

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SOLIS

April 1, 2025

Proclaiming April as Arts Month and Recognition of the Grand Avenue Cultural District

The arts play a vital role in shaping vibrant, thriving communities. They inspire creativity, foster dialogue, and reflect the rich diversity of society, making culture a cornerstone of urban development and social cohesion. Cultural districts, in particular, serve as powerful catalysts for economic growth, community engagement, and the cultivation of a shared sense of identity. Through organizational partnership and by concentrating artistic and cultural resources in a defined area, these districts create environments where creativity can flourish, providing spaces for both residents and visitors to engage with art in its many forms. In doing so, cultural districts not only enrich the cultural fabric of a city but also stimulate local economies, drive tourism, offer a source of civic pride and serve as platforms for social equity. The creation of a cultural district in Los Angeles—particularly along Grand Avenue—holds the potential to anchor Downtown Los Angeles as a global arts destination, fostering an inclusive, accessible space for all Angelenos to experience the transformative power of the arts.

The Grand Avenue Cultural District (GACD) represents a transformative initiative that seeks to redefine Downtown Los Angeles as a dynamic global center for the arts. Spearheaded by The Music Center in collaboration with key cultural institutions along

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Grand Avenue, the district aims to foster economic revitalization, increase public participation in the arts, and provide accessible, inclusive cultural experiences for people from all walks of life. In addition to its immediate impact on the local community, GACD also looks to position Los Angeles County as a global leader in arts and culture, particularly as the city prepares to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

This project is founded on the belief that we are stronger together and that organizational collaboration will increase accessibility and heighten the GACD partners' collective service to the public. By establishing a formalized cultural district, GACD aims to create an environment where collaboration, innovation, and community engagement thrive. The GACD is also grounded in the belief that the arts have the power to enrich communities and drive social and economic change. Drawing inspiration from successful models like the Dallas Arts District, GACD is designed to bring together leading cultural institutions, local businesses, and civic partners to build a sustainable, inclusive ecosystem that will serve as a beacon for arts and culture, both locally and internationally.

With the support and/or confirmed participation of The Broad, MOCA, Grand Performances, Colburn School, LA Phil, Center Theatre Group, LA Opera, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Gloria Molina Grand Park, Our Lady of Angeles Cathedral, Grand Ave Arts High School, REDCAT, The Library Foundation, L.A. Central Library, DTLA

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Alliance, L.A. City, Metro and The Broad Foundation, GACD has already demonstrated its potential through events like *Grand Ave Arts: All Access*, which annually brings together thousands of attendees and showcases the diverse cultural offerings of this area. As it continues to grow, GACD will focus on expanding its partnerships and increasing accessibility to ensure that the arts are a central part of everyday life for Angelenos.

At this pivotal moment, GACD is poised to move into its next phase, with the hiring of an Executive Director to lead the district's development and the establishment of a formal governance structure. Recognition from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will not only solidify the district's status as a cultural hub, but will also help to attract further solidarity, investment, resources, and global attention, ensuring that Downtown Los Angeles remains at the forefront of cultural innovation in the years to come.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim April 2025 as Arts Month in Los Angeles County, to celebrate and raise awareness of the vital role the arts play in the county's cultural identity, economic vitality, and community cohesion.
2. Officially recognize the Grand Avenue Cultural District (GACD) as a critical cultural and economic asset to Los Angeles County. This recognition will underscore GACD's role in enhancing the county's arts landscape and will

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provide a foundation for its continued growth, establishing GACD as a cornerstone for cultural innovation and economic development in Downtown Los Angeles.

3. Request that The Music Center, in collaboration with major stakeholders of GACD, engage with cultural institutions beyond Grand Avenue, including but not limited to LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, the Japanese American Museum, and the Chinese American Museum. These partnerships will strengthen cultural ties across Los Angeles County and facilitate cross-cultural dialogue, promoting inclusivity and a deeper connection between the arts community and the diverse populations of the County.
4. Request that, once officially established as a non-profit organization, GACD ensures that its board is diverse and representative of the communities it serves, with a commitment to including members from a broad range of cultural, racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. This diversity will reflect the values of Los Angeles County's Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative (CEII).

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