



# ViBe Creative District Incentives and Application Process

## What are the business incentives in the ViBe Creative District?

The following chart outlines the possible incentives, which are granted over a ten-year period to qualified creative businesses.

Incentive	Time Period
<b>BPOL (Business License Tax) Reduction</b>	100% for 10 years
<b>Zoning and Building Fee Reimbursements</b>	100%
<b>Real Property Tax Exemption for Certain Rehabilitated Structures</b>	Tax Exemption Varies per Property for 10 years

## Steps to Qualify

1. Review the ViBe Creative District qualification criteria to see if your business qualifies. (Appendix A)
2. Select a location for your business in the ViBe Creative District. (Appendix B)
3. Contact the Commissioner of the Revenue to apply for a Business License:  
<http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/commissioner-of-the-revenue/FAQ/Pages/Business-License.aspx>
4. Complete the ViBe Creative District Business Qualification Application.
5. Complete the ViBe Creative District Real Property Tax Exemption Form (if property owner).
6. City Staff review application.
7. If approved, your business qualifies for the following benefits:
  - Business Professional Occupational License (BPOL) Reduction. Qualifying ViBe Creative District Businesses receive a BPOL reduction for ten years. The BPOL tax will be rebated annually to businesses certified as current on local taxes by the Commissioner of Revenue.
  - Reimbursement of Permit and Zoning Fees. Qualifying ViBe Creative District Businesses receive an reimbursement of building and zoning permit fees for ten years.
  - Partial Tax Exemption for Rehabilitated Structures: Property Tax Incentive for the renovation of approved spaces for creative purposes within the District. To be eligible for the partial exemption from real estate tax, a building or structure shall be no less than twenty (20) years of age.

### **Timeframe to Receive Incentives**

BPOL Tax Reduction: Between January 1 and March 1<sup>st</sup> annually you must pay your BPOL tax to the Commissioner of the Revenue. Once the Commissioner of the Revenue has processed your payment and verified there are no other outstanding tax liabilities with the City of Virginia Beach a BPOL reduction check will be sent to you to reimburse you for your BPOL tax payment.

## Appendix A: Definition of Qualified Creative Business

The ViBe Creative District, which shall consist of all property designated on the map entitled “ViBe Creative District,” on the following page. A qualifying organization shall be physically located within the Creative District designated by the City Council.

*Qualifying organization* means:

- An individual, business or other entity that contributes to the spectrum of arts and cultural activities and venues available to the public by regularly presenting live performances of theatre, dance, music, or other imaginative work or producing or exhibiting physical works created by, or under the direction of one or more artists, that are intended for unique production or limited reproduction;
- A museum or historic site, the primary mission of which is education or historic preservation;
- A theater, including an art-house movie theater for art, independent and world films, art gallery, dance studio, music venue, performance space, art school or academy, including a culinary arts school or academy;
- An individual, business or other entity that is principally engaged in one or more of the following fields or activities:
  - Architecture;
  - Marketing and advertising;
  - Culinary arts, including, but not limited to, artisans engaged in bread making, cheese making, charcuterie, confectionary, coffee roasting or similar practices, culinary institutes and restaurants that (i.) locally source no less than ten percent (10%) of the food served at the establishment; (ii.) are not one of a chain of restaurants having more than ten (10) establishments; and (iii.) prepare food by hand or using traditional, non-industrialized methods. For purposes of this section, “locally” shall mean within the Commonwealth of Virginia or no farther than fifty (50) miles from the location of the subject establishment;
  - Design, including industrial, interior, graphic, web and fashion design;
  - Film and media, including radio, video animation and photography;
  - Publishing;
  - Software development;
  - Research and development of technology related to: (i.) energy efficiency and renewable energy; (ii.) water use efficiency; (iii.) the reduction of

waste, pollution and environmental degradation; (iv.) sustainable development; or (v.) green building; or

- Historic preservation.
- Craft breweries, craft distilleries or wine-tasting rooms;
- Farmer's markets at which locally-sourced produce, meat and eggs, seafood, artisan breads and cheeses, hand-harvested honey, and other fresh, small-batch foodstuffs are the predominant items that are offered for sale; or
- Antique markets at which the display of antiques covers at least fifty percent (50%) of the display floor area. For purposes of this section, antiques shall include only works of art, furniture, decorative objects or similar items having special value by virtue of their age and uniqueness.

# Appendix B: Map of the ViBe Creative District

