

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT



BZA Application No. 21342
Culture Building, LLC
2002-2006 Fenwick Street, NE (PAR 01420029 and PAR 01420015)

HEARING DATE: September 24, 2025
DECISION DATE: September 24, 2025

SUMMARY ORDER

RELIEF REQUESTED. The application requests the following relief in order to permit an entertainment, assembly, and performing arts use, in two existing, attached buildings in the PDR-2 zone:

- Special Exception from the minimum vehicle parking requirements of Subtitle C § 701, pursuant to Subtitle C § 703.2 and Subtitle X § 901.2 (*16 spaces minimum required; 0 existing; 0 proposed*)
- Special Exception under the entertainment, assembly, and performing arts use requirements of Subtitle U § 802.1(e), pursuant to Subtitle X § 901.2

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified. (Exhibit 3.)

PARTIES. The parties to this case were the Applicant and Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("ANC") 5D, the "affected ANC" pursuant to Subtitle Y §§ 101.8 and 403.5(b) of the Zoning Regulations (Title 11 of the DCMR, Zoning Regulations of 2016, to which all references are made unless otherwise specified).

NOTICE OF THE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC HEARING. The Board of Zoning Adjustment (the "Board") referred the application to the appropriate agencies and provided proper and timely notice of the public hearing in accordance with Subtitle Y § 402.1.

ANC REPORT. The ANC's report indicated that at a regularly scheduled, properly noticed public meeting on September 9, 2025, at which a quorum was present, the ANC voted to support the application. (Exhibit 21.) The ANC report raised no issues or concerns. At the public hearing, Sebrena Rhodes, the Single Member District Commissioner for ANC 5D-02, testified in support of the application on behalf of the ANC.

OFFICE OF PLANNING ("OP") REPORT. OP submitted a report recommending approval of the application. (Exhibit 15.)

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DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (“DDOT”) REPORT. DDOT submitted a report indicating that it had no objection to the application because it concluded that the relief would not result in any adverse impacts to the District’s transportation network. (Exhibit 17.) DDOT’s recommendation included a TDM plan condition, which the Board adopted as part of the final order.

CONCLUSIONS

Pursuant to Subtitle Y § 604.3, the order of the Board may be in summary form where granting an application when there was no party in opposition. As a summary order, it does not constitute binding legal precedent on the Board and shall not be considered by the Board in evaluating future applications.

Based upon the record before the Board, and having given great weight to the appropriate reports and recommendations filed in this case, the Board concludes that the Applicant has met the burden of proof that the requested special exception relief can be granted because:

- It is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and Map;
- It will not tend to affect adversely the use of neighboring property; and
- Pursuant to Subtitle X § 901.2(c), the relief satisfies the specified conditions for special exception relief.

DECISION

Based on the case record and the testimony at the hearing, the Board concludes that the applicant has satisfied the burden of proof for the requested relief:

- Special Exception from the minimum vehicle parking requirements of Subtitle C § 701, pursuant to Subtitle C § 703.2 and Subtitle X § 901.2 (*16 spaces minimum required; 0 existing; 0 proposed*)
- Special Exception under the entertainment, assembly, and performing arts use requirements of Subtitle U § 802.1(e), pursuant to Subtitle X § 901.2

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the application is **GRANTED** consistent with the plans shown in Exhibits 2A1-2A3 of the record, as required under Subtitle Y §§ 604.9 and 604.10, subject to the following **CONDITIONS**:

- 1) The Applicant shall implement the following Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan:
 - a. Post “getting here” information in a visible and prominent location on the venue’s website with a focus on non-auto travel modes, such as bus, Metro, and bikeshare. Information will also be provided to direct patrons to the Hecht Warehouse garage for parking and to provide information about the venue’s valet service.

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b. Provide four (4) short-term bicycle parking spaces along the site's frontage through the installation of two (2) U-racks to support bicycle traffic to and from the venue.

VOTE: 3-0-2 (Carl H. Blake, Chrishaun S. Smith, and Anthony J. Hood to APPROVE; Frederick L. Hill not present, not participating; one Board seat vacant)

BY ORDER OF THE D.C. BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

A majority of the Board members approved the issuance of this order.

ATTESTED BY:


SARA A. BARDIN
Director, Office of Zoning

FINAL DATE OF ORDER: September 29, 2025

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR SUBTITLE Y § 604.11, NO ORDER OF THE BOARD SHALL TAKE EFFECT UNTIL TEN (10) DAYS AFTER IT BECOMES FINAL PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y § 604.7.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR SUBTITLE Y § 702.1, THIS ORDER SHALL NOT BE VALID FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS, UNLESS, WITHIN SUCH TWO-YEAR PERIOD, AN APPLICATION FOR A BUILDING PERMIT FOR THE ERECTION OR ALTERATION APPROVED IS FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING A BUILDING PERMIT, OR A REQUEST FOR A TIME EXTENSION PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y § 705 IS FILED PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD AND THE REQUEST IS GRANTED. PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y § 703.14, NO OTHER ACTION, INCLUDING THE FILING OR GRANTING OF AN APPLICATION FOR A MODIFICATION PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y §§ 703 OR 704, SHALL TOLL OR EXTEND THE TIME PERIOD.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR SUBTITLE Y § 604, APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE APPROVAL OF THE PLANS SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE (OR ADDITION THERETO) OR THE RENOVATION OR ALTERATION OF AN EXISTING BUILDING OR STRUCTURE. AN APPLICANT SHALL CARRY OUT THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, OR ALTERATION ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLANS APPROVED BY THE BOARD AS THE SAME MAY BE AMENDED AND/OR MODIFIED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT.

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PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR SUBTITLE A § 303, THE PERSON WHO OWNS, CONTROLS, OCCUPIES, MAINTAINS, OR USES THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, OR ANY PART THERETO, SHALL COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS IN THIS ORDER, AS THE SAME MAY BE AMENDED AND/OR MODIFIED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT. FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THE CONDITIONS IN THIS ORDER, IN WHOLE OR IN PART SHALL BE GROUNDS FOR THE REVOCATION OF ANY BUILDING PERMIT OR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS ORDER.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE D.C. HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 1977, AS AMENDED, D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 2-1401.01 ET SEQ. (ACT), THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED: RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, AGE, MARITAL STATUS, PERSONAL APPEARANCE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION, FAMILIAL STATUS, FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES, MATRICULATION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, GENETIC INFORMATION, DISABILITY, SOURCE OF INCOME, OR PLACE OF RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS. SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS A FORM OF SEX DISCRIMINATION WHICH IS PROHIBITED BY THE ACT. IN ADDITION, HARASSMENT BASED ON ANY OF THE ABOVE PROTECTED CATEGORIES IS PROHIBITED BY THE ACT. DISCRIMINATION IN VIOLATION OF THE ACT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. VIOLATORS WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.