George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

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October 30, 2023

Mass Cultural Council
10 St James Ave #302
Boston, MA 02116

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Watertown Square Cultural District – Letter of Support

On behalf of the City Manager's Office for the City of Watertown, please accept this letter of support for the designation of the Watertown Square Cultural District as proposed by the 20 organizations and individuals who comprise the Watertown Square Cultural District Partnership.

Watertown has a long and storied history, back to the first people who lived here through to today's support of arts and culture. Watertown boasts a premiere regional arts center, the Mosesian Center for the Arts, as well as world class institutions like Mount Auburn Cemetery, Perkins School for the Blind, and the Armenian Museum of America. In the 2010s, the arts found a champion with the original Watertown Public Arts & Culture Committee, who produced several public murals and pushed the city to create and adopt a Public Arts Master Plan (2021). The Public Arts Master Plan provided the framework for the new Public Arts & Culture Committee and a Public Arts & Culture Planner who is embedded in Watertown's Department of Community Development & Planning.

A Cultural District builds upon past successes and a groundswell of support for the arts. The location of the Cultural District also aligns with broad city goals to enhance walkability and economic development throughout Watertown Square. The timing could not be better as Watertown continues its legacy of support for arts and culture.

Sincerely,

George Proakis
City Manager