

FY 2025 Regional Agency Mitigation Fund Grant Application

Application Instructions:

- All applications <u>must</u> be received by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission by January 31st, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. to be considered for funding for the FY 2025 grant round.
- II. Each Agency may only submit <u>ONE</u> application as a Word Document.
- III. Each project must have its own form within the appropriate category. All attachments should directly follow the relevant project form.
- IV. Be sure to fill in all the information requested on the application. Applications that are left incomplete will not be accepted.
- V. The application must be signed by the agency's CEO or an individual with signatory authority.
- VI. The Regional Agency Grant is broken into three segments. Please only fill out the section relevant to your application.
 - a. Part A Regional Planning
 - b. Part B Regional Public Safety
 - c. Part C Regional Workforce Development
- VII. Submit this completed form as well as any relevant attachments to <u>MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov</u> or as a response to the COMMBUYS BID- BD24-1068-1068C-1068L-95061.

For more detailed instructions as well as the full FY 2025 Application Guidelines visit https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/

Grant Manager Information:

Applicant: Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District

Vendor Code:

Name: Lizeth Gonzalez

Title: Director of Economic Development

Email Address: <u>lgonzalez@srpedd.org</u>

Telephone:

Address: 88 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780

Budget Summary

Use the below space to provide an overview of all projects to be covered by this funding. You may add as many items as is pertinent to your application (you can add rows by right clicking on the row and selecting "add row"). Please provide a category, name, brief description, and amount for each item. Please use the appropriate category below for your agency.

Category	Project Name	Description	Amount
A. Regional Planning	Arts and Culture Tourism Plan	SRPEDD will develop an arts and cultural tourism plan for the Category 2 region including the communities of Attleboro, Foxborough, Mansfield, North Attleboro, Plainville, and Wrentham. The purpose of the Cultural Tourism Plan is to prioritize the creative sector by highlighting and celebrating existing assets in the region and to establish a greater vision for arts and culture in the select communities. This plan considers the activities that currently drive the arts, and identifies opportunities for growth. This plan will inform each of the communities' planning and relationship to the arts, artists, and arts organizations.	233,725
B. Regional Public Safety			
C. Workforce Development			
		Total Request	233,725

I. Are you requesting a waiver for any program requirement?



For full guidelines please see www.massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/application-guidelines/

If yes, you must fill out a CMF Regional Agency Waiver Form. The waiver form can be found as Appendix F to the RFR on COMMBUYS or online at https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/forms/. Applications without a completed waiver form will not be considered for a waiver.

Applicant Certification

On behalf of the aforementioned applicant, I hereby certify that the funds that are requested in this application will be used solely for the purposes articulated in this application.

1/31/2024

Date:

Lizeth Gonzalez

Name and Title of Signatory:

For full guidelines please see www.massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/application-guidelines/

Part A-Regional Planning

Project Name: Arts and Culture Tourism Plan	
Please provide below the contact information for	or the individual managing this aspect of the
grant.	
Project Contact	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name: Lizeth Gonzalez	Name:
Title: Director of Economic Development	Title:
Department: Comprehensive Planning	Department:
Email Address: <u>lgonzalez@srpedd.org</u>	Email Address:
Telephone: 508-824-1367	Telephone:
Address: 88 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780	Address:

 Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your region. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2025 Guidelines relevant to this category. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact and that the issue is regional in nature (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)

Gaming establishments provide both economic benefits and drawbacks to their nearby communities. However, according to the communities surrounding Plainridge Park Casino (PPC), the casino serves as a magnet for patrons that may not otherwise visit the region. PPC arguably puts other competing local businesses at an advantage by attracting visitors and encouraging local spending. According to research undertaken by the Gaming Commission, the operation of PPC generated approximately \$176 -\$186 million annually, largely from Massachusetts residents who would have otherwise gambled out-of-state. Most of this revenue stayed in Massachusetts, resulting in 2,417 net new jobs, \$143.7 million in personal income, and \$362.4 million in economic activity. The nearby Category 2 Communities seek to harness the economic power of the Casino and build on existing marketing efforts in Plainville, Wrentham, and Foxboro. These communities are highlighting attractions, such as Gillette Stadium, Patriot Place, the Wrentham Outlets, as well as local shopping and dining, that will enhance the economic ecosystem bolstered by the Plainridge Park Casino.

II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.

SRPEDD, in collaboration with municipalities within the Category 2 region, would pursue an Arts and Culture Plan to highlight, celebrate, build upon, and enhance the current offerings around the main street, downtown, and cultural attractions in the region to harness and expand the positive economic impacts within and around the Category 2 region. Given historical efforts in Plainville, Wrentham, and Foxboro to build on the success of PPC, the Arts and Culture Tourism project considers the positive impacts of PPC and gives visitors additional reasons to explore and experience all nearby communities. In forging new partnerships across the Category 2 communities, this project prioritizes the creative sector by highlighting and celebrating existing assets in the region. Furthermore, it will establish a greater vision for arts and culture by considering the activities that currently drive the arts and identifies a future with

For full guidelines please see <u>www.massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/application-guidelines/</u>

opportunities for growth. Local government plays a critical part in enabling the creative ecosystem and all the economic benefits that come with it. As such, this plan is also designed to inform each of the communities' planning and relationship to the arts, artists, and arts organizations. Through this project, the communities in the Category 2 Region will affect positive growth as a result of PPC by crafting an arts and culture plan that highlights and celebrates the reasons for which visitors and residents should patron local attractions and amenities, while identifying opportunities to expand the nexus of arts and culture offerings in the region. This expansion would include exploring opportunities not limited to placemaking innovations; town-wide strategies to encourage local business growth; highlighting market opportunities that can build from the current success of locations such as Patriot Place, PPC, and the Wrentham Outlets; and potential areas for economic diversification. By providing a comprehensive inventory of current arts and culture assets in town and a roadmap for future expansion, there is a healthy opportunity to build from the work already being done by PPC and others to recognize the potential of the communities in Category 2.

Proposed MGC Grant Budget

Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.

0			
Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
Project Development and Administration	June 2024 – June 2026		42,000
Data Collection	June 2024 – June 2026		25,300
Mapping, Visualizations	June 2024 – June 2026		40,800
Cultural Planning Vision, Goals, and Implementation	June 2024 – June 2026		49,725
Public Engagement	June 2024 – June 2026		62,900
Direct Costs	June 2024 – June 2026		13,000
	TOTAL:		233,725



Scope of Work

Project: Arts and Culture Tourism Plan Municipality: Category 2 Region Attleborough, Foxboro, North Attleborough, Mansfield, Plainville, Wrentham

The following Scope of Work outlines tasks that will develop a cultural tourism plan for the Category 2 region including the communities of Attleboro, Foxborough, Mansfield, North Attleboro, Plainville, and Wrentham.

The purpose of the Cultural Tourism Plan is to prioritize the creative sector by highlighting and celebrating existing assets in the region and to establish a greater vision for arts and culture in the select communities. This plan considers the activities that currently drive the arts, and identifies a future with opportunities for growth. Local government plays a critical part in enabling the creative ecosystem. As such, this plan is also designed to inform each of the communities' planning and relationship to the arts, artists, arts organizations.

sk	Task Description	Cost			
	Project Kick-off Meeting with Category 2 Communities	\$5,100			
ject Development & Administration Fight Collat Quart Data Collection Mapping, Visualization, etc. Unone Data Mapping, Visualization, etc. Unone Diagr econe Cultu Touris Unous Estab feedt Estab Ident Regio Devel Share Devel Share Devel Share Devel Video Devel Share Devel Six (6 Hostii Facilit Hostii Facilit Hostii Facilit Trave	Eight (8) Check-in Meetings with Category 2 Region Stakeholders	\$5,100			
	Collaboration with MAPC and staff time	\$25,000			
	Quarterly Reporting	\$6,800			
		\$42,000			
	Existing Conditions: Ecoomic Data, Demographics, etc.	\$6,800			
Data Collection	Development & Administration Project Kick-off Meeting with Category 2 Communities Eight (8) Check-in Meetings with Category 2 Region Stakeholders Collaboration with MAPC and staff time Quarterly Reporting Quarterly Reporting Data Collection Existing Conditions: Ecoomic Data, Demographics, etc. Arts, Culture, Tourism Inventory Arts, Culture, Fiscal Impact Study Arts of Collaboration of Financial Data (Infographics that put analysis into 'household terms' with images) Data Visualizations of Financial Data (Infographics that put analysis into 'household terms' with images) Cultural Asset Map Development Tourism Resource Directory Establish a Vision for the Category 2 Regional Cultural Tourism Plan based on initial feedback from Communities and Asset & Vision Survey Identify action items to achieve goals and enhance cultural tourism in the Category Region Develop Draft Cultural Tourism Plan Share and Incorporate Edits of the Draft Cultural Tourism Plan Develop Implementation Guide / Toolkit for communities (with funding sources, examples from nearby communities, steps towards developing nascent tourism industries, and expected timeframes) Develop and layout Plan Cultural Tourism Project Survey Phase I - Assets and Vision	\$8,500			
	Arts and Culture Fiscal Impact Study	\$10,000			
		\$25,300			
	Drone Photos of Category 2 Communities & Identified Events	\$6,800			
	Project Kick-off Meeting with Category 2 Communities L Development & Administration Project Kick-off Meetings with Category 2 Region Stakeholders Collaboration with MAPC and staff time Quarterly Reporting Data Collection Arts, Culture, Tourism Inventory Arts and Culture Fiscal Impact Study Drone Photos of Category 2 Communities & Identified Events Data Visualization, etc. Diagrams, renderings, and spatial visualizations of on-the-ground tourism and economic development concepts Cultural Asset Map Development Tourism Resource Directory Establish a Vision for the Category 2 Regional Cultural Tourism Plan based on initial feedback from Communities and Asset & Vision Survey Itentify action items to achieve goals and enhance cultural tourism in the Category 2 Region Develop Draft Cultural Tourism Plan Develop Draft Cultural Tourism Pl	\$8,500			
Mapping, Visualization, etc.		\$8,500			
		\$8,500			
		\$8,500			
		\$40,800			
Mapping, Visualization, etc. Cultural Planning Vision, Goals, and Implementation		\$3,400			
	Establish Goals based on Vision Statements and Goals & Implementation Survey	\$3,400			
	Identify action items to achieve goals and enhance cultural tourism in the Category 2	\$5,525			
		\$13,600			
Implementation	evelopment & Administration Project Kick-off Meetings with Category 2 Region Stakeholders collaboration with MAPC and staff time Collaboration with MAPC and staff time Data Collection Existing Conditions: Ecoomic Data, Demographics, etc. Arts, Culture, Tourism Inventory Arts, Culture, Tourism Inventory Arts, Culture, Tourism Inventory Arts, Culture, Staff Staff, S	\$3,400			
		. ,			
		\$13,600			
	Develop and lavout Plan	\$6,800			
		\$49,725			
	Cultural Tourism Project Survey Phase I - Assets and Vision	\$6,375			
	Cultural Tourism Project Survey Phase II - Goals and Implementation	\$6,375			
	Project Kick-off Meeting with Category 2 Communities Eight (8) Check-in Meetings with Category 2 Region Stakeholders Collaboration with MAPC and staff time Quarterly Reporting etion Arts, Culture, Tourism Inventory Arts, Culture, Tourism Inventory Arts, Culture, Tourism Inventory Arts, Culture, Tourism Inventory Arts, and Culture, Fiscal Impact Study Drone Photos of Category 2 Communities & Identified Events Data Visualizations of Financial Data (infographics that put analysis into 'household terms' with images) Ibigrams, renderings, and spatial visualizations of on-the-ground tourism and economic development concepts Cultural Asset Map Development Tourism Resource Directory Establish a Vision for the Category 2 Regional Cultural Tourism Plan based on initial feedback from Communities and Asset & Vision Survey Establish Goals based on Vision Statements and Goals & Implementation Survey Identify action items to achieve goals and enhance cultural tourism in the Category 2 Region Develop Draft Cultural Tourism Plan Develop Implementation Guide / Toolkit for communities (with funding sources, examples from nearby communities, steps towards developing nascent tourism industries, and expected timeframes) Develop and layout Plan Extural Tourism Project Survey Phase I - Assets and Vision<	\$11,475			
Public Engagement		\$13,600			
0.0		\$7,650			
		\$5,100			
		\$5,525			
		\$6,800			
		\$62,900			
	Marketing materials and printing	\$5,000			
Direct Costs		\$6,000			
	-	\$2,000			
		\$13,000			
		J13,000			



Timeline

Project:	Arts and Culture Tourism Plan
Municipality:	Category 2 Region

Task	Task Description	Jun-24	Sep-24		Dec-24		Mar-25		Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26		Jun-2
	Project Kick-off Meeting with Category 2 Communities													
Project Development & Administration	Eight (8) Check-in Meetings with Category 2 Region Stakeholders													
Project Development & Administration	Collaboration with MAPC and staff time													
Project Development & Administration Project Kick-off Meeting with Category 2 Fight (8) Check-in Meetings with Categor Collaboration with MAPC and staff time Quarterly Reporting Data Collection Existing Conditions: Ecoomic Data, Demo, Arts, Culture, Tourism Inventory Mapping, Visualization, etc. Drone Photos of Category 2 Communities Data Visualizations of Financial Data (info terms' with images) Mapping, Visualization, etc. Drone Photos of Category 2 Communities Data Visualizations of Financial Data (info terms' with images) Diagrams, renderings, and spatial visualiz economic development concepts Cultural Asset Map Development Tourism Resource Directory Tourism Resource Directory Establish a Vision for the Category 2 Regis feedback from Communities and Asset & Establish Goals based on Vision Statemer Identify action items to achieve goals and 2 Region Develop Draft Cultural Tourism Plan Share and Incorporate Edits of the Draft (Develop Implementation Guide / Toolkit i examples from nearby communities, step industries, and expected timeframes) Develop and layout Plan Evelop and layout Plan	Quarterly Reporting													
	Existing Conditions: Ecoomic Data, Demographics, etc.													
Data Collection	Arts, Culture, Tourism Inventory					П								
	Arts and Culture Fiscal Impact Study			\Box										
	Drone Photos of Category 2 Communities & Identified Events													
	Data Visualizations of Financial Data (infographics that put analysis into 'household							П						
	terms' with images)													
Mapping, Visualization, etc.	Diagrams, renderings, and spatial visualizations of on-the-ground tourism and													
	economic development concepts													
	Cultural Asset Map Development													
	Tourism Resource Directory													
	Establish a Vision for the Category 2 Regional Cultural Tourism Plan based on initial													
	feedback from Communities and Asset & Vision Survey													
	Establish Goals based on Vision Statements and Goals & Implementation Survey													
	Identify action items to achieve goals and enhance cultural tourism in the Category													
Cultural Planning Vision, Goals, and	2 Region													
	Develop Draft Cultural Tourism Plan													
Implementation	Share and Incorporate Edits of the Draft Cultural Tourism Plan													
	Develop Implementation Guide / Toolkit for communities (with funding sources,													
	examples from nearby communities, steps towards developing nascent tourism													
	industries, and expected timeframes)													
	Develop and layout Plan													
	Cultural Tourism Project Survey Phase I - Assets and Vision													
	Cultural Tourism Project Survey Phase II - Goals and Implementation													
	Development and distribution of Educational and Promotional Materials including													
	videos, flyers, and social media content													
Public Engagement	Twelve (12) Pop-Up Events in Category 2 Communities													
	Six (6) Creative Community Stakeholder Focus Groups													
	Hosting and/or Facilitation of Up to four (4) Public Events												T	
	Facilitation of a Working Group or Stakeholder Committee												T	
	Hosting and/or Facilitation of one regional Cultural Tourism Summit													



TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH 40 SOUTH STREET FOXBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 02035 Telephone - 508-543-1200 FAX - 508-543-6278

Paige E. Duncan, AICP Town Manager

January 29, 2025

Massachusetts Gaming Commission 101 Federal St., 12th Floor Boston, MA 02110

RE: Culture and Tourism Plan (Category 2)

Attention: Joe Delaney, Chief of the Division of Community Affairs

The Town of Foxborough is excited by and supports the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District's (SRPEDD) application to the MA Gaming Commission regional grant program to fund the Cultural and Tourism Plan.

SRPEDD acts as the regional planning agency for many municipalities within the Gaming Commission's Category 2 region. SRPEDD fills a critical need in the municipal planning and economic development sector by providing the expertise to identify local strengths and highlighting the opportunities for further growth. Arts and culture are an untapped industry in our region and SRPEDD's efforts serve to diversify our local economy, enhancing economic resiliency. SRPEDD is a proven regional partner, able to provide and extrapolate data to guide local decisioning making. This request seeks to advance – and celebrate – the arts and culture in the region to attract and leverage visitors from the Plainridge Park Casino.

As the project manager on the Foxborough, Plainville and Wrentham tourism initiative, integrating an arts and culture component into www.visitfpw would serve as a fantastic enhancement and an exhilarating advancement for our multi-phase endeavor.

Ultimately, this initiative addresses the needs of our economy with a strategic vision that aligns with regional planning efforts highlighted in the Comprehensive Economic Developments Strategy (CEDS). The project is consistent with several goals and objectives identified in SRPEDD's 2023-2028 5-Year CEDS including support for the creative economy.

Respectfully,

Parisi an

Paige E. Duncan Town Manager/Director of Land Use and Economic Development



TOWN OF PLAINVILLE

BRIAN S. NOBLE Town Administrator www.plainville.ma.us 190 South Street, P.O. Box 1717 Plainville, Massachusetts 02762

bnoble@plainville.ma.us 508.576.8470

January 30, 2024

Massachusetts Gaming Commission 101 Federal St., 12th Floor Boston, MA 02110

RE: Culture and Tourism Plan (Category 2)

To Whom it May Concern:

The Town/City of Plainville is excited by and supports the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District's (SRPEDD) application to the MA Gaming Commission regional grant program to fund the *Cultural and Tourism Plan*.

SRPEDD acts as the regional planning agency for many municipalities within the Gaming Commission's Category 2 region. SRPEDD fills a critical need in the municipal planning and economic development sector by providing the expertise to identify local strengths and highlighting the opportunities for further growth. Arts and culture is an untapped industry in our region and SRPEDD's efforts serve to diversify our local economy, enhancing economic resiliency. SRPEDD is a proven regional partner, able to provide and extrapolate data to guide local decisioning making. This request seeks to advance – and celebrate – the arts and culture in the region to attract and leverage visitors from the Plainridge Park Casino.

Ultimately, this initiative addresses the needs of our economy with a strategic vision that aligns with regional planning efforts highlighted in the Comprehensive Economic Developments Strategy (CEDS). The project is consistent with several goals and objectives identified in SRPEDD's 2023-2028 5-Year CEDS including support for the creative economy.

Brian S. Noble

Town Administrator

January 31, 2024

Massachusetts Gaming Commission 101 Federal St., 12th Floor Boston, MA 02110

RE: Art and Culture Tourism Plan (Category 2)

To Whom it May Concern:

The Town/City of North Attleborough is excited by and supports the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District's (SRPEDD) application to the MA Gaming Commission regional grant program to fund the *Art and Culture Tourism Plan*.

SRPEDD acts as the regional planning agency for many municipalities within the Gaming Commission's Category 2 region. SRPEDD fills a critical need in the municipal planning and economic development sector by providing the expertise to identify local strengths and highlighting the opportunities for further growth. Arts and culture is an untapped industry in our region and SRPEDD's efforts serve to diversify our local economy, enhancing economic resiliency. SRPEDD is a proven regional partner, able to provide and extrapolate data to guide local decisioning making. This request seeks to advance – and celebrate – the arts and culture in the region to attract and leverage visitors from the Plainridge Park Casino.

Ultimately, this initiative addresses the needs of our economy with a strategic vision that aligns with regional planning efforts highlighted in the Comprehensive Economic Developments Strategy (CEDS). The project is consistent with several goals and objectives identified in SRPEDD's 2023-2028 5-Year CEDS including support for the creative economy.

Sincerely,

Marin & Claurer

Marie K. Clarner Chair, North Attleborough Planning Board



TOWN OF WRENTHAM OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING 79 South Street Wrentham, MA 02093

Tel: 508-384-5400 www.wrentham_gov Kevin A. Sweet Town Administrator

Gregory S. Enos Assistant Town Administrator

January 31, 2024

Massachusetts Gaming Commission 101 Federal St., 12th Floor Boston, MA 02110

RE: Culture and Tourism Plan (Category 2)

To Whom it May Concern:

The Town of Wrentham is excited by and supports the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District's (SRPEDD) application to the Mass Gaming Commission regional grant program to fund the *Cultural and Tourism Plan*.

SRPEDD acts as the regional planning agency for many municipalities within the Gaming Commission's Category 2 region. SRPEDD fills a critical need in the municipal planning and economic development sector by providing the expertise to identify local strengths and highlighting the opportunities for further growth. Arts and culture is an untapped industry in our region and SRPEDD's efforts serve to diversify our local economy, enhancing economic resiliency. SRPEDD is a proven regional partner, able to provide and extrapolate data to guide local decision making. This request seeks to advance and celebrate the arts and culture in the region to attract and leverage visitors from the Plainridge Park Casino.

Ultimately, this initiative addresses the needs of our economy with a strategic vision that aligns with regional planning efforts highlighted in the Comprehensive Economic Developments Strategy (CEDS). The project is consistent with several goals and objectives identified in SRPEDD's 2023-2028 5-Year CEDS including support for the creative economy.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Sweet, MS, MPA, ICMA-CM Town Administrator

024050



Town of Mansfield 6 Park: Row, Mansfield, Massachusetts 02048

Sarah L. Raposa, AICP Director of Planning and Development

sraposa@mansfieldma.com (508) 261-7363

January 30, 2024

Massachusetts Gaming Commission 101 Federal St., 12th Floor Boston, MA 02110

RE: Culture and Tourism Plan (Category 2)

To Whom It May Concern:

The Town of Mansfield is excited by and supports the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District's (SRPEDD) application to the MA Gaming Commission regional grant program to fund the Cultural and Tourism Plan.

SRPEDD acts as the regional planning agency for many municipalities within the Gaming Commission's Category 2 region. SRPEDD fills a critical need in the municipal planning and economic development sector by providing the expertise to identify local strengths and highlighting the opportunities for further growth. Arts and culture is an untapped industry in our region and SRPEDD's efforts serve to diversify our local economy, enhancing economic resiliency. SRPEDD is a proven regional partner, able to provide and extrapolate data to guide local decision-making. This request seeks to advance – and celebrate – the arts and culture in the region to attract and leverage visitors from the Plainridge Park Casino.

Ultimately, this initiative addresses the needs of our economy with a strategic vision that aligns with regional planning efforts highlighted in the Comprehensive Economic Developments Strategy (CEDS). The project is consistent with several goals and objectives identified in SRPEDD's 2023-2028 5-Year CEDS including support for the creative economy.

Sincerely,

Sarah L. Raposa, AICP Director of Planning and Development



City Of Attleboro, Massachusetts

MAYOR'S OFFICE Government Center • 77 Park Street Attleboro, Massachusetts 02703 508-223-2222 • Fax 508-222-3046

January 31, 2024

Massachusetts Gaming Commission 101 Federal St., 12th Floor Boston, MA 02110

RE: Culture and Tourism Plan (Category 2)

To Whom it May Concern:

The City of Attleboro is excited by and supportive of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District's (SRPEDD) application to the MA Gaming Commission regional grant program to fund a *Cultural and Tourism Plan*.

SRPEDD acts as the regional planning agency for many municipalities within the Gaming Commission's Category 2 region. SRPEDD fills a critical need in the municipal planning and economic development sector by providing the expertise to identify local strengths and highlighting the opportunities for further growth. Arts and culture is an untapped industry in our region and SRPEDD's efforts serve to diversify our local economy, enhancing economic resiliency. SRPEDD is a proven regional partner, able to provide and extrapolate data to guide local decisioning making. This request seeks to advance – and celebrate – the arts and culture in the region to attract and leverage visitors from the Plainridge Park Casino.

Ultimately, this initiative addresses the needs of our economy with a strategic vision that aligns with regional planning efforts highlighted in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The project is consistent with several goals and objectives identified in SRPEDD's 2023-2028 5-Year CEDS including support for the creative economy.

Sincerely,

Cathleen DeSimone Mayor, City of Attleboro