

Music venue closes after more than 2 years

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The Space, a live music venue specializing in local indie music, has shut its doors after more than two years in business.

Owner Doug Hoffman sent out an e-mail on Friday announcing the closure; in the note, he mentioned his plans to open a new venue downtown, though there's not yet a firm timeline.

The Space is in the 1100 block of Broadway Street NE, next door to Christo's Pizza and across the street from the Broadway Town Square apartments.

In March, the venue was put under a cease-and-desist order from the city of Salem following noise complaints from residents of the apartments and condos across the street. Under the order, no amplified music could be played after 10 p.m.

Hoffman appealed the verdict in May, but he was denied.

When reached Friday, Hoffman said that although the 10 p.m. shutoff did make it difficult to run a venue, there were other factors at play, too.

He emphasized that he will remain active in the Salem music scene, and said he is now putting his energy into opening a new spot downtown.

"I want people to know, I'll probably be doing this for a long, long time," he said.

Members of the Salem music scene lamented the demise of The Space on Friday.

David Fox, a frequent patron, said he thought The Space filled the gap between the underage venues and the more jazz and blues-oriented ones.

"Now, we end up with some very limited choices again," he said.

Loretta Miles is one of his business neighbors; she runs Salem Cinema across the street. She said she would miss The Space.

"I certainly know Doug put his heart and soul into his business and personally, I loved the vibrancy that The Space brought to the North Broadway area," Miles said. "All the sound

issues have definitely put a kibosh on him running a rock venue ... he's been up against a lot that I think most businesses are not up against."

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