

Print**Town Charter Revision Commission - Town Administration, Staff, Board/Commission Chairs - Submission #324****Date Submitted: 4/25/2024****First Name***

Robert

Last Name*

Firger

Town Department or Board/Commission*

Bloomfield

Email Address*

threedogs60@comcast.net

The following questions are optional:**Are you a resident of Bloomfield?**☒ Yes☐ No**Proposed Recommendation to the Town Charter**

The Bloomfield Town Charter is available

at: https://library.municode.com/ct/bloomfield/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH**What section number of the Charter does your change affect?***

Art I Sec 15-6 to 16 - (open secs.)

Proposed Recommendation *

That the Charter adopt and reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Bloomfield to endorse support and financially underwrite the active implementation of art projects, exhibits, displays, events, festivals, shows and other arts related activities as both an economic engine for development and a quality of life enhancement to the community.

Brief description of the issue addressed by the proposed change:*

The arts have been well established by national studies, reports and surveys to provide economic, development and quality of life enhancements to communities. Bloomfield should adopt necessary zoning, land use and development regulations to implement a required commitment to the Arts by all future real estate and business developers.

Impact of Proposed Change**What benefits will be realized by the citizens and/or government of Bloomfield?***

Bloomfield is at the start...or perhaps the first in a long time... of an economic expansion and development phase. The many aspects of making the Town more attractive, competitive economically and improving the quality of life include the contributions and influence of arts and cultural works, events and celebrations. It is well documented, with metrics, that art contributes significantly to both that quality of life and its co-operating economic expansion. "The Arts Are Good For Business."

Bloomfield has established a Commission on the Arts and it is now fully operational and functioning with planned arts events and works on its agenda. It is currently proposed to further implement and support those initiatives that Bloomfield adopt a "Percent for the Arts" ordinance, which would mandate a required financial contribution to the further development of arts in the Town, by real estate developers, builders and companies undertaking construction and renovations, based upon economic and financial factors to be determined. The details of this proposed ordinance and arts contribution requirements will be developed and coordinated with Town planning and governance bodies.

What potential impacts may be associated with the proposal change?*

It has been established that communities with Arts mandates (numbering in excess of 22 in Connecticut alone) see a significant multiplier effect of the expenditures allocated, being returned in measurable economic results. The effect of arts in a community (up to a 5-6X multiplier) exceeds that of sporting events.

Can you provide data to assist in validating the impact of the proposed change?

Yes Abundant studies and model ordinances available

Describe any obstacles, costs, or cost savings associated with the proposed change, if any?

There will be minor administrative allocations by the Town; but the effect of the mandate will be to levy a defined fee, (usually 1% of their proposed development budgets) on real estate and business projects