

Chapter 14

Arts and Culture Element





Arts and Culture Element

Overview ¹⁴⁰⁰

THE ARTS AND CULTURE ELEMENT PROVIDES POLICIES AND ACTIONS dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the arts in the District of Columbia. Its focus is on strengthening the role of the arts in shaping the physical form of our city. ^{1400.1}

The key issues facing the District of Columbia as it seeks to foster and enhance arts and culture include:

- Improving the distribution of arts facilities throughout the city
- Increasing public art in new and refurbished public construction
- Retaining existing clusters of arts establishments and encouraging the designation of new Arts Districts
- Creating a civic culture that attracts the creative class. ^{1400.2}

Washington is already one of the country’s leading cultural centers. Its breadth of artistic achievement encompasses many disciplines, cultures, individuals and organizations. The District is home to the Smithsonian Institution, several museums of fine art, and a world-class symphony, ballet, and opera. From the jazz clubs of U Street to the daily literary events at local bookstores, its neighborhoods also enjoy a cultural legacy that is distinctly Washington’s. Over the past decade, the District has consistently ranked among the top states in per capita spending on the arts. Among American cities, the city is second only to New York in the number of live theater seats. ^{1400.3}

The Arts and Culture Element charts a course toward transforming the District into an even more vibrant cultural capital in the future than it is today. It acknowledges the contribution of the arts to the city’s economy and supports investment in the arts in order to provide new jobs, goods, and services. The Element also helps sustain the arts as an expression of local values and a source of community identity. Fostering the arts can help make Washington a more “Inclusive City” by helping all residents to express and realize their creative potential. ^{1400.4}

The overarching goal for arts and culture is:

Support and encourage arts and cultural venues, programs and learning experiences in the District of Columbia that inspire a vibrant cultural life for all segments of the population.

Enhance the city's diverse artistic and cultural traditions through decisions affecting the

Arts and Culture Goal ¹⁴⁰¹

The overarching goal for arts and culture is:

Support and encourage arts and cultural venues, programs and learning experiences in the District of Columbia that inspire a vibrant cultural life for all segments of the population. Enhance the city's diverse artistic and cultural traditions through decisions affecting the physical environment. ^{1401.1}

Policies and Actions

AC-1 Creating and Enhancing Arts and Cultural Facilities ¹⁴⁰²

The ability of arts organizations and artists to thrive in our city is dependent on having suitable production, performance, and exhibition space. The required facilities include studios, rehearsal halls, theaters and concert halls, dance rehearsal and performance spaces, exhibition spaces and galleries, multipurpose centers, classrooms, administrative offices, and art storage facilities, among others. Many of these facilities are completely absent in large parts of the city, especially in East of the River neighborhoods. Where they do exist, they may be threatened by rising rents and redevelopment pressure. ^{1402.1}

AC-1.1 Expanding Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Facilities ¹⁴⁰³

In the last few years, the District has made great strides in preserving, rehabilitating, and expanding arts facilities. In 2005 the GALA Hispanic Theatre moved into the newly refurbished Tivoli Theatre and the Woolly Mammoth Theater opened the doors of its first permanent home — a new 265-seat, courtyard-style theater in the heart of Downtown Washington. Even with the addition of such notable facilities, however, current supply may not meet demand. The city faces a persistent need for the retention and further development of affordable neighborhood arts facilities. A directed program of facility development, maintenance, and expansion is needed to foster a more stable arts community. ^{1403.1}

Policy AC-1.1.1: Enhancement of Existing Facilities

Preserve and enhance existing District-owned neighborhood arts and cultural spaces. Assist in the improvement of arts organizations' facilities in order to enhance the quality and quantity of arts offerings. ^{1403.2}

Policy AC-1.1.2: Development of New Cultural Facilities

Develop new neighborhood cultural facilities across the District, providing affordable space for grass roots and community arts organizations. Provide technical and financial assistance to organizations to help plan and build such facilities. ^{1403.3}

Policy AC-1.1.3: Distribution of Facilities

Promote improved geographic distribution of arts and cultural facilities, including development of arts facilities and venues east of the Anacostia River and in other parts of the city where they are in short supply today. ^{1403.4}

Policy AC-1.1.4: Cultural and Artistic Diversity

Ensure that neighborhood cultural facilities accommodate a wide variety of arts disciplines, cultures, individuals and organizations. Facilities should also accommodate the special needs of seniors and persons with disabilities. ^{1403.5}

Policy AC-1.1.5: Siting of Facilities

Support the siting of arts facilities in locations where impacts upon nearby uses can be most easily managed. Give preference to locations near public transit, or sites where shared parking facilities are available. Conversely, ensure that appropriate parking and transit access improvements are made when arts and cultural venues are developed. ^{1403.6}

Policy AC-1.1.6: Performance and Events in Non-Traditional Settings

Encourage the provision of spaces for performances and art events in neighborhood parks, community centers, schools, transit stations, residential developments and public areas in private development. This can help reach new audiences and increase access to the arts for people in all parts of the city. ^{1403.7}

Policy AC-1.1.7: Inclusion of Arts in DC Main Streets

Support the inclusion of arts and cultural facilities and arts-supportive businesses as part of the city's neighborhood commercial revitalization programs. ^{1403.8}

Policy AC-1.1.8: Using District-Owned Facilities

Encourage the shared-use of District-owned facilities such as public schools, libraries, and recreation centers by artists and arts organizations. ^{1403.9}

Action AC-1.1.A: Including Arts Spaces in Public Construction

Consider regulatory changes that would encourage the provision of space for the arts in new and refurbished public buildings. Examples of such provisions would be the design of plazas so that they can be used as performance spaces or gallery lighting of lobbies so they can be used as exhibition space. ^{1403.10}



The tendency of cultural activities to cluster together is born out of the energy and excitement that is generated when there is more than one activity occurring in a limited area.

Action AC-1.1.B: Theaters East of the River

Pursue development of additional arts and cultural establishments, including theaters and cinemas, east of the Anacostia River. 1403.11

AC-1.2 Creating Arts Districts 1404

Arts Districts are identified, mixed-use areas of the city in which a high concentration of arts and cultural facilities serves as an anchor of attraction. The tendency of cultural activities to cluster together is born out of the energy and excitement that is generated when there is more than one activity occurring in a limited area. Theater, music and visual arts audiences grow when the opportunity for exposure to various cultures and cultural events is present, especially when those opportunities take place in geographic clusters. 1404.1

Promoting the formation of such clusters by creating Arts Districts not only provides value to art patrons, it also spurs creative collaboration among arts organizations and artists. It can result in inventive artistic products as well as cost savings through shared facilities and/or shared administrative functions. 1404.2

Arts Districts also have an economic development value. Retail shops, restaurants, and hotels find a ready market for their goods and services in Arts Districts. More than 90 cities in the United States have planned or implemented such districts, positioning the arts at the center of their urban revitalization efforts. In the District, the 7th Street corridor, which includes a number of art galleries, the Shakespeare Theater and the new Woolly Mammoth Theater, is a good example. The corridor has attracted a mix of uses including a number of restaurants, and retail establishments. 1404.3

Figure 14.1 shows the existing Arts Districts in Washington. These districts were established in the early 1980's as part of a District-wide strategy to use the arts to improve the social and economic well-being of the city. Representatives from the executive and legislative branches of government, business, developers, the arts community, and the public at-large collaborated in their formation. 1404.4

Figure 14.1:
Arts Districts, 2006 1404.5



Policy AC-1.2.1: Arts District

Sustain the Downtown Arts District as the preeminent location in the city for region-serving arts venues, including theaters, galleries, and museums and encourage the development of additional arts districts throughout the city. ^{1404.6}

Policy AC-1.2.2: Designate Arts Districts

Identify, recognize, and support existing clusters of arts establishments and encourage the designation of such areas as Arts Districts. ^{1404.7}

Action AC-1.2.A: Arts Overlay Zones

Use zoning overlays to promote and sustain Arts Districts. Ensure that Arts overlay zones are consistent with other District zoning regulations and that incentives for arts-related uses are not precluded by other provisions of zoning. ^{1404.8}

Action AC-1.2.B: Arts District Along Rhode Island Avenue

Explore the feasibility of designating an Arts District along Rhode Island Avenue, capitalizing on the designation along the US 1 corridor in Prince George’s County (Mount Rainier, Brentwood, Hyattsville). Creation of such a district would include incentives for arts facilities and live-work housing, particularly in Northeast DC. Ensure that regulations associated with this district, if created, are consistent with other District proposals for this corridor (including those identified in the Comprehensive Plan). ^{1404.9}

Action AC-1.2.C: Cultural Enterprise Zones

Explore the feasibility of creating “Cultural Enterprise Zones” in which commercial and nonprofit cultural organizations have clustered office spaces, rehearsal and performance spaces, retail boutiques and galleries, and studio and living spaces for individual artists (see text box). Use tax incentives and subsidies to attract cultural organizations and private investors to such areas. ^{1404.10}

Action AC-1.2.D: Enforcement of Zoning Requirements

Establish an inspection and enforcement program for Arts District zoning requirements, ensuring that such requirements (such as the display of art in store windows) are enforced after projects are constructed. This program should be part of the city’s overall zoning enforcement efforts. ^{1404.11}

Cultural Enterprise Zones ^{1404.12}

Cultural Enterprise Zones are specific geographic areas targeted for arts and cultural uses and activities. They encourage arts and cultural activities by offering tax advantages and incentives to arts establishments and supporting businesses locating within the zone boundaries.

AC-2 Making Art More Visible ¹⁴⁰⁵

A large number of US cities and government agencies have adopted policies to make art more visible in the design of public buildings, infrastructure, and even private development. As public art projects have become more diverse and challenging, there has also been a shift from using art merely as an embellishment for architecture to using art to create a sense of neighborhood identity and to provide a connection to local history and culture. Art projects document, celebrate, and define communities whose stories may once have been overlooked. This is particularly true in Washington, where public art tells not only the story of a city but also the story of a nation. ^{1405.1}

Art of many genres has played an important role in building the civic culture of the District of Columbia. From monuments inspired by the Beaux-Arts movement to the evocative murals of Adams Morgan, art is an integral and visible part of our cityscape. We must continue to include public art as our city evolves—not only in “federal” Washington but also in our neighborhoods. ^{1405.2}

AC-2.1 Increasing Opportunities for Public Art ¹⁴⁰⁶

Public art can provide beauty, visual interest, and a source of community pride. It can contribute to cross-cultural understanding, and become a source of community dialogue and participation. It also brings economic benefits in the form of tourism and jobs for artists. While the most familiar forms of public art in the District are its more than 150 commemorative memorials, there are many other examples. Traditional definitions of public art have grown to include temporary installations as well as permanent art forms such as frescoes and tile murals. New directions in public art should encourage a diversity of media, so that all segments of the community can participate and be represented. ^{1406.1}

Since 1986, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities has maintained a “DC Creates Public Art Program” that purchases, commissions, and installs artwork for public sites throughout the city. The program was established by legislation that allocates up to one percent of the District’s adjusted Capital Budget for the commission and acquisition of artwork. Despite this initiative, broader efforts are needed to bring public art to communities where it is in short supply. ^{1406.2}

Policy AC-2.1.1: Emphasizing Important Places with Art

Use public art to strengthen the District’s identity as a local cultural and arts center. Public art should accent locations such as Metro stations, sidewalks, streets, parks and building lobbies. It should be used in coordination with landscaping, lighting, paving and signage to create gateways for neighborhoods and communities. ^{1406.3}

Policy AC-2.1.2: Funding Public Art in Capital Improvement Projects

Continue to set aside funds from the capital improvement project budget for public art and arts-related improvements. Ensure that these funds are actually spent on physical improvements rather than operations. ^{1406.4}

Policy AC-2.1.3: Reuse of Vacant and/or Underutilized Buildings

Support the temporary reuse of vacant and/or underutilized storefronts and other non-residential buildings for arts exhibition. ^{1406.5}

Action AC-2.1.A: Public Art Master Plan

Develop a Public Art Master Plan for the District. The Master Plan would set out a vision for public art, as well as basic principles for how public art can be integrated into the District's architecture, gathering places, and natural landscapes. ^{1406.6}

Action AC-2.1.B: Redevelopment of Old Convention Center

Include substantial floor space for arts exhibition and outdoor space for the performing arts within the proposed redevelopment plans for the site of the former Washington Convention Center. ^{1406.7}

See the Central Washington Area Element for additional recommendations on the site of the former Washington Convention Center.

Action AC-2.1.C: New District Museum

Conduct a feasibility study on re-establishing a City Museum with public and private support to serve as a showcase of District art, culture, and history, including archival records for the District of Columbia. The study



H Street overpass, a.k.a., the "Hopscotch Bridge"

Persons in the creative professions generate technological innovation, cultivate change, and bring new ways of thinking to the city's leading industries. Moreover, culturally diverse urban areas attract, retain and inspire talented people. This can improve economic competitiveness as well as opportunities for artistic expression.

should determine ways to recoup public investment in such a museum, what business model would work best for its operation, where it should locate, and how it should be funded. ^{1406.8}

AC-2.2 Using Art to Express Neighborhood Identity ¹⁴⁰⁷

Art and cultural events can help preserve the distinct history and identity of local neighborhoods. For example, the Friendship Arch near the Verizon Center accentuates the unique identity of the Chinatown neighborhood. Similarly, “Recalling History: Mount Pleasant’s Art on Call Boxes” recreates scenes from the neighborhood’s history, starting with the area’s Native Americans and moving through the arrival of today’s immigrants. Art and culture should continue to be used to create civic pride and identity in this way. ^{1407.1}

Policy AC-2.2.1: Using Art to Create Identity

Use art as a way to help neighborhoods express unique and diverse identities, promoting each community’s individual character and sense of place. ^{1407.2}

Policy AC-2.2.2: Neighborhood Fairs

Encourage neighborhood festivals of appropriate scale and location to showcase local culture. Such festivals should be planned and managed in a way that does not adversely affect neighborhood health, welfare, and safety. ^{1407.3}

Policy AC-2.2.3: Heritage Trails

Promote the diversity and history of the District’s unique neighborhoods through heritage trails. ^{1407.4}

See also the Urban Design Element for policies and actions on streetscape and public realm improvements that reflect cultural and architectural history.

AC-3 Arts and the Economy ¹⁴⁰⁸

According to America for the Arts, America’s nonprofit arts industry generates \$134 billion in economic activity every year, including \$53.2 billion in spending by arts organizations and \$80.8 billion in event-related spending by arts audiences. These activities generated over \$24 billion in local, state, and federal tax revenues. The Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington has estimated that the arts add \$500 million to the area’s economy each year, not including the \$750 million expended annually by the Smithsonian Institution. Locally as well as nationally, art means business. ^{1408.1}

Artistic expression arises from a creative workforce with unique needs. This workforce includes those in such fields as writing, graphic design,

advertising, architecture, and media, as well as those in the visual and performing arts. Persons in the creative professions generate technological innovation, cultivate change, and bring new ways of thinking to the city's leading industries. Moreover, culturally diverse urban areas attract, retain and inspire talented people. This can improve economic competitiveness as well as opportunities for artistic expression. Cities across the country have developed a variety of tools to support and retain their creative workforce. From Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to the adoption of artist-friendly zoning standards, planning practices can bolster the arts by supporting creative professionals. ^{1408.2}

AC-3.1 Housing for the Creative Workforce ¹⁴⁰⁹

According to Census 2000, the District has a higher percentage of artists in its workforce than any other state in the country. Yet the city's ability to sustain its artists is threatened by a lack of affordable real estate and suitable locations for studios, live-work space, and production facilities. Some artistic enterprises have already left the city for cheaper space in the suburbs. Businesses in the cultural and non-profit sectors are particularly vulnerable to cost pressures due to their low profit margins, specialized needs, and entrepreneurial nature. ^{1409.1}

Live-work spaces traditionally have consisted of converted warehouses and industrial buildings, with open floor plans that offer large, flexible workspaces. Such spaces may house activities like film processing, welding, amplified music, fired ceramics, and other uses that are not compatible with traditional residential development. This is problematic in the District, since the city has a limited supply of industrial buildings and the competition for these buildings is fierce. ^{1409.2}

While the District clearly has many groups in dire need of affordable housing, the needs of the arts community should not be forgotten. Creative and effective solutions can be developed without diminishing the city's resources for broader affordable housing programs. ^{1409.3}

Policy AC-3.1.1: Affordable Artist Housing

Include provisions for arts professionals in the District's affordable housing programs. ^{1409.4}

See also the Housing Element for additional policies and actions on affordable and workforce housing.



The Mather Building in downtown DC is an example of an affordable live-work space for artists. The building had been vacant for over a decade before the Cultural Development Corporation of DC and a private developer renovated it as condos, with the units on the building's second two floors designated for artist live/work space. This development gave artists an opportunity to own their space at a very low cost and enabled them to remain in the District.

Policy AC-3.1.2: Live-Work Spaces

Ensure that the District’s zoning and land use regulations support the development of live-work space for artists in a variety of settings around the city. ^{1409.5}

Action AC-3.1.A: Zoning Amendments

Conduct a review of planning, building, and zoning regulations as they relate to arts uses to: (a) permit and/or create incentives for joint living and work quarters for artists in new and existing structures; and (b) make it easier to use garages and accessory buildings on residential lots as studio spaces, provided that issues such as noise, fire safety, environmental protection, and parking can be addressed. ^{1409.6}

See the Land Use Element for additional policies on home-based businesses.

AC-3.2 Promoting Cultural Tourism ¹⁴¹⁰

Cultural tourism “is travel directed toward experiencing the arts, heritage, and special character of unique places.” This definition emerged from the 1995 White House Conference on Travel and Tourism, which declared United States involvement in this worldwide phenomenon a national priority—a way to link support of American cultural institutions with economic development goals for the nation. ^{1410.1}

According to the Travel Industry Association of America, cultural tourism is the fastest growing segment of the tourism industry, representing 81 percent of domestic travelers. Based on survey data, 66 percent of the nation’s cultural travelers want to visit historic places and museums, while 45 percent want to participate in arts and cultural events. ^{1410.2}

The District is rich in the kinds of experiences and places those visitors are seeking. While some of these places are well known—the streets of Georgetown or Capitol Hill, for instance—many are not. Places like the Fort Circle Parks, Historic Anacostia, and Brookland are rich in landmarks that are known to few outside the city. The visitor experience should be expanded to include the dozens of cultural attractions that exist beyond the monuments and museums of the National Mall. This will bring more visibility and revenues to local cultural institutions and new dollars to the city’s neighborhoods. Additionally, the development of new museums and cultural facilities beyond the Monumental Core, as called for by NCPC’s Memorials and Museums Master Plan, can expand choices for visitors and provide growth opportunities for local tourism. ^{1410.3}

Policy AC-3.2.1: Promoting Cultural Amenities

Promote the development of cultural amenities “beyond the Mall” in an effort to more fully capitalize on the economic benefits of tourism for District residents, businesses, and neighborhoods. ^{1410.4}

Policy AC-3.2.2: F Street Museum Corridor

Encourage the siting of new museums and theaters along the F Street NW Corridor through Downtown, creating a second “tier” of cultural attractions that complements the National Mall and anchored by such attractions as the Spy Museum and the National Portrait Gallery. ^{1410.5}

Action AC-3.2.A: Marketing Cultural Events

Explore improvements to more effectively market cultural events in the city, for example, by partnering with the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington to expand TICKETplace into a centralized box office for all arts performances and events in the city. ^{1410.6}

AC-4 Increasing Support for the Arts ¹⁴¹¹

The nonprofit arts are not entirely self-supporting. The income generated through ticket sales or by sales of artwork rarely equals the costs of production, leaving arts enterprises to look for other income sources. Individual artists have limited access to funding, and non-profit arts organizations face tough competition for affordable space. Cities all over the United States confront these challenges and continuously seek new sources of arts funding. Expanded local government funding is one approach, but there are many non-traditional approaches being explored. ^{1411.1}

Increasing support for the arts also requires that we instill an appreciation for the arts through education. Arts education can nurture the creative and artistic talents of District residents, and can foster a love for the arts that may later translate into financial support and patronage. ^{1411.2}

AC-4.1 Public Funding ¹⁴¹²

In the District of Columbia, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities is the primary public funding agency. It provides grants to individual artists and a wide variety of nonprofit organizations. The Commission is supported primarily by District government funds and federal block grants and other special funds awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition, the Commission receives charitable contributions and donations through the Arts and Humanities Enterprise Fund. In recent years, revenues totaling close to \$1.2 million have been raised through auctions and merchandise sales from special projects such as Party Animals and Pandamania. The District also maintains a dedicated revenue stream from its capital budget to support the development of arts facilities. ^{1412.1}

Policy AC-4.1.1: Making Funding Inclusive

Ensure that city funding for the arts occurs through a fair and transparent process and supports the delivery of services to the broadest possible spectrum of the community, with a particular emphasis on underserved communities. ^{1412.2}

Policy AC-4.1.2: Granting Cost Reductions and Exemptions

Reduce or eliminate, whenever possible, city-imposed costs associated with producing the arts by non-profit organizations and educational institutions. Explore off-setting costs for business licenses and permits, property taxes, insurance, and rents for the use of city facilities, among others. ^{1412.3}

AC-4.2 Partnerships ¹⁴¹³

Given the limits of public funding, support for the arts has increasingly relied on partnerships with the corporate and institutional sectors. This shift has been accompanied by a growing interest in the arts by the business sector. Audiences for the arts are often the very markets that businesses are trying to reach. ^{1413.1}

The trend toward partnerships has provided the arts with new resources for programs and operations. These include both funding and contributions of in-kind goods and services. The District can help support and expand these links through its economic development programs and through the activities of the Commission on Arts and Humanities. It can also help build partnerships with organizations like the National Endowment for the Arts, local philanthropic organizations and foundations, and our colleges and universities. ^{1413.2}

Here in the District there is a history of civic volunteerism. This extends to cultural leadership through diverse non-profit arts, cultural organizations, and regional advocacy organizations such as the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington. Stronger collaboration among these organizations and other city and federal agencies is needed to maximize our resources and broaden the reach of arts and culture. ^{1413.3}

Policy AC-4.2.1: Private Sector Partnerships

Develop partnerships with the private sector to encourage monetary and non-monetary support for the arts, as well as sponsorships of arts organizations and events. ^{1413.4}

Policy AC-4.2.2: Partnerships Among Organizations

Promote the creation of partnerships among the District and federal governments, local businesses, arts organizations, schools, college and university art programs and departments, and charitable foundations to enhance arts programming, funding and facility development. ^{1413.5}

Policy AC-4.2.3: Colleges and Universities

Recognize the contribution of local colleges and universities to arts and culture in the city and promote continued collaboration to develop additional arts facilities and programs serving the broader community. ^{1413.6}

AC-4.3 Engaging the Arts Community in Planning ¹⁴¹⁴

Building a stronger constituency for the arts will require engaging the arts community more effectively in local planning. Since 1968, the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities (COAH) has been a vehicle for artists and creative professionals from across the city to advocate for policies that expand cultural awareness and opportunity. Strengthened relationships between the COAH and other city agencies can lead to clearer, more integrated, and ultimately more successful results. By organizing and mobilizing the arts community, the District can also work toward greater support from arts patrons from across the entire metropolitan area, and not just those living in the District. ^{1414.1}

Policy AC-4.3.1: Engaging Our Arts Community

Increase the involvement of the arts community in the design of the physical environment, and include artistic considerations in local planning and redevelopment initiatives. ^{1414.2}

Policy AC-4.3.2: Role of the Commission on Arts and Humanities

Maintain and strengthen the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities so that it can better serve the public through arts policy coordination, planning, and programming. ^{1414.3}

Policy AC-4.3.3: Collaboration with Historic Preservation Organizations

Encourage non-profit and private arts organizations to work closely with historic preservation organizations to reuse historical buildings, including historic theaters, as cultural centers. ^{1414.4}

Policy AC-4.3.4: Coordination with Other Jurisdictions

Encourage other jurisdictions in the region to help sustain and enhance the cultural facilities located within the city that serve the region as a whole. ^{1414.5}

AC-4.4 Increasing Arts Awareness and Education ¹⁴¹⁵

The arts play a crucial role in improving students' ability to learn and can have a significant effect on a child's overall success in school. Research studies point to strong relationships between arts education and basic cognitive skills used in other core subjects, including reading, writing,



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and math. Experiencing art can be especially beneficial for students from economically disadvantaged neighborhoods and can provide intellectual, personal, and social development benefits. Despite these benefits, arts programs are often the first to go when budgets are cut. ^{1415.1}

The need for arts education is not confined to school children—art is critical at all levels of human development. Ongoing access to the arts—through classes, museum programs, tours, discussions, and other means—can enrich one’s quality of life. Lifelong participation in the arts can create a broader understanding of the world around us and heightened awareness of other cultures and global issues. ^{1415.2}

Policy AC-4.4.1: Arts Education Programs

Build a stronger constituency for the arts in the District through arts education in K-12 schools including attendance at arts performances and art exhibitions, and support of adult art programs for persons of all ages and backgrounds. City resources should be used to help promote the strong and diverse arts programs offered by our public schools. ^{1415.3}

Policy AC-4.4.2: Partnerships with Educational Institutions

Strengthen collaborations among artists, arts organizations, teachers, school administrators and others to expand the resources of the arts community and broaden the reach of arts and culture. ^{1415.4}

Policy AC-4.4.3: Arts Awareness for Special Populations Groups

Provide accessible arts information resources to non-English speaking residents, seniors, and visually and hearing impaired populations. ^{1415.5}

Policy AC-4.4.4: Participation of Artists

Support and increase the participation of artists in the District’s arts education programs. ^{1415.6}