Downtown Lynn Cultural District

Est. 2012 / Renewed 2017

Downtown Lynn continues to grow as a vibrant, arts-rich community. Due to momentum built by various cultural partners over the years, the area has begun a transformation, enticing visitors from the Greater Boston area as well as Lynn residents. Events and other offerings that are free and have no barriers for entry or participation are vital to neighborhood placemaking efforts and carry out the Downtown Lynn Cultural District’s mission of making art and culture accessible to all.

To date, the DTLCD has renewed its cultural district status, expanded its cultural footprint exponentially and created an incomparable cohort of partnerships and collaborations. We have established and launched the City’s Public Arts Commission, seeded and incubated programs such as Rock the Block, Third Thursdays, Creator Conversations, Music in the Farmer’s Market and Clock to the Rock 5K, and we’ve expanded on programming such as citywide Open Studios, historic trolley tours and local Trails+Sails events. We offer granting opportunities to expand our cultural reach through local organizations and in different areas of the city. We also recognize the importance of preserving our historic community assets, such as the G.A.R. Hall & Museum, and have advocated for their resurgence for future generations, directly contributing to revivification efforts. The DTLCD became the official Community Catalyst for Lynn’s inaugural participation in the statewide initiative, ‘ArtWeek’, and one of only six communities across the Commonwealth to be named a Cultural Compact City, in partnership with the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Lynn Cultural Council and the City of Lynn-Mayor’s Office, to pursue a shared and inclusive vision of the importance of our local cultural sector within our city.

Our current ‘city hALL’ initiative was created in partnership with our municipality and our residents with the intention of giving our community a presence and a voice in their civic building and educating visitors on Lynn’s history while celebrating our diversity. We are also establishing partnerships with the Lynn Public Schools to implement curriculum geared towards educating and celebrating our local students' cultural heritage, creating a path for our next generation to feel celebrated and empowered, and in turn, continuing our City’s welcoming legacy of praise for our vibrant and industrious people.

The DTLCD strives to promote local economic activity and contribute to a positive perception of Downtown, marketing it as a unique urban environment with arts and culture at its core. We act as a connector and unifier providing resources and collaborative opportunities, and we are earning a seat at the table when it comes to the creation of statewide initiatives more often now than ever.

Our efforts have shifted slightly over the years to encompass more advocacy for policy change and creative community placemaking opportunities, but nothing will deter us from making our mission for and about our community. For, without our community, a Cultural District would not exist.

It is our honor to be able to promote our hometown of Lynn, MA to areas across the region and to spread the message that when you come to Downtown Lynn, ‘you won’t go out the way you came in.’