



Legislation Text

File #: 2021-0165, **Version:** 1

DATE: October 12, 2021

SUBJECT:

RESOLUTION APPROVING PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER 2021 AS “CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS MONTH” IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

National Arts and Humanities Month was first launched over 30 years ago in honor of the twentieth anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts and has grown exponentially into a coast-to-coast collective recognition of the importance of creativity and culture in America. Since that time, thousands of government agencies and arts and cultural organizations have joined the national celebration by approving proclamations and recognizing October with a month-long campaign to raise public awareness about the role of the arts in communities and people’s lives. The District first recognized Arts Month with a proclamation in 2016, making 2021 the sixth consecutive year that the Parks & Recreation department has programmed “Celebration of the Arts Month.”

The District started its public art initiatives in the 1980s as a means of activating its parks, piers, and businesses with innovative artworks as a free cultural amenity. Over the past three decades, arts and cultural programming has grown into an essential aspect of the District’s creative placemaking strategy in all five member cities around San Diego. The District’s investment in commissioning site-specific public art, showcasing diverse cultural programming and events that help communities across the tidelands explore their history and culture, and providing recreational opportunities on the waterfront has made the tidelands a treasured world-class destination and directly contributes to the region’s creative economy.

The arts are the lifeblood of our communities, raising morale, creating community cohesion, and lifting spirits during difficult times, while also making a substantial economic impact to the region. Each year, October is a time where people join together to celebrate the power that the arts have to ignite hope, unify communities, and be recognized as an economic driver and vital public service that affects lives for the better. Arts and culture are a vital part of every community and support for the arts sector is key as our region works to jump-start the creative economy following the effects of COVID-19. The proposed proclamation serves as continued acknowledgement of the District’s long-standing role as a steward of the arts, supporting the enrichment of public spaces for both residents and visitors to the region.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution approving a proclamation in recognition of October 2021 as “Celebration of the

Arts Month” in support of National Arts and Humanities Month and encouraging people to experience the District’s public art and amenities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

COMPASS STRATEGIC GOALS:

This agenda item supports the following Strategic Goal(s).

- A Port that the public understands and trusts.
- A vibrant waterfront destination where residents and visitors converge.
- A financially sustainable Port that drives job creation and regional economic vitality.

DISCUSSION:

Arts and culture are a vital part of every community, and as the nation and the region work to jump-start the creative economy following the effects of COVID-19, support for the arts sector is key. The arts have the power to ignite hope, unify communities, and serve as both a vital public service and a substantial economic driver. The nationwide arts and culture sector-including nonprofit, commercial, and education-is a \$919 billion dollar industry that supports 5.2 million jobs and represents 4.3% of the nation’s economy. On a regional level, data reported by Americans for the Arts indicates that arts event attendees provide a vital income source for local businesses, as every attendee spends over \$30 per person, per event -- beyond the cost of admission -- on items such as meals, parking, and lodging. The arts are the lifeblood of our communities, raising morale, creating community cohesion, and lifting spirits during difficult times, while also making a substantial economic impact.

Public art is an essential building component of public planning, development, and creative placemaking, and has helped establish the Port tidelands as a world-class waterfront destination that provides a rich and culturally diverse environment that draws residents and visitors to the region. The District’s permanent “Tidelands Collection” is a prime example of how the arts enhance and enrich lives, offering visitors free access to enjoy a collection of 70 District-owned artworks around San Diego Bay. Additionally, under Board Policy No. 608 - Tenant Percent for Art, visitors have access to 40 artworks commissioned by tenants and incorporated into large and small tenant businesses from hotels and restaurants to boatyards and other maritime facilities. Artwork can be found all around the tidelands - on the sides of buildings, set into sidewalks, and in open green park spaces. Information on these important assets is available on the District’s website and in the *Immerse Yourself in the Arts - Six Self-guided Tours Around San Diego Bay* booklet, which offers a unique cultural and recreational experience to the public in the form of informational walking tours of public art on tidelands.

Arts and culture help diverse communities across the United States explore their shared history and culture, as they embody and represent much of the accumulated wisdom, intellect, and imagination of humankind. The arts play a unique role in creating bridges between cultures and communities, allowing individuals to see the world through another’s experiences. The proposed proclamation (Attachment A), recognizing October 2021 as “Celebration of the Arts Month,” will reaffirm the

District's long-standing role as a steward of the arts, supporting and promoting the arts on tidelands for the enrichment of residents and visitors to the region. Everyone at the District is invited to join in "Celebration of the Arts Month" to gain an awareness and appreciation of the immense value of the arts as a public asset and for their power to create joy, celebrate diversity, and bring people together.

General Counsel's Comments:

The Office of the General Counsel has reviewed this agenda sheet and the attachment, as presented to it, and approves the same as to form and legality.

Environmental Review:

The proposed Board action, including without limitation, resolution proclaiming recognition of "Celebration of the Arts Month", does not constitute a "project" under the definition set forth in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378 because it will not have a potential to result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment and is, therefore, not subject to CEQA. No further action under CEQA is required.

The proposed Board action complies with Section 35 of the Port Act, which allows the Board to do all acts necessary and convenient for the exercise of its powers. The Port Act was enacted by the California Legislature and is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine. Consequently, the proposed Board action is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine.

The proposed Board action does not allow for "development," as defined in Section 30106 of the California Coastal Act, or "new development," pursuant to Section 1.a. of the District's Coastal Development Permit Regulations. Therefore, issuance of a Coastal Development Permit or exclusion is not required.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program:

There is no direct DEI impact associated with this item.

PREPARED BY:

Yvonne Wise
Director, Parks & Recreation

Attachment(s):

Attachment A: Proclamation in Recognition of October 2021 as "Celebration of the Arts Month"