

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	Executive Contact/Phone:
Mayor's Office		Steve Lee/684-7904

** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: A RESOLUTION creating an Arts & Cultural District in the Central Area of Seattle.

Summary and background of the Legislation: The City's Arts & Cultural Districts program was approved by Resolution 31555 in November of 2014 and builds on decades of interest in launching Arts Districts in Seattle. The Arts & Cultural Districts program recognizes Seattle's various cultural identities, supports existing arts- and entertainment-oriented businesses, and encourages new arts and entertainment businesses to locate in Seattle.

Led by the Office of Arts and Culture (Arts), City departments, neighborhood and community partners have created a suite of tools for activating urban places with the arts. These tools are designed to improve walkability, marketing, right-of-way enhancements, way-finding, cultural preservation, and foster an increased density of arts projects throughout the City. The City's first district to utilize these tools is located in the Pike/Pine neighborhood of Capitol Hill and has been functioning for almost a year.

This resolution designates a second Arts & Cultural District in the City of Seattle, the Historic Central Area Arts and Culture District. The Central Area of Seattle is home to art galleries, museums, studios, theaters, and art, music, and culturally-oriented community events and has historically been a center of African American heritage and history. It is important that this nucleus of Black cultural heritage to be protected and strengthened to minimize displacement due to new market-rate development. The neighborhood believes, and the City concurs, that this program can preserve a sense of place and lessen the displacement that new development often brings.

The establishment of an arts and cultural district has been indicated as a key goal as part of the Central Area Economic Revitalization Plan as developed by Central Area Collaborative – a broadly representative group who shares interest in improving the economic health of the Central Area. In addition, a group of stakeholders has self-organized and requested formal recognition as an Arts & Cultural District, organized around three foundational pillars:

- Preserving an African American legacy in the Central Area;
- Sustaining and strengthening the physical identity and sense of place for Black cultural relevancy; and
- Establishing a formalized forum for continued support of artistic creation, economic vibrancy, livability, affordability, desirability, and artistic vitality;

Stakeholders in the Central Area, including artists, arts organization leaders, and community activists have been meeting for more than six months in an effort to organize an application for designation as the City's second Arts & Cultural District. The Mayor's Office of Policy and Innovation, and Arts have been proactive in assembling the group and encouraging the conversation. The Central Area group has articulated a mission focused on honoring, retaining, and growing African and African American artists, aesthetics, and organizations in the neighborhood through the establishment of this Arts & Cultural District.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This legislation creates, funds, or amends a CIP Project.

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This legislation does not have direct financial implications.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a) **Does the legislation have indirect or long-term financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above?**

Establishment of the Historic Central Area Arts and Cultural District qualifies this area for funding granted by Arts specifically designated to support the Arts & Cultural District program in the City. This funding currently exists with the departmental budget and requires no additional appropriation.

b) **Is there financial cost or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?**

None.

c) **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**

Yes. The Cultural Space Liaison position works with a variety of staff in other City departments to identify ways that existing resources can be used to enhance Arts & Cultural Districts.

d) **Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**

No

e) **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

No

f) **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

No.

g) **Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?**

The Central Area is the city's historically African American neighborhood and has experienced both a history of lackluster City investment and the institutionalized racism of redlining. The Central Area is also home to some of the most underserved schools in the city system, which has contributed to a systemic school-to-prison pipeline. The City recognizes the Central Area as a center of African American heritage and history, and as a catalyst to greater inclusion and equity city-wide. Establishment of an Arts & Cultural District in this area is a step towards protecting and strengthening the area to minimize displacement due to new market-rate development.

h) If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the long-term and measurable goals of the program? Please describe how this legislation would help achieve the program's desired goals.

The long-term measurable goal of the Districts program is the retention of culture in the face of growth and change. Specifically, in the Central Area, we are focusing our efforts on the retention of affordable cultural space (both commercial and residential) for the celebration of African and African-American artists, cultural organizations, and black culture generally. We will be looking at measuring demographic diversity, long-term retention of cultural spaces, the health of arts organizations, and the frequency of, growth of, and attendance at public cultural festivals and events. This legislation will provide the tools to support the cultural community in striving towards these goals.

i) Other Issues:

None

List attachments/exhibits below: