

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

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** 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 Uptown neighborhood 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 three years. The second district is the Central Area, designated in 2015.

This resolution designates a third Arts & Cultural District in the City of Seattle, the Uptown Arts and Culture District. Uptown is home to art galleries, museums, studios, theaters, and art, music, and culturally-oriented community events and, of course, the thriving hub of cultural activity that is Seattle Center.

The establishment of an arts and cultural district has been identified as a key component of the central strategy to maintain affordability for artists and arts workers in the neighborhood.

A group of stakeholders has self-organized and requested formal recognition as an Arts & Cultural District, organized around four guiding mission principles:

- A cultural integration across the geography of Uptown from Seattle Center to the Heart of Uptown and beyond
- A commitment to racial and social equity
- The activation of cross-cultural and interdisciplinary collaboration
- The development and measurement of Uptown’s creative economy

Stakeholders in Uptown, including artists, arts organization leaders, and community activists have been meeting for more than 18 months in an effort to organize an application for designation as the City’s third 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 Uptown 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?**

None.

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 Uptown, we are focusing our efforts on the retention of affordable cultural space (both commercial and residential) for the

celebration of artists, cultural organizations, and 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: