

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 106

By: Kirt of the Senate

3 and

4 Strom of the House

5  
6 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Arts Council;  
7 creating the Cultural Districts Initiative Act;  
8 defining terms; stating powers and duties;  
9 authorizing certain funding and expenditures;  
10 providing for funding; and providing for  
11 codification.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 181 of Title 53, unless there is  
15 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Cultural  
17 Districts Initiative Act".

18 B. For purposes of the Cultural Districts Initiative Act:

19 1. "Cultural district" means a mixed-use area of a community,  
20 whether rural, suburban or urban, in which a high concentration of  
21 arts and cultural facilities or activities serves as the anchor of  
22 attraction or development. Cultural districts may do any of the  
23 following:  
24

- a. attract artists, creative entrepreneurs, creative industries and cultural enterprises to stimulate commerce,
- b. encourage entrepreneurship and small business development particularly in rural and under-resourced communities by incentivizing the establishment of new and relocating businesses,
- c. establish and promote marketable tourism assets highlighting the distinct cultural identity of the community and attracting in-state, out-of-state and international visitors,
- d. preserve the community's authentic cultural identity by highlighting the region's existing artists and cultural traditions,
- e. provide opportunities for and mechanisms to recruit and sustain new artists, creative industries and organizations,
- f. offer arts and cultural programming and events that build a sense of community and foster cross-cultural understanding,
- g. celebrate the community's uniquely-built environment, encouraging the preservation and reuse of historic buildings and other culturally significant structures, and

1           h.    enhance the quality of life for residents and attract  
2                    a well-educated and creative workforce to the  
3                    community; and

4           2.    "Certified cultural district" means a cultural district that  
5 has been certified by the Oklahoma Arts Council through a  
6 competitive application process.

7           C.    The Oklahoma Arts Council shall administer the Cultural  
8 Districts Initiative Act.

9           The Oklahoma Arts Council shall have powers and duties as  
10 follows:

11           1.    To implement the Cultural Districts Initiative Act;

12           2.    To establish a competitive application process for  
13 participation in a cultural district development program that  
14 assists communities with further developing existing cultural  
15 assets;

16           3.    To establish a competitive application and renewal process  
17 for certification as a state-designated certified cultural district;

18           4.    To provide, whenever possible, state supported assistance  
19 for both developing and certified cultural districts including, but  
20 not limited to:

21           a.    technical assistance in program development and  
22                    marketing,

- b. identifying and facilitating local access to other relevant non-profit, state and federal resources and funding opportunities,
- c. finding or making referrals to professional service providers that may assist in a district's activities, and
- d. gathering and reporting data about the economic activity, goals and outcomes of the district; and

5. To collaborate with other public agencies and private entities to enhance visibility and ensure broad and equitable benefits for certified cultural districts.

D. Subject to funds available, the Legislature may appropriate funds to the Oklahoma Arts Council for purposes of the Cultural Districts Initiative Act.

E. The Oklahoma Arts Council may solicit and receive monies, gifts, donations, bequests, grants and other resources from any public or private source for purposes of the Cultural Districts Initiative Act. The Oklahoma Arts Council may expend any monies received pursuant to the Cultural Districts Initiative Act for any purpose it deems necessary pursuant to the authority of the Cultural Districts Initiative Act.

