

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A 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 people 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 invest in recognizing, embracing, and educating on the cultures of its residents as well as the city's complex history of immigration and first-nations peoples; *and*

WHEREAS: In recent years, increased federal immigration enforcement activity in Boston and surrounding areas has contributed to heightened anxiety among immigrant families, with data and community reports showing numerous detentions in local courthouses and families being forced to relocate due to fear of immigration enforcement, highlighting the importance of strengthening cultural supports and affirming spaces for all residents; *and*

WHEREAS: Since the City of Pittsburgh established its cultural district, the district's tax revenues increased from \$7.9 million to \$19.1 million in only eight years, and the number of hosted events 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: The State of Massachusetts authorized the creation of Cultural Districts in 2011 to foster local cultural development, encourage business development, and establish these districts as a tourist destination; *and*

WHEREAS: Boston is currently home to two cultural districts based on the larger ethnicity of their respective neighborhoods, with the Latin Quarter Cultural District in Hyde/Jackson Square dedicated to Latino residents, and Little Saigon in Fields Corner dedicated to 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 additional Cultural Districts in Boston, and that representatives from the Department of Arts and Culture and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed in City Council: January 23, 2025