

Resolution authorizing a grant agreement with Columbus Fashion Alliance to support the Ready To Werk 2026 workforce development program. (Office of Economic Engagement and Community Development) (\$1,400,000.00)

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners seeks to promote equitable economic growth and workforce development opportunities for residents through programs that improve educational access, career readiness, and leadership development; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Economic Engagement & Community Development and the Department of Economic Development & Planning collaborate to ensure alignment with countywide economic growth priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus Fashion Alliance is a Columbus-based nonprofit organization that supports the growth of fashion-based businesses and workforce talent by providing education, technical training, and access to industry opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Columbus Fashion Alliance has developed the Ready to Werk 2026 Workforce Development Program, a multi-track initiative designed to prepare residents for careers in retail, apparel production, and entrepreneurship through hands-on training, industry-recognized credentials, and employer engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Ready to Werk 2026 program is expected to serve more than 100 Franklin County residents annually and create pathways to employment, career advancement, and small business development, while strengthening employer partnerships and local industry pipelines; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to support the Grantee's initiatives and events to ensure accessibility and economic growth in Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the Office of Economic Engagement and Community Development and in collaboration with the Department of Economic Development & Planning, desires to enter into a grant agreement with Columbus Fashion Alliance to support workforce readiness and economic opportunity for Franklin County residents, including through the Program, consistent with the County's economic development objectives and the authority granted under Ohio Revised Code Section 307.07 (the "Agreement"); and

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WHEREAS, nothing in the Agreement or the Program is intended to limit eligibility or participation contrary to state or federal law; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the Office of Economic Engagement and Community Development, and in collaboration with the Department of Economic Development & Planning, has determined that approval of this Agreement will support initiatives aimed at advancing equitable workforce development, entrepreneurship, and sustainable industry practices within Franklin County's fashion and manufacturing sectors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:

1. That the County Administrator is hereby authorized pursuant to section 307.07 of the Revised Code to take all actions, including the execution of all documents or amendments upon approval to form by the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office, necessary to enter into, implement, and administer the contracts and that are not substantially inconsistent with this Resolution.
2. That the attached agreement with Columbus Fashion Alliance hereby be approved.
3. That the attached purchase order in the amount of \$1,400,000 that is individually described on the accompanying Purchase Order Proof List is hereby approved.
4. The Board of Commissioners hereby ratify any and all actions taken prior to the execution of the agreement.

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<u>AGENCY</u>		<u>CONTRACT AMOUNT</u>
Columbus Fashion Alliance		\$1,400,000.00
	Total	\$1,400,000.00

Prepared by: Perla Martinez