

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - African American Arts and Cultural District]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish the African American Arts and Cultural District in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood; to require City departments to submit written reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor describing the cultural attributes of the District, and proposing strategies to acknowledge and preserve the cultural legacy of the District; and to establish the African American Arts and Cultural District Community Advisory Committee to advise the City on the same matters; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

The Board of Supervisors has recognized five neighborhoods with distinct cultural heritage as "cultural districts" in San Francisco. Chapter 107 of the Administrative Code outlines the process by which the Board intends to create new cultural districts in the future.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would establish the African American Arts and Cultural District in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood. The ordinance sets forth the geographic boundaries of the neighborhood and describes the neighborhood's rich cultural history, including the contributions of African American residents and businesses to the neighborhood's character.

The ordinance requires several City departments to prepare and submit reports to the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development by July 9, 2019. The reports will assess the assets and needs in the District, and will recommend programs, policies, and funding sources that could benefit the District and preserve its cultural legacy. The ordinance requires six City departments to prepare reports: the Historic Preservation Commission, the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, the Arts Commission, the Department of Public Works, the Planning Department, and the Human Rights Commission. After these reports are complete, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development will prepare a Culture, History, Housing, and Economic Sustainability Strategy Report (CHHESS Report). The CHHESS Report will include a demographic and economic profile of the District, including past, current, and future trends; analyze and record the District's cultural heritage; identify areas of concern that could inhibit the preservation of the District's unique culture; and propose legislative, economic, and other solutions and strategies to support the District. By October 8, 2019, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development will submit the report to the Board of Supervisors for the Board's consideration and possible approval. The Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development will prepare additional progress reports every three years thereafter.

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The ordinance also establishes the African American Arts and Cultural District Community Advisory Committee, a seven-member advisory body with members nominated by the District 10 Supervisor and appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Committee will advise the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, and the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development regarding strategies to support and preserve the culture and heritage of the African American Arts and Cultural District, and will provide input to City departments in the preparation of the reports described above.

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