

Executive Order No 2025-6

RECONSTITUTION OF THE DEKALB COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS, INC.

WHEREAS, the arts and culture are fundamental to a vibrant, inclusive, and economically thriving community, strengthening identity, inspiring creativity; and

WHEREAS, public investment in the arts enhances quality of life, promotes civic pride, drives innovation, and generates lasting economic benefits for residents and local businesses alike; and

WHEREAS, a formal and representative arts advisory body dedicated to arts will ensure that cultural development is equitable, strategic, and aligned with the community's diverse needs and aspirations; and

WHEREAS, the reconstitution of the DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc. will provide the leadership and consistency to foster collaboration across sectors, and amplify the role of arts and culture in shaping the future of public life in DeKalb County;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chief Executive Officer hereby issues the following Executive Order:

1. **Creation & Name.** By this Executive Order, the Chief Executive Officer hereby creates the DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc., as an official advisory body to the Chief Executive Officer and Board of Commissioners on matters related to arts and cultural development across the jurisdiction. The Director of the DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc. will report directly to the CEO.
2. **Mission.** DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc. shall strengthen and promote the cultural life of the community, support equitable access to artistic and cultural experiences, advise on policy, planning, and funding related to public arts and cultural activities, and foster partnerships among artists, cultural organizations, residents, and public agencies.
3. **Purpose.** To facilitate formal planning and communication to allow a strategic support and cross-sector collaboration between government, cultural organizations, arts/artists, residents, business, and education in the areas of public arts and cultural activities and experiences.

4. **Responsibilities.** DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc. shall have the following responsibilities:
- a. Recommended framework for enhancing public arts and culture;
 - b. Provide recommendations on initiatives related to arts and culture to ensure optimal outcomes in planning, funding, education, and programming;
 - c. Advocate for abundant programming and easy access to arts and culture across DeKalb's communities;
 - d. Serve as a connector between various artists, residents, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and local government;
 - e. Support efforts to attract private, philanthropic, governmental, faith based, educational, and any other appropriate sources for investment in cultural programs; and
 - f. Create a Friends of the DeKalb Council for the Arts.
5. **Membership.** DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc., (DCA) shall be comprised of voting members, non-voting participating agencies and organizations, and non-voting discretionary participants that are invited to attend as necessary at the will of the DCA. Participating agencies and organizations are urged to identify non-voting members that are local artists and cultural practitioners, representatives of arts and cultural organizations, professionals from creative industries such as theater, film, and/or music, community leaders, residents, and/or representatives from a broad spectrum of community organizations that inherently include an interest in and knowledge of arts and culture. The members and/or participants shall be appointed and/or identified as follows:
- a. Standing Members with voting privileges:
 - i. The eleven members of the Board of Directors for Destination Dekalb.
 - ii. The Executive Director & CEO will be the Chair of the Board with nonvoting privileges.
 - b. Agencies and Organizations with nonvoting privileges and can participate as Friends of the DeKalb Council for the Arts as invited:
 - i. One member selected by each DeKalb County Commissioner

- ii. One member selected by the DeKalb County Board of Education
- iii. One member selected by the DeKalb Municipal Association
- iv. One representative from DeKalb County's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department
- v. One representative from DeKalb County's Human Services Department
- vi. One member selected by the DeKalb House Delegation to the General Assembly
- vii. One member selected by the Senate Delegation to the General Assembly
- viii. One member from Decide DeKalb
- ix. One member from the DeKalb Entertainment Commission
- x. One member from each Local College and University in DeKalb County
- xi. Local artists and cultural practitioners
- xii. Professionals from creative industries such as theater, film, and/or music
- xiii. Representatives from local arts and cultural organizations, community leaders, residents, and/or representatives from a broad spectrum of community organizations that inherently include an interest in and knowledge of arts and culture.

c. Discretionary Participants without voting privileges, as invited.

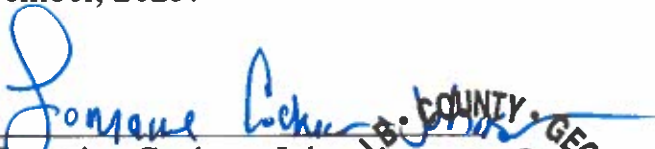
6. Term of Service and Vacancies. Voting members of the DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc., shall serve for four (4) years. Vacancies shall be filled for the completion of the remaining term for voting members when a vacancy occurs.

7. Voting and Quorum. A quorum shall be eight (8) voting members. While others may participate, only voting members count toward a quorum and a quorum's approval is required for any recommendations and/or reports.

8. **Organizational Meetings and Officers.** DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc., shall meet at least four (4) times per year and may convene additional meetings if a majority of the voting members elect to do so. The meeting schedule shall be set by the voting members. At its first regular meeting of each year, DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc., shall by majority vote of its full voting membership, elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary. Only voting members may serve as officers. The voting members may convene subcommittees to address specific activities, topics, and/or events by researching the matter and making recommendations to the voting members for consideration. Meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order, with advance notice of all scheduled meetings provided to all stakeholders.
9. **Support.** DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc., may seek grant funding through local, state, and federal agencies to finance activities and performance of DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc. duties. The CEO or CEO's designee may arrange and provide meeting space and/or administrative support to assist DCA in performing its duties.

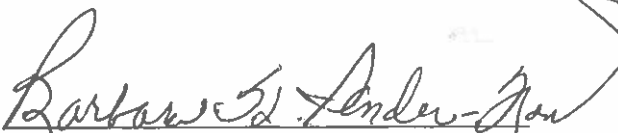
That this Order shall be effective immediately.

SO ORDERED this 3rd day of November, 2025.


Lorraine Cochran-Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia



ATTEST:


Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood, CCC
Clerk to the Chief Executive Officer and
Board of Commissioners