



## Leesburg Arts & Cultural District Frequently Asked Questions

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### **What is the Leesburg Arts & Cultural District?**

Historically, Leesburg has been the cultural center of Loudoun County. The establishment of the Arts & Cultural District will help position, promote and expand this distinction by providing a framework for arts and entertainment establishments to expand, synergize and prosper. Further, the district will also serve as an economic development vehicle to foster the revitalization of the Historic Downtown and the Crescent District.

### **What are the boundaries of the Arts & Cultural District?**

A map of the Arts and Cultural District can be found by visiting [www.leesburgva.gov/business](http://www.leesburgva.gov/business). In general, the boundaries include the commercial area of the Historic District and a portion of the Crescent District to Catocin Circle.

### **What is a “Qualified Arts Organization”?**

A “Qualified Arts Organization” is a business for profit or not-for-profit organization physically located within the district which contributes to the spectrum of arts and cultural activities and venues available to the public by presenting live performances of theatre, dance, music, or other imaginative work and/or producing or exhibiting physical works created by, or under the direction of one or more artists for unique or limited production. Museums or historic sites whose primary mission is education, history or historic preservation may also qualify. Examples of qualified arts organizations include theatres, art galleries, dance studios, music venues, performance spaces, graphic art design businesses, art schools and academies, including culinary art schools and academies.

### **Do I have to be a new business to qualify?**

Existing qualified arts organizations within the district are welcome to apply by August 31, 2012. New Businesses need to apply within 6 months of opening.

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## Frequently Asked Questions Continued

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### **What incentives are offered as part of the Arts & Cultural District?**

Incentives include:

1. A rebate of the Town's Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) tax on a sliding scale of 10% each year over a ten year period. 100% the first year, 90% the second year, etc.
2. A rebate of the Town's Real Estate tax for buildings that are at least 50% redeveloped for qualified arts uses. This rebate is on a similar ten year sliding scale to the BPOL tax rebate and applies only to the increase in the building's assessed value after redevelopment as determined by the Loudoun County Assessor's Office.
3. Exemption from Zoning Permit Fees.

### **How do I apply?**

To apply for the incentives offered as part of the Arts & Cultural District you will need to submit a completed application the Town Manager's office located at 25 W. Market Street. If your business has been open in the Town of Leesburg for less than 5 years, a copy of your business plan must also be included.

### **Who determines which businesses qualify?**

After an internal review process, the final determination for each application will be made by the District Administrator, who is the Leesburg Town Manager.

### **How long will the process take?**

Applicants should expect to receive final determination from the Town within 30 days.

### **Who do I contact if I have additional questions?**

If you have additional questions, or would like an application form, please visit [www.leesburgva.gov/business](http://www.leesburgva.gov/business) or contact Business Retention Coordinator Debi Parry at 703.737.7023 or [dparry@leesburgva.gov](mailto:dparry@leesburgva.gov).