purchase.

**Acknowledge Mistakes or Hold Others Accountable.**

Then, Move Forward.

**Honor Everyone's Boundaries:** No means no.

Active listening is a great tool. Oversteps of other's boundaries include:

- Making offensive comments related to any personal characteristic or identity
- Deliberate intimidation, stalking, following
- Harassing photography or recording
- Distributing documentation/media of someone for any reason without first acquiring their consent
- Physical harm, defacement or neglect of our building and facilities, disrespecting or making more labor for our staff in facilities care
- Continued disruption of SPACE presenters, talks, or performances
- Disrespecting the physical, mental, sexual, and/or emotional space of others
- Touching a person, their hair, or their belongings without consent
- Not listening when boundaries are communicated
- Unwelcome, deliberate physical contact or attention
- Physical and/or verbal threats to any person or group (including the mentioning of weapons)

**Police Escalation:** We are sensitive to the fraught roles of power and control authority figures play in our community, and the harm they represent for certain individuals. SPACE strives to use a network of existing social service organizations to handle reasonable crisis situations, and will make audience members aware if police are called to an event in support of the bodily safety and liability of an incident.

**Weapon Policy:** Despite the fact that Maine is an open carry state, SPACE is a private nonprofit organization; firearms are strictly prohibited from our building due to safety concerns and with the restrictions of our insurance policy.

**Honor Public Health:** As the COVID19 pandemic has taught us, we are all responsible for one another. If you are not feeling well and your illness may be spread to others, please critically consider if you should be visiting space and act in the best interest of the immuno-compromised among us. We look forward to having you here when you are well!

**Strive towards Common Goals, Conversations, Learning, and Safe Fun.**

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**SPACE538.ORG / 207-828-5600**

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You are welcome to e-mail our Executive Director directly at [director@space538.org](mailto:director@space538.org) with any questions or concerns, e-mail accessibility requests for future events or a visit to [info@space538.org](mailto:info@space538.org), find and use our community feedback form on our website, fill out an incident report by speaking to staff at an event, or call us during business hours.