

Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations
February 24, 2010

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RESOLUTION: TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER

The Torpedo Factory Art Center (TFAC) is an incomparably important cultural resource for the City of Alexandria. It is one of the original models for art centers in America. It is one of the few such centers in the country where visitors can engage with working artists in the process of creation. It contributes to Alexandria's ranking as one of the most important arts destinations in the nation. It is one of the most widely recognized and appreciated features of Alexandria's cultural heritage. It draws some 400,000 visitors annually from throughout the United States and the world. Its contribution to the quality of life in Alexandria is unique within the metropolitan area. It is responsible for a major contribution, both directly and indirectly, to the public and private economy of the City.

The City commissioned a "productivity and efficiency study" (conducted from October through December 2009) and has now received the consultant's report and recommendations, with a view toward "improving the economic contribution" of the Center, enhancing its role in the City's economic development, "improving its sales focus," "improving operational efficiency," and involving "external stakeholders as active partners in its governance and continuous improvement."

The City Council held a "work session" on the report on February 16, 2010, and is considering its recommendations with the goal of acting as expeditiously as possible.

Fundamental changes to the policy and management of institutions of such importance to Alexandria and its citizens should not be undertaken without full, fair, informed and open deliberation, through a transparent public process, in which interested citizens and organizations have the opportunity to be fully informed of the nature of the proposed actions, and to comment thereon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations calls on the City Council not to enact, adopt, endorse, direct or require any fundamental changes to the structure, management, operation, financing or governance of the Torpedo Factory Art Center or the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association without first affording all interested parties due notice and the opportunity to comment on any such proposals in a public hearing.