

Resolution No.: 20-1076  
Introduced: March 10, 2026  
Adopted: March 24, 2026

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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Lead Sponsor: Council President Fani-González

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**SUBJECT:** Support for Montgomery County’s Application for Redesignation of the Wheaton Arts and Entertainment District

**Background**

1. The State of Maryland, through the Maryland Department of Commerce, administers the Arts and Entertainment Districts Program, which authorizes the designation and redesignation of Arts and Entertainment Districts to promote cultural activity, community involvement, tourism, economic revitalization, and neighborhood pride.
2. Each arts and entertainment district must be designated in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 4-704 of the Economic Development Article of the Maryland Code and the regulations required to be adopted under Section 4-707 of the Economic Development Article of the Maryland Code.
3. Section 4-703 of the Economic Development Article of the Maryland Code provides that a political subdivision of the State may apply to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce for the designation of an arts and entertainment district within that political subdivision.
4. The Wheaton Arts and Entertainment District, whose designation is set to expire at the end of the current fiscal year, was originally designated by the State of Maryland in 2006 and is managed by Montgomery County as part of the Wheaton Urban District.
5. Section 24.05.26.08 of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) provides that a political subdivision may apply for the redesignation of all or a portion of the designated district before the end of the 10-year designation period.
6. In order to retain arts and entertainment district status after the current designation expires Montgomery County must, therefore, apply for redesignation.
7. Montgomery County intends to apply to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce for redesignation of the Wheaton Arts and Entertainment District.

8. The application to the Secretary must include, among other things, evidence that the political subdivision held a public hearing about the application with adequate notice and publicity, and a written expression of the sentiment of the local elected governing body regarding the filing of the application for the redesignation, which may be in the form of a resolution.
9. A public hearing regarding the proposed redesignation of the Wheaton Arts and Entertainment District will be held on March 24, 2026, following appropriate public notice.

**Action**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, supports the County Executive's application to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce for redesignation of the Wheaton Arts and Entertainment District and affirms the County's continued commitment to supporting arts, cultural activity, creative enterprises and community vitality within the Wheaton area.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



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Sara R. Tenenbaum  
Clerk of the Council