

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
OF  
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-P-011

**WHEREAS**, the City of Indianapolis recognizes the importance of cultural districts as vital contributors to the City's creative economy, community identity, and economic development, having been shown to stimulate small business development, attract tourism, revitalize public spaces, and foster community cohesion; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has officially designated seven cultural districts—Broad Ripple, Fountain Square, Indiana Avenue, Mass Ave, Canal and White River State Park, Wholesale District, and Market East—based on their historic, artistic, and cultural significance; and

**WHEREAS**, many Indianapolis neighborhoods already demonstrate vibrant cultural activity, artistic innovation, and community leadership, yet remain formally unrecognized within city planning efforts; and the Cultural Districts funding opportunity seeks to support both existing and emerging cultural districts by investing in projects that reflect the unique cultural assets, histories, and contributions of Indianapolis neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Metropolitan Development City was provided \$500,000 in one-time funding to support projects submitted by existing and emerging cultural districts that demonstrate cultural, economic, and community impact; and

**WHEREAS**, the application period for this funding opportunity was open from August 1 to August 31, 2025, and applicants were required to submit proof that they represent an established organization and provide proof of representation for the district in which they are seeking funding; and

**WHEREAS**, a selection committee made up of 8 members comprised of the Department of Metropolitan Development, the Department of Public Works, the Mayor's Office - Community Engagement, the Office of Finance and Management, the Indianapolis Economic Development, Inc, and the City-County Council Offices met on September 16, 2025 to determine funding recommendations based on a scoring matrix that includes criteria such as project relevance, feasibility, cultural and economic impact, community engagement, and budget effectiveness;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The Director of the DMD is hereby authorized by the MDC to enter into grant agreements with the organizations as listed in Exhibit A in a total amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars 00/100 (\$500,000.00).
2. The Director of the Department of Metropolitan Development is hereby authorized to execute the necessary documents in accordance with this Resolution.

Approved as to legal form and adequacy:

By: Sheila Kinney

Sheila Kinney, Asst. Corp. Counsel

Metropolitan Development Commission:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

John J. Dillon III, President

Date: 9/22/2025

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibit A

EXISTING - TIER 1		
<i>Amount</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Applicant</i>
\$100,000	Broad Ripple	Broad Ripple Village Association (BRVA)
\$80,000	Fountain Square	Fountain Square Neighborhood Association (FSNA) and Fountain Fletcher District Association (FFDA) Joint Award
\$50,000	Mass Ave	Mass Ave Cultural Arts District Inc.
\$50,000	Wholesale District	Downtown Indy Inc.
\$7,500	Indiana Avenue	Madam Walker Legacy Center
EMERGING - TIER 2		
\$50,000	Riverside	Riverside Civic League
\$50,000	East 38th Street	East 38th Street Community Development Partners (E38CDP)
\$30,000	Little Flower	Little Flower Neighborhood Association
\$30,000	10 East Arts	John Boner
\$23,500	Community Heights	Community Heights Neighborhood Organization's (CNHO)
\$15,000	Franklin Township	Franklin Township Historical Society (FTHS)
\$5,000	Irvington	Irvington Community Council and Irvington Development Organization Inc. Joint Award
\$5,000	Sobro	Midtown Indianapolis Inc. on behalf of SoBro Neighborhood Alliance
\$4,000	Porchlight District	Cottage Home Neighborhood Association (CHNA)
<b>Total Funding</b>		
\$500,000		

The above table represents the current anticipated awards to the entities listed, but the selection committee retains the right to modify such awards with respect to recipients and/or amounts to best serve the interests of the City of Indianapolis.