

ORDINANCE NO. 254-2025(COTW), *Second Reading*

By All City Councilmembers and Mayor Cuda

An Ordinance amending Chapter 142 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, "Arts Commission" and repealing its prior inconsistent provisions.

WHEREAS, City Council has authority under the Charter and Codified Ordinances to appoint members to many boards, commissions and committees; and

WHEREAS, the current Chapter 142 vests appointment power for the members of the Arts Commission solely with the Mayor which is inconsistent with most other boards, commissions and committees existing under the Codified Ordinances in Cleveland Heights; and

WHEREAS, assigning some appointment powers to City Council would improve consistency, accountability, and transparency in appointments to boards, commissions, and committees.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. Chapter 142 of the Codified Ordinances is hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. Current Chapter 142 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights as it existed prior to the effective date of this Ordinance shall be, and is hereby, repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of the Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements.

SECTION 4. Notice of the passage of this Ordinance shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights, or by posting the full text of this Ordinance to the City of Cleveland Heights website.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time permitted by law.



GAIL L. LARSON
President of Council

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ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED: December 15, 2025

Presented to Mayor: 12/17/2025 Approved: 12/17/2025



TONY CUDAS
Mayor

EXHIBIT A

142.01 ESTABLISHMENT, COMPOSITION, TERM, REMOVAL, AND VACANCY.

- (a) There is hereby established in the City an Arts Commission.
- (b) The Commission shall consist of not less than seven (7) nor more than eleven (11) members, three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor and the remainder by Council, all subject to confirmation by a majority of Council, none of whom shall hold other municipal office or employment with the City.
- (c) Members of the Commission shall be residents of the City of Cleveland Heights, appointed on the basis of training and experience in the arts, including but not limited to presenting, producing, funding, managing, advocating, and promoting arts creation. As much as is practicable, members should represent the diversity of arts disciplines as they exist in the community.
- (d) The Mayor and Council shall seek to appoint to the Arts Commission members whose education, training, work or profession, or other volunteer or life experiences will enable them to make meaningful contributions to the work of the Commission. Further, in making appointments to the Commission, the Mayor and Council shall make a good faith effort to ensure that the Commission is broadly reflective of the diversity of the City, taking into account considerations including but not limited to diversity of race, ethnicity, age, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, economic status, and geography of residence.
- (e) The initially appointed members of the Commission shall serve for a term expiring on the last day of December 2027, and subsequent appointments shall be for three (3) year terms.
- (f) Vacancies on the Arts Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments are made (i.e., by Mayor or Council).

142.02 PURPOSE, DUTIES.

- (a) The purpose of the Cleveland Heights Arts Commission is to act in an advisory capacity to the Council and the Mayor related to arts policies, programs, and projects in order to help facilitate improved funding, creation, and enjoyment of the arts in the City.
- (b) To fulfill the above purpose, the Commission shall provide recommendations to the Mayor and Council for public art projects and arts programming; and shall provide legislative and budgetary recommendations to the Mayor and the Council in support of the arts in the City.

142.03 COMPENSATION.

- (a) No compensation shall be paid to any member of the Arts Commission for services performed on this Commission.

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142.04 ORGANIZATION, MEETINGS, OFFICERS.

- (a) The Commission shall hold an organizational meeting annually in January to determine a schedule of regular meetings and to select officers.
- (b) The members of the Commission shall choose one member to serve as Chairperson for a period of one (1) year or until a successor has been chosen. The Chairperson shall preside over meetings of the Commission. In the absence of the Chairperson, a temporary Chairperson shall be elected by those present to preside over the specific meeting during which the temporary Chairperson was elected.
- (c) The members of the Commission shall choose one member to serve as Secretary for a period of one (1) year or until a successor has been chosen. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept a record of the meetings and actions of the Commission. The Secretary shall also provide notice or cause notice to be provided for public meetings of the Commission.