



**Lower
Manhattan
Cultural
Council**

EMPOWERING ARTISTS,
INVESTED IN COMMUNITY

ART & RESILIENCE

RIGHTS AND RELATIONSHIPS: KEY LEGAL ISSUES FOR ARTISTS

LEGAL RESOURCES

The following is a selection of articles with steps you can take to handle legal problems commonly experienced by artists. It includes reference websites that would be updated with relevant legal information in the event of a local disaster. Also included are law groups you can contact if you encounter a legal issue that you do not feel confident resolving on your own.

LEGAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

- **Law Office of Sergio Munoz Sarmiento:** Provides legal advice to artists, art galleries, and arts organizations in the areas of art law, intellectual property, contracts, business formation, private foundations and public charities.
<http://artlawoffice.com/>
- **Lawyers Alliance for New York:** Helps nonprofits provide critical social services and emergency funds to people affected by terrorism, natural disasters, and other tragedies.
<http://www.lawyersalliance.org>
- **Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA):** Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts is an arts-related legal aid organization that provides educational and legal services, advocacy and mediation to the arts community. Access to VLA's pro bono legal services are available to low-income artists and nonprofit arts organizations, while other services and programs are open to the entire arts community. VLA's New York arm offers in-depth workshops for artists who are considering whether to incorporate and and/or seek nonprofit status.
www.vlany.org

COPYRIGHT AND LICENSING RESOURCES

- **Artists Rights Society:** A copyright, licensing, and monitoring organization for visual artists in the United States. Provides basic information on copyright basics for artists.
<http://www.arsny.com/copyright-basics/>
- **Creative Commons:** Nonprofit organization that enables the sharing and use of creativity and knowledge through free legal tools. Creative Commons

(CC) offers free and easy to use copyright licenses that provide a simple, standardized way to give the public permission to share and use your creative work. CC licenses let you easily change your copyright terms.
<http://creativecommons.org/>

- **Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF+):** List of links to articles and organizations for assistance with sales, copyright, estate planning, etc. These resources help artists be better prepared on the legal front while also offering some options when legal conflicts arise.
<https://cerfplus.org/craft-a-career/legal-issues>
- **LawHelpNY** – Free legal resources for low income New Yorkers: Compiled regularly by 10 New York state law organizations in response to local issues. Currently includes “Disaster Recovery and Relief for small businesses and not-for-profit organizations” and “Community Development: Microenterprise / Low income Small Businesses.” Available in English and Spanish.
<http://www.lawhelpny.org/issues>
- **Licensing Artwork: Key Issues – Greenfield Stein and Senior LLP:** Common licensing scenarios and tips on how to negotiate a deal in your favor.
<http://smallbusiness.findlaw.com/intellectual-property/licensing-artwork-key-issues.html>
- **The Law Offices Of Lloyd J. Jassin – Ten Common Copyright Permission Myths:** Some common copyright permission myths.
http://copylaw.com/new_articles/copy_myths.html

ARTICLES

- **99 U – Don’t Get Screwed: The Contract Provisions Every Creative Needs to Know, 2014:** Six tips to creating a clear, unambiguous written agreement that covers the essentials of your business arrangement for your creative work. Through their website, events, and books, 99U shares pragmatic, action-oriented insights from leading researchers and creatives.
<http://99u.com/articles/21927/dont-get-screwed-the-contract-provisions-every-creative-needs-to-know>
- **Artists House Music, 2013:** Short articles and videos for musicians on music as a business, copyright, performing, publishing, recording, and forming a team.
<http://www.artistshousemusic.org/Legal>
- **Bellevue Fine Art – Copyright Issues for Artists, 2013:** An article defining copyright concepts which frequently affect visual artists including internet theft, Fair Use, and Creative Commons. Includes options for addressing these copyright abuses.
<http://www.bellevuefineart.com/copyright-issues-for-artists/>