

TOWN COUNCIL

STAFF REPORT

Executive Department



MEETING DATE:	June 11, 2024
PROJECT:	Consideration of a Resolution Affirming Council's Support of the Town of Bluffton's Designation as a South Carolina Cultural Arts District and to Designate the Public Arts Committee as the Cultural Arts District Steering Committee.
PROJECT MANAGER:	Stephen Steese, Town Manager

REQUEST: Request for Town Council to approve the resolution affirming Council's support for the SC Cultural Arts District designation and designating the Public Arts Committee as its official steering committee.

BACKGROUND:

The South Carolina (SC) General Assembly passed Act No. 232 of 2014 providing for the establishment of State-Designated Cultural Districts by the SC Arts Commission. In November of 2015, the Bluffton Town Council passed a resolution supporting the designation of the Town of Bluffton as a SC Cultural District.

In October of 2022, Town Council adopted a resolution approving the Town's public art policy and the establishment of the Public Arts Committee to make recommendations on the implementation of public art within the Town of Bluffton.

In the summer of 2023, the Council appointed seven members to the Public Arts Committee. The committee began its monthly meetings in October of 2023. The current Chair, Pearce Scott and another board member, Bevan Bowler, were former members of the original Cultural District Steering Committee.

At the April 30, 2024, meeting of the Public Arts Committee, the Public Art Coordinator for the SC Arts Commission presented on the suggestion to designate the committee as the Cultural District Steering Committee. There was general informal support expressed by the committee for this designation with no objections expressed.

DISCUSSION:

The SC Arts Commission requires Cultural Districts to submit annual updates for a district to maintain its designation. The Cultural District Steering Committee had been an independent

committee of the Town of Bluffton but became inactive in FY 2024. The SC Arts Commission recommended the Town consider designating the Public Arts Committee as the Cultural District Steering Committee as is common in other jurisdictions.

NEXT STEPS: The Town Council may approve the resolution as submitted, approve with amendments, or deny approval of the ordinance.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Motion

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON'S DESIGNATION AS A STATE-DESIGNATED CULTURAL DISTRICT BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON'S PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE TO SERVE AS THE CULTURAL DISTRICT STEERING COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Town of Bluffton, South Carolina (the "Town") is an incorporated municipality located in Beaufort County, and as such possesses all powers granted to municipalities by the Constitution and general laws of the State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5-5-10, Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, the Town has selected the council-manager form of government and is governed by a council composed of a Mayor and six (6) council members which constitute the governing body of the Town (the "Town Council"); and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina General Assembly passed and the Governor signed into law Act No. 232 of 2014, providing for the establishment of State-Designated Cultural Districts by the South Carolina Arts Commission; and

WHEREAS, the entire one-square mile Old Town and the adjacent areas have been designated as a Cultural District since 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bluffton Town Council adopted the Bluffton Public Art Policy in October of 2022, establishing a seven-member committee to review and recommend the implementation of public art; and

WHEREAS, the designation of a Cultural District is in the best interest of the Town and thereby encourages collaboration from property and business owners within the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town as follows:

1. The Town Council hereby supports the continued designation of the South Carolina Cultural District in the Town of Bluffton.
2. The Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Public Arts Committee to serve in its capacity as the South Carolina Cultural District Steering Committee.

THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON ADOPTION.
SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED AS OF THIS ELEVENTH DAY OF JUNE, 2024.

Larry Toomer, Mayor
Town of Bluffton, South Carolina

ATTEST:

Marcia Hunter, Town Clerk
Town of Bluffton, South Carolina

SEAL

Recommended Motion

Consideration to Approve a Resolution Affirming Support for the Town of Bluffton's Designation as a State-Designated Cultural District by the South Carolina Arts Commission and Authorizing the Town of Bluffton's Public Arts Committee to Serve as the Cultural District Steering Committee – Stephen Steese, Town Manager

"I make a motion to approve a resolution affirming support of the Town's designation as a South Carolina Cultural District and authorize the Town Public Arts Committee to serve as the Cultural District Steering Committee."