

Offered by City Councilors Michelle Wu, Ayanna Pressley, Tito Jackson, and Josh Zakim



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RENEWAL OF THE FENWAY CULTURAL DISTRICT DESIGNATION

- WHEREAS:** In July 2010, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed legislation - Chapter 188, Section 70 of the Acts 2010 (M.G.L. Chapter 10, Section 58A) enabling the establishment of state-designated cultural districts in cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth; and
- WHEREAS:** The Fenway Alliance, a twenty-one member consortium of cultural and academic organizations formed the Fenway Cultural District Committee representing a broad-based and diverse partnership of stakeholders committed to the cultural, economic and community development of the Fenway area in order to spearhead the processes of application and provide oversight and management of a Fenway Cultural District; and
- WHEREAS:** The Boston City Council held a public hearing in the Fenway community on November 14, 2011 in order to review the proposal, take public testimony and consider the merits of the application to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for the designation and establishment of the Fenway Cultural District; and
- WHEREAS:** On December 14, 2011 the Boston City Council adopted a resolution proclaiming its interest in establishing a state-designated Fenway Cultural District, fully endorsing the application and development of the Fenway Cultural District and supporting the Fenway Alliance in its proposal to manage the Fenway Cultural District Committee; and
- WHEREAS:** On March 24, 2012 the Massachusetts Cultural Council officially designated the Fenway Cultural District as one of the first state-designated cultural districts after a yearlong community process which included support from the Boston City Council and the Mayor's Office of Arts, Film, Tourism, and Special Events; and
- WHEREAS:** Since its establishment, the Fenway Cultural District has been the primary hub for arts and culture in the City of Boston, with acclaimed cultural attractions including the Museum of Fine Arts, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Symphony Hall, Berklee College of Music, New England Conservatory, Simmons College and the world headquarters of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, among many other renowned destinations; and
- WHEREAS:** The member institutions of the Fenway Alliance have invested over \$1 billion dollars in the Boston metropolitan area on capital projects, has a combined budget

of over \$1.5 billion, bring more than 3.9 million visitors to the Fenway Cultural District each year, employ over 20,000 people, and educate and support more than 50,000 students; and

*WHEREAS:* The Fenway Alliance is dedicated to the prosperity and growth of the Fenway Cultural District and the members of The Fenway Alliance are fully committed and actively engaged in numerous activities to promote neighborhood revitalization, community development and providing links to higher education and arts and culture for under-served neighborhood youth and families; and

*WHEREAS:* Pursuant to the Massachusetts Cultural Council's reapplication requirements, an annual progress report is required each year of the five year designated period and, any city or town designated as a state cultural district must hold at least one community input meeting so that residents, nonprofit leaders, businesses, and interested parties can learn about and discuss the cultural district's accomplishments, vision and goals; and

*WHEREAS:* The Boston City Council held a public hearing in the Fenway community on May 31, 2017 in order to discuss, review, evaluate and facilitate a full progress report by the Fenway Alliance and Fenway Cultural District Committee on the progress, activities and other advancements made in the Fenway Cultural District, and to take public testimony from stakeholders and any other interested parties in order to consider the merits of the application to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for the Renewal of the Fenway Cultural District Designation; and

*WHEREAS:* The Chief of Arts and Culture for the City of Boston, the Executive Director of the Fenway Alliance and a representative panel of member institutions of the Fenway Cultural District Committee which included, the Museum of Fine Arts, Symphony Hall, Simmons College, The First Church of Christ Scientist and Berklee College of Music made presentations outlining their efforts and on the many positive outcomes and effective collaborations made possible by the Fenway Cultural District and they unanimously and enthusiastically requested the Renewal of the Fenway Cultural District Designation; and

*WHEREAS:* Numerous other representatives of member institutions, residents, nonprofit, community and business organizations attended the hearing and presented testimony in favor of the Renewal of the Fenway Cultural District Designation, citing their own personal experiences and the palpable benefits of the enhanced communication, cooperation and collaborations that promote and share the many arts, cultural and academic assets located in the Fenway Cultural District; *NOW,*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:*

That the Boston City Council strongly supports, endorses and approves the Fenway Alliance and the Fenway Cultural District Committee's application to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for the Renewal of the Fenway Cultural District Designation, with the amendment which expands its boundaries in order to include the Berklee College of Music.

Filed on: June 5, 2017