



Boston City Council

Committee on Arts, Culture and Special Events
Councilor Gabriela Coletta, Chair

October 4, 2023

Dear Councilors:

The Boston City Council's Committee on Arts, Culture and Special Events to which was referred the following:

Docket #1197 – Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) in the form of a grant for the Transforming Boston grant, awarded by the Andrew E. Mellon Foundation to be administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture.

The grant will fund the support of community and curatorial partnerships, new temporary commemorative installations, and related public art programs.

This matter is sponsored by the Mayor and was referred to the Committee on Arts, Culture and Special Events on July 19, 2023.

The Committee on Arts, Culture and Special Events held a public hearing on October 2, 2023 in the Iannella Chamber, to take testimony and consider the same.

Councilors Present: Chair – Councilor Gabriela Coletta and Council President Ed Flynn

Letter of support/attendance was read into the record from Councilor Brian Worrell

Kara Elliot Ortega - Chief of Arts and Culture and **Karen Goodfellow**, Director of Public Art, Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, made a presentation on the particulars of this grant and responded to questions from the Councilors.

The presentation included: the specific use of these funds and the various other related components – the background, history, funding source and expectations, the formation of a representative and diverse advisory

committee, and the processes of outreach, applications, selections, allocations and management of all the phases of these projects

There will be continuous efforts in community outreach, to insure awareness, input and active participation from diverse cultural leaders and interested stakeholders in all the processes of planning, implementation and evaluations.

The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture is actively engaged in continuous efforts to facilitate and promote the access, participation and inclusion of historically underserved neighborhoods and communities.

Boston was amongst a few cities nationally that received this level of funding from the Andrew E. Mellon Foundation, the other cities awarded were Ashville, Chicago, Columbus, Denver, Los Angeles, Portland, Providence and San Francisco. These funds must be utilized/expended by the end of 2025.

Based on the testimony and information presented at the hearing and having considered the same I respectfully recommend that this matter ought to Pass.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriela Coletta', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Councilor Gabriela Coletta, Chair
Committee on Arts, Culture and Special Events**