



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

February 27, 2020

Re: Statement of support and commitment to the establishment of the East Somerville Cultural District

To the Massachusetts Cultural Council,

I am writing in support of the application submitted by East Somerville Main Streets for the establishment of the East Somerville Cultural District.

The establishment of the East Somerville Cultural District aligns with our goal to continue to make Somerville a great place to live, work, play and raise a family. Annual events like Carnival, which brings thousands of people to celebrate our city's rich cultural heritage in June, and the East Somerville Foodie Crawl, a walking tour featuring delicious bites from around the world, are an essential part of our city's character as well as an opportunity to showcase and support the local business and artist communities. East Somerville has the city's highest concentration of immigrant residents, and creating a cultural district in the neighborhood will celebrate and honor the many contributions immigrants have made to Somerville. The establishment of the city's first cultural district in East Somerville will also bolster our efforts to preserve the unique strengths of East Somerville and help us overcome its obstacles.

Through our partnership with East Somerville Main Streets and with an investment by the Cultural District initiative, we will be able to continue to ensure that a well-respected and diverse group of community partners increase programming and bring residents and community stakeholders out into our parks and streets while also creating opportunities for social interaction, physical activity, and community building.

The City of Somerville celebrates all opportunities to build upon our unique and diverse character through innovative approaches to art and design. East Somerville is a center for job creation and dynamic street life. We stand committed to promoting East Somerville as a destination and hope that you support this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Curtatone
Mayor

