

Arts Districts

The Code of Virginia provides **enabling legislation** for arts districts; applicable only in towns and cities, not counties.

Chapter 11. Powers of Cities and Towns

§ 15.2-1129.1. Creation of arts and cultural districts

- A. Any locality may by ordinance establish within its boundaries one or more arts and cultural districts for the purpose of increasing awareness and support for the arts and culture in the locality. The locality may provide incentives for the support and creation of arts and cultural venues in each district. The locality may also grant tax incentives and provide certain regulatory flexibility in each arts and cultural district.
- B. The tax incentives for each district may be provided for up to 10 years and may include, but not be limited to: (i) reduction of permit fees; (ii) reduction of user fees; (iii) reduction of any type of gross receipts tax; and (iv) rebate of real estate property taxes. The extent and duration of such incentive proposals shall conform to the requirements of the Constitutions of Virginia and of the United States.
- C. Each locality may also provide for regulatory flexibility in each district that may include, but not be limited to: (i) special zoning for the district; (ii) permit process reform; (iii) exemption from ordinances; and (iv) any other incentive adopted by ordinance, which shall be binding upon the locality for a period of up to 10 years.

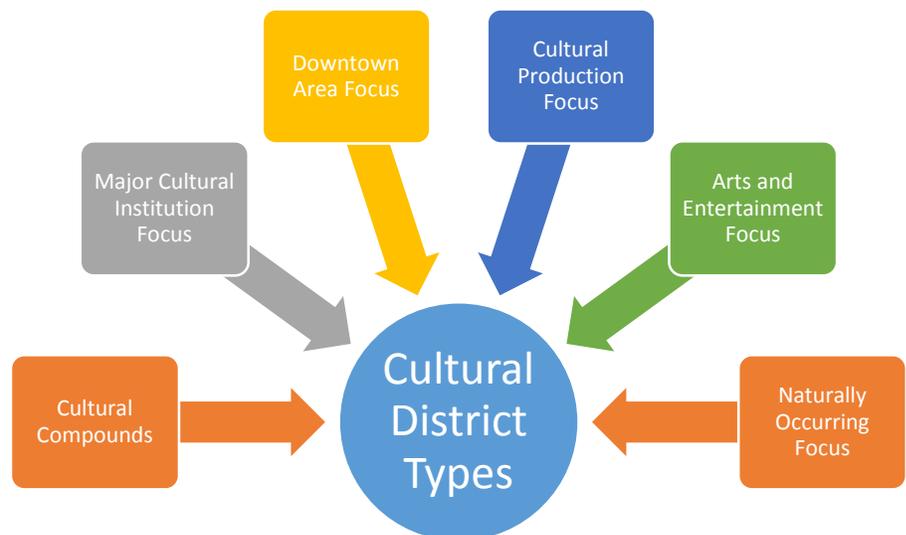
2001, c. 550;2005, c. 330;2006, c. 482;2007, cc. 236, 251, 280;2008, c. 290;2009, cc. 300, 637, 738; 2012, c. 516;2013, cc. 254, 386.

ARTS DISTRICTS IN VIRGINIA

Harrisonburg
Petersburg
Blacksburg
Manassas
Lynchburg
Staunton
Fredericksburg
Virginia Beach
Norfolk
Richmond
Leesburg
Williamsburg
Luray
Smithfield
Culpeper

Americans for the Arts, a non-profit research and advocacy organization, has produced a compendium of **cultural districts** by type that can help inform Arlington decision makers, should they recommend going forward with an arts hub/cluster.

Refer to [Examples of Types of Cultural Districts](#) for more information on each type. Of these six types, staff recommends **a cultural production focus** like [The Warehouse Arts District in Tucson AZ.](#)



The American for the Arts describes The Warehouse Arts District as “an informal group of businesses, artists and arts organizations that have developed this unique part of Tucson by banding together to create this informal arts district in one of the oldest places in Tucson. This funky District was created in the 1980s and is home to visual artists, music venues, skateboard shops, landscape designers, art galleries, car repair shops, a desert plant nursery, beer brewing facilities, coffee roasting facilities, fashion designers, military outfitters, bars, puppeteers, bicycle shops, printers, and vacant land.”

Artspace, the largest non-profit developer of housing and work spaces for artists will be conducting a two-day site visit of Arlington in four neighborhoods, which will include 4MRV. They are in a unique position to assess the feasibility of an arts hub/cluster within 4MRV.