§ 3.05. General powers and duties of council. The council shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To stimulate and encourage throughout the state the study and presentation of the performing and fine arts and public interest and participation therein;

2. To make such surveys as may be deemed advisable of public and private institutions engaged within the state in artistic and cultural activities, including but not limited to, music, theatre, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture, and allied arts and crafts, and to make recommendations concerning appropriate methods to encourage participation in and appreciation of the arts to meet the legitimate needs and aspirations of persons in all parts of the state;

3. To take such steps as may be necessary and appropriate to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of our state and to expand the state's cultural resources;

4. To hold public or private hearings;

5. To enter into contracts, within the amount available by appropriation therefor, with individuals, organizations and institutions for services furthering the educational objectives of the council's programs;

6. To enter into contracts, within the amount available by appropriation therefor, with local and regional associations for cooperative endeavors furthering the educational objectives of the council's programs;

7. To accept gifts, contributions and bequests of unrestricted funds from individuals, foundations, corporations and other organizations or institutions for the purpose of furthering the educational objectives of the council's programs;

8. To make and sign any agreements and to do and to perform any acts

that may be necessary, desirable or proper to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

9. To promote tourism by supporting arts and cultural projects which would stimulate tourism and improve the state's attractions for tourists.

10. To administer the New York state musical instrument revolving fund in accordance with the provisions of section ninety-seven-v of the state finance law.

11. To promote regions of cultural significance by providing cultural institutions within such regions grants, technical assistance, or other assistance authorized by this section as the council deems appropriate, including, but not limited to:

(a) East Harlem, also known as "El Barrio", this region shall be bounded by East 96th Street on the South, 5th Avenue on the West, East 125th Street on the North and the East River on the East;

(b) the Harlem Renaissance Cultural District, this region shall be bounded by 110th Street on the South, the Hudson River on the West, 155th Street on the North and the 5th Avenue on the East; and

(c) "Little Yemen" which shall be a region in the city of New York bounded by White Plains Road on the West, Bronxdale Avenue on the East and North, and Van Nest Avenue on the South.

The council may designate additional regions of cultural significance at its discretion but such regions shall be compact, contiguous, and have an identifiable cultural heritage which unites the region.