



City of Edmonds Media Release

Economic Development ~ 121 5th Avenue North, Edmonds

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Community Meeting Scheduled June 7th for Creative District Application

City Engages Public to Ready Itself for State Application

(Edmonds, WA) - During last year's session the State Legislature created a program that will designate select communities in the State as "Creative Districts" in recognition of compact, walkable districts containing a rich mix of businesses, nonprofits, venues, programs and activities within the "creative sector." Going far beyond traditional arts and culture activities and venues, the creative sector can include creative technology, printing shops, florists, restaurants, breweries, coffee shops, distilleries, travel companies, etc.

In addition to the existing concentration of such creative-sector establishments and activities in Downtown Edmonds, other key accomplishments in recent years will help qualify Edmonds for this designation, including the Community Cultural Plan, the Fourth Avenue Cultural Corridor plan, and the Economic Impact Study of the Arts and Culture Sector, among other things.

"As one can see, Downtown Edmonds seems to be a prime candidate for this new Creative District designation," stated Economic Development and Community Services Director Patrick Doherty. "Yet there is more to the application process than merely recognizing our existing

assets and accomplishments. We must also develop a five-year plan to take the community even further in its creative sector endeavors, as well as grow the economic activity associated with this sector.” For this reason, the City has engaged a diverse set of approximately 25 stakeholders, representing a wide array of businesses, nonprofits, venues, activities, and programs. This group will help the City draft the required five-year plan.

And the public is invited to contribute to this planning effort as well. In fact, a Community Meeting is scheduled for 6:00pm, Thursday, June 7, 2018 in the Brackett Room on the third floor of City Hall. Annette Roth, Creative District Program Manager, for ArtsWA, the State agency charged with administering this program, will be in present to offer an overview of the Creative District program and answer questions. Ample time will be provided to solicit input and suggestions from the public in attendance for the five-year plan.

The stakeholder group will meet again in June to synthesize the input received from the community meeting with their ideas and the program requirements to offer their final recommendations to City staff regarding the five-year plan.

City staff intend to submit the Creative District application in July during the existing open application period. Decisions are expected later this year.

Creative District designation could bring to Edmonds additional marketing cachet, attracting both new creative-sector businesses and employees, as well as an additional tourism draw. In the future, grant monies may be available to Creative Districts to help with implementation of their five-year plans.

For questions or more information, please feel free to contact Patrick Doherty at patrick.doherty@edmondswa.gov or 425-771-0251 or Frances Chapin at frances.chapin@edmondswa.gov.

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