

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN AREA  
WITHIN THE CITY OF SYRACUSE TO BE  
DESIGNATED THE CITY OF SYRACUSE  
CULTURAL DISTRICT AND TO CREATE  
THE CITY OF SYRACUSE CULTURAL  
DISTRICT COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Common Council recognize the value of arts and cultural activities as an important aspect of the quality of life in the City of Syracuse and a valuable asset which should be recognized in terms of encouraging tourism and fostering economic growth; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a high concentration of cultural facilities within the City's central business district which should be promoted by the City in conjunction with the economic activity in the central business district; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Common Council recognize the need for a Cultural District Commission to bring attention to the valuable arts and cultural facilities and to help educate the citizens of the City, County and the Central New York region to the currently existing activities and facilities and the potential for new arts and cultural activities and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Committee has committed to assist the Cultural District Commission including providing office space and staff support; NOW,  
THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED, that this Common Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor, designates the same area of the City of Syracuse as designated by Section 1 of

Chapter 38 of the Revised General Ordinances as the Downtown Special Assessment District; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that to effectuate the goals set forth hereinabove for the City of Syracuse Cultural District there is hereby established in and for the City of Syracuse the Cultural District Commission hereinafter sometimes referred to as the Commission as follows:

A. Composition and/or Selection

The Commission shall consist of seven members:

Three members appointed by the Mayor, three members appointed by the Onondaga County Executive and one member appointed by the Common Council from a list of two or more persons recommended by the Onondaga County Cultural Resources Council.

Said members shall serve for three-year terms, except that of the members initially appointed following the adoption of this Ordinance, two of the members appointed by the Mayor, two of the members appointed by the Onondaga County Executive and the member appointed by the Common Council shall be appointed for a two-year term and one of the members appointed by the Mayor and one of the members appointed by the Onondaga County Executive shall be appointed for a one-year term. The Mayor and Onondaga County Executive shall make appointments to fill vacancies in their respective individual appointments and a vacancy in the position appointed by the Common Council shall be appointed by the Common Council from a list of two or more persons recommended by the Onondaga County Cultural Resources Council. A Chairperson shall be initially designated by the Mayor for a one-year term and thereafter such Chairperson shall be elected by the members of the Commission for a term of two years.

Members of the Cultural District Commission shall serve without compensation.

B. Meetings

The Cultural District Commission shall hold at least four meetings annually on a quarterly basis and such additional meetings as may be necessary to carry out the Commission's responsibilities.

C. Powers and Duties

The Cultural District Commission shall:

1. Make recommendations to the Mayor and the Common Council and the Onondaga County Executive and the Onondaga County Legislature and other public and private agencies relative to arts and cultural matters and make recommendations on sponsorship of programs and activities which could enhance arts and culture and economic development of the Cultural District;
2. Make recommendations to the Mayor and the Common Council and the Onondaga County Executive and the Onondaga County Legislature on the establishment and/or improvement of a wayfinding system for the Cultural District in conformance with the City's Comprehensive Plan;
3. Conduct research and surveys for the purpose of creating an information database relative to economic development and the arts and cultural activities in the District;
4. Identify with the assistance of appropriate City and County departments opportunities for funding of the Commission and arts and cultural activities.

D. Assistance

The Downtown Committee of Syracuse, Inc. will assist the Cultural District Commission in the performance of its duties including the provision of office space and support staff and the Downtown Committee of Syracuse, Inc. and shall transmit to the City Clerk documentation of this commitment including required approvals, if any, necessary to effectuate the assistance provided for herein.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

Common Council Approval: September 8, 2003 – (unanimous) 8-0 with one councilor, Steve DeRegis, absent  
 Approved and signed by the Mayor: September 11, 2003

Councilors in office at the time of the vote:

At Large:	District:
Van B. Robinson (sponsor)	Steven DeRegis – 1 <sup>st</sup> District
Katharine O'Connell	Martin D. Masterpole – 2 <sup>nd</sup> District
Joanne Mahoney	Rory A. McMahan – 3 <sup>rd</sup> District
Stephanie Miner	Michael J. Atkins – 4 <sup>th</sup> District
	William J. Simmons – 5 <sup>th</sup> District