

Offered by Councilors Brian Worrell, Enrique J. Pepén, Ruthzee Louijeune, Breadon, Coletta Zapata, Durkan, Fernandes Anderson, FitzGerald, Flynn, Mejia, Murphy, Santana and Webber



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Hearing to Discuss the Creation of Cultural Districts in Boston

WHEREAS: Boston is the sixth most diverse city in the United States, and it owes its rich history of arts, music, culture, cuisine, and innovation to the contributions of peoples all across the globe; and

WHEREAS: Boston is home to one of the largest diasporas of Caribbean, Cape Verdean, Brazilian, Arab, Irish, Italian, Korean, Jewish, Polish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Indian, Chinese, and British peoples in the world among many additional cultures; and

WHEREAS: Boston should recognize, embrace, and educate on the cultures of its residents as well as the city's complex history of immigration and first-nations peoples; and

WHEREAS: The State of Massachusetts authorized the creation of Cultural Districts in 2011 to foster local cultural development, encourage business development, and establish the district as a tourist destination; and

WHEREAS: A review of Pittsburgh's cultural district shows that the number of events hosted has more than doubled, helping to generate \$33 million in public investment, \$63 million in private and philanthropic investment, and \$115 in commercial activity; and

WHEREAS: This district's tax revenues increased from \$7.9 million to \$19.1 million in only eight years; and

WHEREAS: Boston is currently home to two cultural districts based on the larger ethnicity of the neighborhood forming central hubs for vibrant immigrant communities with the Latin Quarter Cultural District in Hyde/Jackson Square dedicated to Latino residents and Little Saigon in Fields Corner for our Vietnamese residents; and

WHEREAS: A cultural district will enhance the ability for immigrant communities to grow, develop economic opportunities, interact with other communities, and share their rich culture while building a more vibrant Boston; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the creation of a ethnic Cultural Districts in Boston, and that representatives from the Department of Arts and Culture and other interested parties be invited to testify.

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