

**RESOLUTION NO. M-2542**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, ACKNOWLEDGING THE NOTICE OF RE-CERTIFICATION OF THE OLYMPIA CREATIVE DISTRICT BY THE STATE OF WASHINGTON AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN SUPPORT OF DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Olympia Creative District was certified by the State of Washington in 2019 for a period of five years through June 30, 2024, and has, despite significant public health crises, social upheaval, and economic downturn, made significant strides toward building a stronger, more cohesive, and connected, and better-supported creative community in downtown Olympia; and

**WHEREAS**, an application was submitted to the State seeking to re-certify the district for another five years, with significant supporting documentation including a recap of major accomplishments in the first five years, and a Strategic Plan with key goals for the coming five years of Creative District development; and

**WHEREAS**, the past five years have proven that Olympia’s creative identity is crucial to this community’s overall wellbeing and resilience, as evidenced in the Creative District’s 150 creative industries, 38 food businesses, 25 makers and fabricators, 10 performance/event spaces, and countless community members who identify as artists, musicians, and creatives; and

**WHEREAS**, in the last five years the Olympia Creative District has been a critical component of City efforts to increase access, engagement, public input, and a sense of belonging with the arts as a unifying force, including completion of a nearly year-long Creative District strategic planning process involving over 650 individuals; launching a City-led EIB (equity, inclusion, and belonging) initiative that now supports eight cultural celebrations from Pride Day to Juneteenth to Indigenous People’s Day; development of the Armory Creative Campus; and the passage of a voter-initiative to create a Cultural Access program for Olympia residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Olympia’s Creative District goals through 2029 are centered on the priorities of the 2023 Creative District Strategic Plan including Community, Support, Promotion, Space, and Access, alongside partnership with the Olympia Artspace Alliance for leadership of the Creative District; and


**WHEREAS**, the State of Washington has notified the city of its decision to recertify the Olympia Creative District through 2029 and has extended a \$7,500 grant to support Olympia’s ongoing Creative District development and the goals expressed in the forward-looking plan for the district;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE** as follows:

1. The Olympia City Council gratefully celebrates and acknowledges the State’s recertification of the Olympia Creative District
2. The Olympia City Council hereby approves the accompanying Grant Agreement between the City of Olympia and the State of Washington for the Creative District development, and the terms contained in the Grant Agreement.
3. The City Manager is directed and authorized to execute on behalf of the City of Olympia the Grant Agreement, and any other documents necessary to obligate funds for the Creative District

development, and to make any amendments or minor modifications as may be required and are consistent with the intent of the Grant Agreement, and to correct any scrivener's errors.

**PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL** this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 2024.

  
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MAYOR

ATTEST:

*Sean Krier*  
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CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

*Michael M. Young*  
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DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY