



2 Alpine Street, P.O. Box 440343 Somerville, MA 02144  
<https://somervillechamber.org/>

April 6, 2020

Ms. Anita Walker, Executive Director  
Mass Cultural Council  
10 St. James Avenue, 3rd Floor  
Boston, MA 02116-3803

**RE: Cultural Districts Initiative - Designation East Somerville Main Streets Application #CDI0451**

Dear Ms. Walker:

On behalf of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to convey our enthusiastic support for East Somerville Main Streets' application for designation of the East Somerville Cultural District.

Our Chamber leadership knows the role that programs of the Massachusetts Cultural Council have played in the resurgence of greater Boston's urban core. We thank you for supporting our arts, history and cultural community particularly through our individual artists, local cultural council, community museum, and festivals.

Now, East Somerville's application is, by our measure, possibly the strongest plan to date to help "drive economic growth, strengthen our distinctive local character, and improve the quality of life of families." The proposed District has a tremendous past and an extraordinary potential. The District was first settled in 1629. The District is between Union Square and Assembly Row and adjoins Charlestown's Sullivan Square. The management team – a partnership of Main Streets, Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development, Somerville Arts Council, The Welcome Project, Mudflat, Stan Eichner and the Chamber is perhaps our greatest yet.

We thank you for your recent actions serving the Commonwealth and Somerville. We believe that this proposal will likewise serve the community and the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen V. Mackey", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stephen V. Mackey  
President/CEO