THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

City Council Meeting Date: December 12, 2023

Subject: Revisions to the Public Art and Cultural Commission's Ordinance

Staff Resource(s): Steph Monson Dahl, Planning and Urban Design Director
Karli Stephenson, Urban Designer

Action Requested: Adoption of revisions to Article III, Chapter 2, Division 11 of the Code of Ordinances regarding the Public Art and Cultural Commission.

Background:

- The Public Art and Cultural Commission (PACC), an advisory board, was established by City Ordinance as the Public Art Board on September 14, 1999.
- On September 27, 2011, over 12 years ago, the ordinance was revised to expand the roles and responsibilities of the Board and change the name of the Public Art Board to the Public Art & Cultural Commission.
- In the PACC's 2022 Annual Report, the commission recommended to City Council that the PACC ordinance be updated to: create standing seats on the commission for arts organizations; to expand the role of PACC to include advising on festivals and special events; and resolve" housekeeping" issues, such as updating which department administers the program.
- Including these changes will help the PACC to increase membership engagement, encourage strategic partnerships, rectify administrative discrepancies, and create a balanced membership.
- The above desire resulted in the following proposed specific changes to the ordinance text:
    a. Revised definition of public art to include performances and festivals.
    b. Composition:
        - Six members to be appointed by the city council from the private sector.
        - 3 members to be appointed by directors/chairs of the following organizations:
            - One staff member of ArtsAVL, or a designated arts agency in Buncombe County, appointed by the director of the arts agency.
            - One staff member from Explore Asheville, to be appointed by the director of Explore Asheville.
            - One faculty or administrative staff member from a local, higher-education institution within Buncombe County with a designated arts program, appointed by the art program's chair.
    c. Updating text to read as gender-neutral and including intentional language about equity and inclusion.
    d. Changing staff support from the director of parks, recreation and cultural arts to the planning and urban design director, or their designee. Changing the Commission's name to the Public Art and Culture Commission, and other changes to assist with clarity and intent of text.

Council Goal(s):

- An Equitable and Diverse Community
- A Connected and Engaged Community
- A Thriving Local Economy
- A Well-planned and Livable Community

Committee(s):

- Public Art and Cultural Commission - 9/21/23 - voted unanimously to move ordinance to City Council
- Boards and Commissions Committee - 11/16/23 - voted 2 to 1 to move ordinance to City Council

Pro(s):

- Updates the PACC's ordinance to better define the scope of public art in the Asheville community; gives Council and staff a method of engaging the public on special events.
- Expands partnership opportunities by adding new, standing members.
- Addresses and cleans up outdated language.

Con(s):

- None.

Fiscal Impact:

- This action requires no additional City resources and has no fiscal impact.

Suggested Motion:

- Move to recommend adoption of revisions to Article III, Chapter 2, Division 11 of the Code of Ordinances regarding the Public Art and Cultural Commission.

Attachment(s)

- 11/14/23 Presentation to Boards and Commissions Committee
- Current Ordinance
- Ordinance Draft - Marked up
- Ordinance Final Draft - Clean copy
- 2022 PACC Annual Report