



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**  
**OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY**  
**& SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**REIA #26-59**

**Department of Recreation and Arts and  
Humanities Council of Montgomery County  
(AHCMC)**

Requesting Agency/Department(s)	Dollar Amount
Department of Recreation	\$53,788.45
Funding Source	County Match Amount
General Fund Undesignated Reserves	N/A

## Finding

The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that Supplemental Appropriation #26-59 Department of Recreation and Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCMC) neither advances nor impedes racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County. Given the technical nature and limited scope of the supplemental appropriation—payment for completed contract work—it is difficult to determine the impact on racial disparities and inequities in the County.

## Background

### Purpose

The purpose of SA #26-59 Department of Recreation and Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCMC) is to allocate \$53,788.45 in General Fund Undesignated Reserves to the Department of Recreation, which will allow the County to address the remaining balance owed to Metris Arts Consulting for work completed under the AHCMC Cultural Plan. This supplemental appropriation is narrowly focused and is “intended to solely address the remaining Cultural Plan obligation to Metris Arts Consulting. It does not resolve all audit-related matters, which are being addressed through ongoing administrative and legal review.”<sup>1</sup>

# Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #26-59 Department of Recreation and Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCMC) Page 2

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## Additional Background Information

Thrive 2050 includes a reference to the creation of a new cultural plan as a part of how public and private agencies could implement the County's updated General Plan<sup>2</sup>. A cultural plan is the result of "a public process in which representatives of a community undertake a comprehensive community assessment and create a plan of implementation for future cultural programming". AHCMC, the County's designated local arts agency, began the process of updating the 2001 cultural plan in 2022. Following two years of preliminary research, which included work with Margie Johnson Reese Partners and Civic Arts, AHCMC selected Metris Arts Consulting in 2024 to lead the cultural planning process<sup>3</sup>. According to a March 2025 update to the County Council Education & Culture Committee, the "Discover" Phase of the cultural planning process began in February 2025 and is anticipated to conclude in July 2025<sup>4</sup>. Following this phase, the cultural plan is expected to be completed in February 2026<sup>5</sup>.

Details related to the completion status of the Cultural Plan were not available at the time of this analysis, though the supplemental appropriation notes that payment is for work already completed<sup>6</sup>.

## Relevant REIAs and Other Assessments

ORESJ has conducted REIAs since 2021. The below REIA(s) are relevant to supplemental appropriation #26-59.

- Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Supplemental Appropriation #22-67 Public Arts Trust (No. 729658)  
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/22-67.pdf>
- Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Supplemental Appropriations #24-67 Blackrock Center for the Arts  
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/24-67.pdf>
- Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #23-56 - Amendment to the FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program for Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/23-56.pdf>

## Analysis

### ORESJ Research & Analysis

Research and analysis related to this REIA are limited by the scope of the supplemental appropriation, which addresses a contract payment for completed work. Analysis of racial equity

# Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #26-59 Department of Recreation and Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCRC) Page 3

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impacts of the cultural plan or the status of efforts to remediate issues identified under the Montgomery County Office of Internal Audit (MCIA)-24-5 Contract Management Audit, is beyond the scope of this REIA. Further analysis of the intersection of the arts and racial equity and social justice, including the history of AHCRC's funding strategies and their impact on racial equity, is likely to be explored in the Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statement (RESJIs) of Expedited Bill 10-26, Arts and Humanities Council – Amendments. This expedited Bill accompanied Supplemental Appropriation #26-59.

## Caveats

This REIA has been conducted with the best available information at the time of writing, including department responses to the Racial Equity and Social Justice template and research conducted by ORESJ Policy Team Analysts. While the assessment examines specific racial equity and social justice impacts of the funding request, it cannot fully address all systemic inequities that affect the communities in question, nor do we seek to examine impacts outside the scope of the funding request. We recommend using this assessment as a starting point for discussions about the impact of the program on advancing racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County.

## References

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<sup>1</sup> Montgomery County Council Packet for February 10. Agenda Item #4B. Quoted text is from a memorandum from County Executive Marc Elrich to Montgomery County Council President Natali Fani-González on February 2, 2026. Subject: Expedited Bill XX-26 Arts and Humanities Council; and Supplemental Appropriation #26-59 to the FY26 Operating Budget Montgomery County Government - Department of Recreation Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCRC), \$53,788.45. Available at:

[https://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view\\_id=169&clip\\_id=18541&meta\\_id=211945](https://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view_id=169&clip_id=18541&meta_id=211945)

<sup>2</sup> Montgomery Planning. "Thrive Montgomery 2050: Let's Plan For Our Future. Together." Approved and Adopted—October 2022. Page 155. Available at: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/THRIVE-Approved-Adopted-Final.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Montgomery County Council Education and Culture Committee #1. March 2024. Subject: Update – Arts and Humanities Council. Page 2 and 3.

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2025/20250324/20250324\\_EC1.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2025/20250324/20250324_EC1.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Montgomery County Council Education and Culture Committee #1. March 2024. Subject: Update – Arts and Humanities Council. Page 3.

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2025/20250324/20250324\\_EC1.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2025/20250324/20250324_EC1.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Montgomery County Council Education and Culture Committee #1. March 2024. Subject: Update – Arts and Humanities Council. Page 5 and 171.

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<sup>6</sup> Memo from Department of Recreation Director Gabriel Albornoz to Office of Management and Budget Director Jennifer Bryant. Subject: FY26 Operating Budget Supplemental Appropriation. February 2, 2026.