

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS COLETTA ZAPATA AND RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN EAST BOSTON CULTURAL DISTRICT DESIGNATION

WHEREAS, East Boston is a vibrant and diverse community whose cultural, artistic, and creative institutions contribute significantly to the identity, economic life, and social fabric of the City of Boston; *and,*

WHEREAS, Designation as a cultural district will help preserve landmarks and open spaces, promote local heritage, arts, and cultural enterprises, while also elevating East Boston's standing as a hub for cultural activity in the City of Boston; *and,*

WHEREAS, Currently, the City of Boston has four designated cultural districts, including Fenway, Roxbury, Latin Quarter, and Boston Little Saigon, under the Massachusetts Cultural Council's program; *and,*

WHEREAS, The Massachusetts Cultural Council has historically required municipalities to pass a resolution of support as part of the state's cultural district designation process, making City Council action an important step in advancing this initiative; *and,*

WHEREAS, East Boston neighborhood advocates, civic organizations, and cultural stakeholders are working collaboratively to prepare an application for designation, recognizing the opportunities this presents for economic development, job creation, small business growth, youth engagement, and community empowerment; *and,*

WHEREAS, Establishing a cultural district in East Boston comes with a variety of new opportunities including supporting and strengthening existing community-owned businesses; protecting residents, artists, cultural entrepreneurs, and nonprofit organizations from displacement; stimulating economic development and creating jobs; attracting foot traffic for local businesses while improving streetscapes and signage; fostering workforce development and youth career pathways in the creative sector; advancing public health and wellbeing through

inclusive cultural spaces; promoting public art, performances, and festivals; preserving historic buildings and landmarks; expanding access to cultural and open spaces through community-based programming and environmental improvements that connect residents to cultural areas, the waterfront and green spaces; enhancing the visibility and branding of cultural assets; unlocking new funding opportunities and partnerships; and strengthening collaborative planning and investment in East Boston's cultural ecosystem; *and*,

WHEREAS, A Cultural District would also reflect East Boston's community values and goals, including supporting small businesses; protecting art studios and creatives from displacement; supporting affordable artist housing; setting clear, actionable steps for expanding access; strengthening collaboration with cultural leaders and organizations; emphasizing inclusivity and accessibility for residents; and uplifting neighborhood stories while respecting the character of the community; *and*,

WHEREAS, Boston has long been committed to supporting arts and culture through grants, technical assistance, and public investment, and the creation of a Cultural District in East Boston aligns with citywide goals to advance equitable development, historic preservation, and cultural vitality; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED, That the Boston City Council hereby expresses its strong support for the establishment of a Cultural District in East Boston, commits to working in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and East Boston community stakeholders to advance this designation, and directs the Boston City Clerk to prepare a copy of this Resolution to be transmitted to the Mayor of Boston and the Massachusetts Cultural Council as evidence of the Council's support.

Filed on: October 8, 2025