

CITY of WILMINGTON

North Carolina

P.O. BOX 1810
28402

4/16/2013

City Council
City Hall
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

Attached for your consideration is a resolution to officially recognizing the Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County and to support its mission within the local community.

In an effort to address and encourage the arts on a community level, local arts councils were created. The arts council that previously operated in the Wilmington area closed in 2002 due to a lack of funding. In 2010, a coordinated effort was launched, involving the N.C. Arts Council, community stakeholders, art organizations and local government interests to restore an arts council to Wilmington and its surrounding areas. The effort was successful and a permanent Executive Director was appointed in June of 2012 and a new Board of Directors was formed. The local arts council, a non-profit corporation, was named the Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County ("Arts Council").

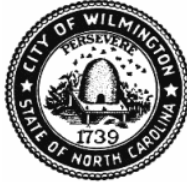
This resolution officially recognizes the Arts Council and demonstrates the City's intent to support the Arts Council's mission in serving the citizens of Wilmington and its surrounding areas. This resolution is consistent with the City Council Focus Areas of Diverse and Thriving Economy, Civic Partnerships and Sustainability and Adaptability.

Passage of the attached Resolution is recommended.

Respectfully submitted,

Sterling B. Cheatham,
City Manager

Resolution



City Council
City of Wilmington
North Carolina

Introduced By: Laura W. Padgett, Councilmember

Date: 4/16/2013

Resolution Officially Recognizing the Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County and Supporting its Mission within the Community

LEGISLATIVE INTENT/PURPOSE:

North Carolina has been recognized for having a rich and long-standing tradition of involvement in crafts, literature, historical drama and music. In order to strengthen and support the arts community, the North Carolina Arts Council was created in 1964. Subsequently, the N.C. Arts Council became a statutory agency of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. Pursuant to N.C. General Statute §143B-87, one of the statutory duties of the N.C. Arts Council is to advise the Secretary of Cultural Resources concerning assistance to local organizations and the community at large in the area of the arts. In order to address and encourage the arts on a community level, local arts councils were created across the state, including the Cape Fear area. The Arts Council of the Lower Cape Fear closed in 2002 due to a lack of funding. Since that time, Wilmington and its surrounding areas have been without the leadership and support of a local arts council.

In 2010, the N.C. Arts Council became interested in restoring a local arts council to the Wilmington area. Wilmington was the only one of North Carolina's ten largest cities to not have an arts council. A steering committee was appointed, representing community stakeholders, arts organizations and local government interests. An assessment, funded by a \$15,000 grant from the N.C. Arts Council and the Folk Life Institute, supported the feasibility and interest in reconstituting a local arts council. The Wilmington area arts council was later renamed Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County, a North Carolina non-profit corporation. In July of 2012, a permanent Executive Director was appointed, and a new Board of Directors was formed.

N.C. General Statute §160A-488 enables municipalities to establish and support arts programs and facilities, including contracts with other governmental agencies, or with any public or non-profit private association, corporation or organization to establish and support museums, art galleries, arts centers, arts facilities, and arts programs.

WHEREAS, arts and cultural organizations have a significant economic impact on the communities where they are located, based upon a 2011 study conducted by the National Endowment for the Arts. Americans spend approximately \$14.5 billion a year on just the performing arts, which includes experiences ranging from opera, dance and symphony concerts to circuses, magic shows and Las Vegas shows.

WHEREAS, a project by *Americans for the Arts* was completed in fiscal year 2010 and assessed the economic impact of arts and cultural organizations in New Hanover County. The project found that arts and cultural organizations impact the economy by spending nearly \$6 million. Patrons of arts and cultural organizations spend over \$15 million. Arts and culture support approximately 799 jobs, with paid incomes of over \$17.5 million. Out of these funds, over \$1 million in revenue went to local governments.

WHEREAS, the Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County will serve the following core functions:

- To promote arts driven economic development
- To establish the region as an arts destination
- To significantly contribute to quality of life in the region
- To provide a stream of funding to support the sustainability of artists and organizations
- To facilitate collaboration and communication within the arts community
- To advocate for the arts at the local, state and national levels.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, the Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County is hereby officially recognized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

THAT, the Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County will be supported in its mission to serve the citizens of the county by utilizing artists, art traditions and arts resources to enrich and improve the community and to promote sustainable economic development. Through a public-private partnership, the Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County will ensure that all citizens have access to a wide range of arts experiences, including literary, visual, performing and traditional arts.

Adopted at a _____ meeting
on _____ 2013

ATTEST:

Penelope Spicer-Sidbury, City Clerk

Bill Saffo, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney