**Designation Program Application**

*Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment (OE3)\**

*State-Designated Cultural Districts*

*(\*formerly OMEE)*

**Directions:** Complete this program application and submit as part of your application to the 2025 State-Designated Cultural District Designation Opportunity. Detailed information on the program and submission requirements can be found in the Notice of Designation Opportunity (NODO). Each applicant must submit a project narrative containing the elements described below. **Attach any additional requested documentation along with this application document via the Smartsheet Cultural Districts Designation Submission Form hyperlinked** [**here**](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/fb49ceb92af9474292ec42fcffbd8c6d)**.**

**Legal Name of Primary Applicant:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Legal Name(s) of co-applicants, if any:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Are you or any of your co-applicants current recipients of a DCEO grant or award?**

Yes

No

**If yes, please provide the legal name of the awardee and the name of the DCEO grant or award.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Name of Proposed District:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

Section 1: Project Narrative

1. *Please use the space below to provide the following information about the geographic area in which you a seeking a proposed Cultural District Designation.*

1. **Provide a detailed description of the geographic boundaries of your proposed Cultural District and upload a map outlining your proposed Cultural District via the File Upload Option of the Smartsheet Form.**

* The map you upload must have the boundaries of your proposed Cultural District clearly highlighted and it must depict the street names, body of water, etc. that will serve as the boundaries of your proposed Cultural District. Name this map “A1 Map of Cultural District”

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **In which Region will your proposed Cultural District be located? Refer to the Regional Map on page 10 of the NODO so you can select the correct region.** *(Note: Regions marked with an asterisk (\*) will have priority for this designation opportunity.)*

Central Region

East Central Region

North Central Region\*

Northern Stateline Region\*

Northeast Region

Northwest Region\*

Southeast Region\*

Southern Region\*

Southwest Region\*

West Central Region\*

1. **Provide a summary of the characteristics of a distinct, historic, and cultural identity of the geographic area of your proposed Cultural District.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Provide a detailed statement of need describing the risk of losing the proposed Cultural District’s cultural identity due to gentrification, displacement, or the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Provide a detailed statement demonstrating property value increases, job loss, population loss, business loss, organizational loss, and/or negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in your proposed Cultural District. Include data to support your statement.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Provide a detailed statement of the historic economic disinvestment in your proposed Cultural District. Include supporting data that outlines the impact of inequities from a lack of resources and investment.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Provide a detailed statement of how you intend to execute your plans to increase cultural programing, economic development, tourism, and growth without displacement of current residents in your proposed Cultural District.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Provide a detailed statement demonstrating you have the organizational capacity to carry out plans, apply for and manage grants, and dedicate personnel to the Cultural District. Include any experience you or your staff have in successfully applying for and managing state, local, private, or federal grants.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Provide evidence of strong community support for the designation though active and formal participation by local diverse stakeholders.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **If applicable, provide development plans that include and prioritize the preservation of local businesses and retention of existing residents and businesses.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **If applicable, provide evidence that the community has an education framework in place informed with a vision of food justice, social justice, community sustainability, and social equity.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Provide an assessment of the status, scope, and usefulness of existing local and regional plans (current or expired), and whether they will be utilized as part of this designation opportunity.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Provide a detailed assessment of COVID-19’s impact on the proposed district, and projects that can help mitigate adverse effects.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Are there any local, state or federally recognized zones local, state or federally recognized zones that already cover the proposed district, including but not limited to Opportunity Zones, Qualified Census Tracts, R3 zones, Environmental Justice Communities, and EDGE Underserved areas. Explain below.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Detail whether you have plans for future projects and where the funding will come from. Do you have access or plans to access resources and/or funding outside of budgetary line items appropriated for the State-Designated Cultural Districts program?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Upload letters of support (LOS) from organizations, elected officials, and other stakeholders.**

* Your letters of support should be current (dated within the last 3 months) from organizations, elected officials, and other stakeholders in support of the proposed District and speak to your ability to run a successful State Designated Cultural District.
* In the text box below, list each letter of support submitted via the File Upload Option of the Smartsheet Form.
* Combine all letters of support into one (1) document and name the document “A16 Letters of Support”
* **Do NOT leave the text box blank, do NOT type “See attached”.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **If available at the time of application, provide a list of any consultants or contractors who may assist with the development or execution of your Cultural District. Upload copies of any executed contracts via the File Upload Option of the Smartsheet form.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Provide an estimated timeline of all future activities that will be planned to develop the Cultural District** Click or tap here to enter text.

| Brief Description of Future Activities | Estimated Timeline |
| --- | --- |
| **Task 1.** Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Task 2.** Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Task 3.** Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Task 4.** Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Task 5.** Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Task 6.** Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Task 7.** Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Task 8.** Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

Section 2: Applicant Certification

Under penalty of perjury, I certify that I have examined this application and the document(s), schedule(s), and statement(s) submitted in conjunction herewith, and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information submitted herewith is true, correct, and complete. I represent that I am the person authorized to submit this application on behalf of the applicant and that I am authorized to execute a legally binding grant agreement on behalf of the applicant if this application is approved for funding.

I hereby release to DCEO the rights to and use of photographs and/or any written statements or information, regardless of format (whether they are direct quotes or paraphrased by DCEO), contained in or provided after the grant application for the purpose of publication on DCEO's website.  I hereby also release any and all claims against DCEO, its officers, agents, employees and/or affiliates arising out of, or in connection with, the usage of photographs and/or written statements or information, regardless of format (whether they are direct quotes or paraphrased by DCEO), for the purpose of publication on DCEO's website.

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**Authorized Signature**

*\*Wet signature required. Digital signatures are* ***NOT*** *accepted.*

**Printed Name and Title:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Date:** Click or tap here to enter text.

The applicant should read and understand the certification statement provided in this section.

**The individual who signs this section should be the individual that is authorized to sign the designation agreement if grant funds are awarded through a NOFO opportunity in the future.** The authorized individual should sign their name, print their name and title and date of certification. *\*Digital signatures are* ***NOT*** *accepted.*

Please note the certification authorizes DCEO to publish a copy of the completed application on DCEO’s website, as specified above.