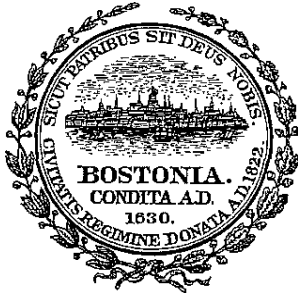


**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BREADON, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPEN, SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE**



## **CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL**

### **AN ORDINANCE REFORMING THE BOSTON CULTURAL COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS,** The Boston Cultural Council, established via ordinance in 2012, currently exists as a council composed of anywhere between 15-21 Boston residents, facilitated by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture (MOAC); *and*

**WHEREAS,** Responsible for distributing general operating grants annually through the BCC Organizational Grant, Council members work in partnership with MOAC on the strategic direction of the grant program, and they also provide final approval of selected grantees; *and*

**WHEREAS,** A 2016 study published by The Boston Foundation highlights that while small to mid-sized organizations comprise 86% of Boston's arts sector, they receive disproportionately less funding compared to larger institutions; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Creating an arts ecosystem where artists of all backgrounds are supported, properly funded, and free to create necessitates local Cultural Councils operating efficiently, transparently, and with a focus towards equity; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Boston City Council has an obligation to provide oversight towards all Boards, Commissions, Task Forces, Councils, and any other appointed bodies working on behalf of the people of Boston; **NOW, THEREFORE**

***Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston as follows:***

That the City of Boston Code, Ordinances *Chapter 5, Section 5-9, BOSTON CULTURAL COUNCIL* is hereby amended by replacing the existing text with the following:

#### **SECTION 1**

##### **5-9.1 Creation; Members; Terms.**

Subject to the provisions of Chapter 10, Section 58 of the M.G.L, there shall be created the Boston Cultural Council composed of a minimum of seven (7) and no more than eleven (11) members appointed by the Mayor. The Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture shall provide

administrative support to the Council, but those support staff shall report to the Chief of Arts & Culture.

The Members shall be City of Boston residents and serve for terms of three (3) years, provided that no member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. Upon a vacancy, for any reason, the member's successor, if any, shall be appointed for a term of three years, and shall serve until the qualification of such member's successor.

The Council members shall have demonstrated scholarship, creativity, or experience in visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, digital and new media arts, applied arts, conceptual art, public art, humanities, or interpretive sciences and shall be broadly representative of all fields of art. Council membership shall equitably reflect the diversity demographics of the City of Boston.

### **5-9.3 Purpose.**

The Boston Cultural Council shall oversee the distribution of funds allocated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, to support innovative arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences programming within the City of Boston as established under the provisions of Chapter 10, Section 58 of the M.G.L.

### **5-9.4 Election of Officers.**

The Members shall elect their own Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer on an annual basis.

### **5-9.5 Powers and Duties.**

The Boston Cultural Council may enter into contracts with individuals, organizations, and institutions for services furthering the objectives of the Council's purpose.

### **5-9.7 Council Rules and Guidelines.**

The Boston Cultural Council shall promulgate necessary guidelines, rules, or regulations for the use of state arts funds, other funds, and for its own operations and procedures.

### **5-9.8 Application for Funds; Use of Funds.**

The Boston Cultural Council shall receive applications on a rolling basis annually and shall determine if said applications for funds comply with its guidelines, rules and regulations.

The Boston Cultural Council shall certify to the City Auditor and Collector-Treasurer the payment of funds for those applicants who are eligible upon receipt of vouchers itemizing the use of the funds.

### **5-9.9 Audit of Expenditures.**

The Boston Cultural Council shall conduct an annual audit of the expenditures of those funds and file a report, and copies of the report, to the City Clerk no later than three (3) weeks after the close of the fiscal year.

## **SECTION 2**

The provisions of this section are severable, and if any provision, or portion thereof, should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity will not affect the remaining provisions, which will remain in full force and effect.

## **SECTION 3**

The provisions of this Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

Filed in Council: September 18, 2024