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Approved as to Form and Legality

~~DRAFT~~  
City Attorney's Office

# OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

**Resolution Designating The 14th Street Corridor From Oak Street To Frontage Road As The "Black Business And Arts District" To Highlight, Celebrate, Preserve And Support The Contributions Of Oakland's Black Artists And Business Owners And The Corridor As A Place Central Both Historically And Currently To Oakland's Black Artists And Black Owned Businesses**

**WHEREAS**, the black community occupies a central place in Oakland's cultural, economic, social and political development and as such their historical and continuing achievements deserve official recognition as vital and meaningful contributions to the evolving fabric of Oakland's society; and

**WHEREAS**, the black community is inclusive of multiple distinct communities of color including but not limited to African Americans, Afro-Caribbeans, and Africans; and

**WHEREAS**, there exists a congregation both historical and contemporary of black owned businesses and artistic or cultural spaces focused on black expression in the 14<sup>th</sup> Street corridor on or within one block of 14<sup>th</sup> Street from Lake Merritt to I-580 defined as from Oak Street to Frontage Road; and

**WHEREAS**, a congregation of black owned businesses and artistic or cultural spaces focused on black expression exists in the 14th Street corridor currently and includes but is not limited to Joyce Gordon's gallery, Geoffrey's Inner Circle Club, the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, Uncle Willie's BBQ, Black Arts Movement co-founder Marvin X's Academy of da Corner, and the Betti Ono Gallery; and

**WHEREAS**, named buildings and public art in the 14th Street corridor exemplify the historical legacy of the black community in Oakland including but not limited to the African American Museum and Library, the C.L. Dellums Apartments, the Elihu M. Harris State Office Building, the Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building and Courthouse, and the bust of John B. Williams; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to promote and celebrate the enduring significance of these contributions by black leaders through the designation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Street corridor

as the Black Business and Arts District and through its official recognition by the City of Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, this designation will impact all of Oakland by supporting a critical mass of arts and entertainment establishments which are essential to nurture and retain all residents including the creative workforce essential to recruiting and retaining employers in the modern economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the inclusion of the Black Business and Arts District into the downtown specific plan which currently seeks policy guidance on cultural arts and social equity functions as creative place-making to intentionally shape the physical and social character of the 14<sup>th</sup> Street corridor in order to animate the public space, rejuvenate the streetscape, improve local business viability, improve public safety, and bring diverse people together to inspire and be inspired by the legacies and contemporary manifestations of black owned businesses and arts rooted in the black cultural experience; and

**WHEREAS**, research finds that creative place-making as proposed through the Black Business and Arts District that builds on the unique historical legacy of a place makes significant contributions to economic development, livability and the competitiveness of the area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Black Business and Arts District seeks to support a healthy and flourishing arts community which federally funded research has identified of as a driver of greater civic engagement and community involvement which are in turn determinants of improved public health; and

**WHEREAS**, this designation prepares the City to seek state resources to invest into the area by applying for state designation and funding through the competitive grant process established by California AB 189 which will be administered through the California Arts Council; and

**WHEREAS**, this designation aligns with Oakland's existing policy codified in the historic preservation element of Oakland's general plan which states a desire to "preserve, protect, enhance, perpetuate, and prevent the unnecessary destruction or impairment of properties or physical features of special character or special historic, cultural, educational, architectural or aesthetic interest or value"; and

**WHEREAS**, the designation of the Black Business and Arts District is captured by historic preservation element of Oakland's general plan as an activity which is defined as "a store, business, institution or other ongoing land use typically characterized by distinctive or unusual merchandise, materials, or manner of operation or by special historical or cultural associations"; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland hereby designates the 14<sup>th</sup> Street corridor on or within one block of 14<sup>th</sup> Street from Oak Street to Frontage Road as the "Black Business and Arts District" to highlight, celebrate, preserve and support the contributions of Oakland's black artists and business owners and the corridor as a place

central both historically and currently to Oakland's black artists and black owned businesses; and be it further

~~RESOLVED:~~ That the ~~City Administrator and his or her designee is hereby~~ authorized to take action with respect to this designation consistent with this Resolution and its basic purposes.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL-WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLÉN, KALB, KAPLAN, REID  
AND PRESIDENT GIBSON MCELHANEY

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of  
the City of Oakland, California