



Cultural Council Discussion

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Agenda

- Cultural Council Founding and Purpose
- Relationship with City
- Considerations
- Move to Commission
- Discussion

Founding

- On February 4, 1991, City Council moved to direct the City Attorney to draft articles of incorporation to found the Cultural Council
- From the outset, City and Cultural Council intertwined
- On March 22, 1991 the Cultural Council approved their articles of incorporation
- Organized as a Non-Profit Corporation under Title 7 of the Colorado Revised Statutes
- Separate and distinct legal entity

Founding

- The Cultural Council registered using City Hall as their address
- Now known as the Adams 14 Administration Building on 60th Ave
- In 2003, the Cultural Council updated the registered address to Eagle Pointe Recreation Center
- In 2007, the Civic Center building opened
- Cultural Council updated registered address to Civic Center

Purpose

- Cultural Council was initiated by the City Council to promote public art and cultural programming
- Arts and culture programming such as Music in the Parks and art exhibits
- Public Arts Master Plan
- Partners on other programming such as Hispanic Heritage Month
- Unclear why Cultural Council was established as a separate entity and not a Board or Commission under Charter

Purpose

- In the late 80s, the state and local govts were facing budget shortages and cutting funding to cultural programming
- In 1987, the state legislature passed a bill created the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) to impose a tax to contribute towards cultural programming in the Denver metro area
- Counties created their own cultural councils to receive and distribute SCFD grant funds to local govts and organizations
- City Council may have created the Cultural Council to keep the naming the same as the counties despite being created under a different authority within Colorado Revised Statutes to help with grant applications

Relationship with City

- City Council appoints members on the Board and has 2 City Council voting seats
- Cultural Council has used city facilities as their registered address since creation
- City has dedicated staff to supporting the Cultural Council
 - 75 hours/month currently

Relationship with City

- In 2017, the City created a position specifically to support the Cultural Council and other boards and commissions such as Senior Commission
- City partners with Cultural Council on Music in the Parks and other city events
- City Council dedicates funds to the Cultural Council
- City Council's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan
 - "Expand and bolster Public Art program to celebrate City heritage and culture"

Considerations

- City resources not offered to other non-profits in the community
- Use of City funds requires procurement procedures to be followed
- Delegation of the administration of Public Arts Master Plan
- Cultural Council needs its own outside legal counsel
- City now has Grants Administrator that could assist with grants application
- Finance staff could assist with budgeting and monthly reports
- Cultural Council is a legally distinct entity
- City Council still oversees appointments

Move to Commission

- October 25, 2025, Cultural Council requested information on their history and founding and address questions they had on topics such as liability, legal counsel, etc.
- February 17, 2026, staff presented this information to Cultural Council
- March 3, 2026, Cultural Council voted unanimously to dissolve the Cultural Council and request to become a city commission
- Retain SCFD grant funding for 2026 Music in the Parks series

Move to Commission

- City Council will need to approve an ordinance creating Cultural Commission and codify into code
- Retain current Cultural Council members and terms
- Duties include:
 - Make recommendations for the procurement of public art
 - Conduct regular reviews and make recommendations to the City's public arts programs;
 - Collaborate with staff for the planning, advertisement, logistics, and hosting of cultural events;
 - Collaborate with staff to identify and apply for grants to procure or fund public art;
- Any remaining funds in the cultural council accounts will be transferred to City which will require an ordinance recognizing funds

Move to Commission

- Timing allows Cultural Council to complete Music in the Park series and retain SCFD grant funding for 2026
- Create stronger grant application for 2027 series and beyond
- Provide further staff support through grants administrator and CAO
- Mitigates the considerations mentioned earlier
- Retains current membership, knowledge, and expertise
- Creates a clear structure of city council governance
- Clarifies roles and responsibilities w/r/t grants, programming, plans
- Keeps momentum on 2024-2028 Strategic Plan objectives



Discussion

