

**February 27, 2017**

**To: Board of Selectmen**

**From: Arlington Tourism and Economic Development Committee (ATED)**

**Subject: Diversity Weekends at Uncle Sam Plaza**

ATED is hereby requesting permission for a proposed project at the Uncle Sam Plaza.

1. The project relates to promoting positive diversity interactions with residents and the general public in conjunction with culturally and nationality specific restaurants plus related activities over a series of ten or more weekend days. The number of restaurants potentially participating is dependent upon the related acceptances by invitees.  
As an example: A Japanese style restaurant is invited to set up at the "Performance Terrace" in front of the Uncle Sam Statue and offer samples of its menu, either for free or for sale. (That decision is dependent upon the restaurant itself.) In addition, the restaurant would be asked to bring along culturally related items (toys, artifacts, clothing, etc.) to display and/or arrange performances of Japanese songs, dances or other related activities.
2. The invitee decides the extent and timing of the activities or can opt to restrict itself to the food aspect.
3. The above would be subject to ATED's agreement or ATED and/or other participating sponsors (see list below) might choose to arrange the related activities.
4. The restaurants approached for participation would be chosen by ATED. Public promotion of the series would be undertaken, if desired, by the sponsors, but with ATED's prior review and approval.
5. The restaurants would not be charged for their participation and any of their related costs would be covered by them. They would be required to obtain related food permits.
6. ATED has arranged for the design of banners, identified as "Arlington for All" which will be prominently displayed at the Plaza for each weekend program and at other appropriate times. The banners would also be available to the Vision 2020's Diversity Task Group and the Human Rights Commission for their use in any future appropriate programs.
7. The overall project is to be accomplished by designated volunteers from the sponsors listed below. The town manager retains ultimate approval authority with respect to the project and its details.

Approval by the Board of Selectmen of the above project is respectfully requested.

**Sponsors**

**Town Committees**

- a) Arlington Tourism and Economic Development Committee
- b) Arlington Human Rights Commission
- c) Diversity Task Group of Vision 2020
- d) Uncle Sam Committee

**Others**

- a) Arlington International Film Festival
- b) Friends of the Arlington Council on Aging
- c) Grant Gibian
- d) tourarlington.org - created by Carr-Jones, Inc.
- e) True Story Theater