



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File ID: 2025-0751

Substitute

1/27/2026

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Board of Commissioner - District 2

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

A Resolution of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners to Urge Modifications to the DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc. to Ensure BOC-Appointed Voting Representation

Information Contact: Commissioner Michelle Long Spears

Phone Number: 404-371-2863

PURPOSE:

A request to accept the substitute agenda item to urge modifications to the DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc. to ensure BOC-appointed voting representation

NEED/IMPACT:

This resolution is needed to require that the Board of Commissioners have a commissioner-appointed member with full voting privileges on the DeKalb Council for the Arts, strengthening equity, transparency, and accountability in arts and culture decision-making across the county.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the resolution and authorize the chief executive officer or her designee to execute all necessary documents.

A RESOLUTION OF THE DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO URGE
MODIFICATIONS TO THE DEKALB COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS, INC. TO ENSURE BOC-
APPOINTED VOTING REPRESENTATION

WHEREAS, arts and culture are essential to the enrichment of community life, fostering creativity, diversity, and economic vitality; and,

WHEREAS, a dedicated arts and culture council is necessary to provide strategic direction, oversight, and advocacy for arts and culture initiatives within DeKalb County; and,

WHEREAS, the establishment of such a council will promote collaboration among local artists, cultural organizations, municipalities, other county-based organizations, and the community at large; and,

WHEREAS, the creation of such a council will expand and foster increased funding opportunities for DeKalb artists and arts organizations; and,

WHEREAS, arts and culture enhance the appeal of communities, attracting tourists and visitors who contribute to local economies; and,

WHEREAS, investment in arts and culture creates jobs for artists, designers, and construction workers, and generates revenue for local businesses such as restaurants, hotels, and retail stores; and,

WHEREAS, vibrant arts and culture initiatives increase property values and stimulate economic development by making neighborhoods more desirable places to live and work; and,

WHEREAS, cultural tourism driven by arts installations and events has been shown to significantly boost local economies by increasing foot traffic and consumer spending; and,

WHEREAS, art fosters community pride and identity, encourages civic engagement, and creates spaces that attract businesses, entrepreneurs, and investors; and,

WHEREAS, numerous studies have shown that communities with strong arts and culture programs experience higher levels of economic growth and cultural vitality; and,

WHEREAS, arts and culture are recognized as a powerful economic driver that strengthens local economies, enhance community well-being, and support sustainable development.

WHEREAS, the DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc. ("Council") was established by Executive Order to support and advise arts and culture initiatives within DeKalb County; and,

WHEREAS, the current structure of the DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc. provides for commissioner-appointed participation without voting privileges; and,

WHEREAS, ensuring that the Board of Commissioners has a voting representative will strengthen geographic equity, accountability, and transparency in arts and culture decision-making; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has a strong interest in ensuring balanced representation and full participation in the governance and strategic direction of arts and culture initiatives across DeKalb County; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners hereby urges the Chief Executive Officer and Administration to modify the structure of the DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc., or any successor arts and culture council, to ensure that the Board of Commissioners may appoint one (1) member with full voting privileges; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Administration is urged to take all actions necessary to implement this modification, including updating governing documents, bylaws, appointment procedures, and any applicable executive orders to reflect BOC-appointed voting representation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this change is intended to ensure equitable representation and strengthen collaboration between the Board of Commissioners and the arts and culture advisory body serving DeKalb County.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, ____.

Chakira Johnson

Presiding Officer

Board of Commissioners

DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this ____ day of _____, ____.

Lorraine Cochran-Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

Barbara Sanders
Clerk to the BOC and CEO

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Zachary L. Williams
Chief Operating Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

Terry Phillips
County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia