

NEBRASKA CULTURAL DISTRICTS

What do Cultural Districts do?

- Attract artists & cultural enterprises to the community
- Encourage business & job development
- Address specific community needs
- Establish tourism destinations
- Preserve & reuse historic buildings
- Foster local cultural development
- Enhance property values

What is a Cultural District?

The intent of establishing cultural districts as authorized by the Nebraska Legislature in 2020, is to designate special zones in communities and neighborhoods that harness the power of cultural resources to stimulate economic development and community revitalization.

It's a three step process that is self-directed by a coalition of nonprofit cultural institutions, merchants, local government and area residents that includes a letter of intent phase where the coalition achieves a list of criteria; a strategic planning phase and the designation phase, which will include a grant that the cultural district can spend for whatever purpose that was prioritized during the strategic planning process.

Why is LB264 important?

The 2020 legislation designated the creation of Support the Arts license plates with the proceeds going to cultural districts. Unfortunately, license plate sales will not be enough to provide meaningful financial support to assist cultural districts with their needs.

Based on research with other states that have cultural district programs, the Nebraska Arts Council would like to award up to ten cultural district designations annually with a \$10,000 grant.

LB264 will provide an additional \$100,000 to the Nebraska Arts Council budget exclusively for Cultural District grants.

If LB264 is not successful, the Arts Council will be able to approve cultural district designations, but it is estimated that grant awards will be less than \$500 for each district.



Student-designed basketball courts, Overton



S. 24th Street , Omaha

What are examples of items that Cultural Districts can use with their grants?

The grant can be used for a variety of items including a professional marketing campaign, special signage, physical district enhancements, public art, commissioning a history of the area, development of fairs, festivals or farmer's markets.

The grants are non-matching, and can be used as incentives to raise additional funds if desired.