



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Arts, Culture, Tourism & Special Events

Frank Baker, *Chair*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

September 9, 2021

Dear Councilors:

The Committee on Arts, Culture, Tourism & Special Events was referred the following docket for consideration:

Docket 0549, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Two Million Fifty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Three Dollars (\$2,051,903.00) in the form of a grant for the Boston Cultural Fund, awarded by the Boston Redevelopment Authority to be administered by the Office of Arts & Culture.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Kim Janey, and was referred to the Committee on April 14, 2021. A public hearing was held on Thursday, September 9, 2021. Testimony was taken from Chief Kara Elliot-Ortega, Director of Policy and Planning for the Mayor's office of Arts, Tourism & Special Events and Nadia Faria, Director of Administration & Finance for the Office of Arts, Tourism & Special Events. They gave the Committee an update on Art and Cultural programs in the City of Boston.

Summary of Legislation

These funds are the result of the Boston Zoning Code, which requires the creation of and support for affordable space for qualified art or cultural uses. The code also has a provision for a contribution in lieu of providing the physical space.

"The BPDA is expected to receive certain contribution funds, generated as a result of the Section 29 of Article 64 of the Boston Zoning Code. Projects proposed within Planned Development Areas in the South End neighborhood district of Boston that incorporate non-residential uses are required to provide Affordable Cultural Space, as defined in Section 64-21.2 of the Code. Under Section 64-29(b) and (c), a Proposed Project may provide a portion of the Affordable Cultural Space as a contribution equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total Gross Floor Area allocated to non-residential uses of any and all Proposed Project(s) within an approved planned development area, above that allowed as-of-right in the underlying zoning subdistrict."

The grant will fund cultural spaces, organizations, programs, artists, and activities in the South End, with the goal of preserving and enhancing cultural activities.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Arts, Culture, Tourism & Special Events, I recommend moving the listed docket from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At that time, my recommendation to the full Council will be as follows:

- **Docket #0549 OUGHT TO PASS;**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Baker", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Frank Baker, Chair
Committee on Arts, Culture, Tourism & Special Events