



CULTURAL COMMISSION

LEE'S SUMMIT

Cultural Commission
Action Letter
November 20, 2024

1. **Call to Order**

Chairperson Eames called the November 20, 2024 Cultural Commission to order at 6:09 p.m.

Members Present

Chairperson Eames
Commissioner Gale
Commissioner Smith
Commissioner Soucie
Commissioner Thill
Commissioner Keshner
Commissioner Chubbuck
Commissioner Flowers
Commissioner Hennequin

Staff

Christal Weber
Glenda Masters
Lisa Azimi
Silvia Fernandez

Absent

Commissioner Townsend
Commissioner Smith
Commissioner Taylor

Special Guests

GK Callahan (Engagement Specialist) & Elena Stephenson (Field Specialist) from the University of Missouri Extension

2. **Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thill, seconded by Commissioner Hennequin to approve the agenda as published. The motion carried by a 9 to 0 vote (Commissioners, Townsend, Smith, and Taylor absent).

3. **Approval of the April Action Letter**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thill, seconded by Commissioner Gale to approve the October 16, 2024 Action Letter. The motion carried by a 9 to 0 vote.

4. **Public Comments** None

5. **Culture Asset Mapping Session**

GK Callahan & Elena Stephenson from the MU Extension shared a packet and power point with their asset mapping program and stated that their focus is community development through education. They bring resourced based knowledge so that the citizens can make informed decisions to improve the quality of their lives in many different categories. They shared a



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document listing all the areas in which they provide guidance. The Community Arts program is a three-way partnership through the MU Extension, University of Missouri, and the Missouri Community to bring arts-based community and research to counties and communities to foster economic development. The arts have an important part in building bridges, creating a sense of community belonging, providing platforms for deep reflection, and developing creating skills that are transferrable to the workplace. Through planning, programming, and research across various aspects they help communities develop thriving places where Missourians can live, work and play. Examples were given of other counties and the work done there.

They described asset mapping as a string-based approach to community development thinking about what you have and not what's wrong in the community. The best way to start is looking at the local assets, involve the community in the process, and find the hidden gems in the area. It is a snapshot in time that expires and changes rapidly providing the strengths and resources of the community helping to build on assets to address community needs and improve overall health and wellbeing. Ways to collect data include online surveys that go out into the community, focus groups, hire local data collectors, and pay local community members to collect data in order to have more rich full data. The data is then validated before and uploaded into a computer-generated map. They shared the example of the Arts KC asset map as an example showing color coded data collected and the mapped.

Ms. Masters stated that this Commission centers around the visual and performing arts, environment sustainability, historic preservation and the celebration of what Lee's Summit has to offer. The goal is to make this information usable, making it accessible, and up to date. It can be made interactive with the community and making it easy to update without a lot of manpower and money spent.

They then walked through a process with the Commission called Community Capitals Framework which works around seven main categories. This process provides a comprehensive way to categorize a community's assets and explore the relationships among them by the group brainstorming by mentioning current assets within the City for each category and provide a framework for asset mapping.

- **Natural—The quality and quantity of natural and environmental resources existing in a community with examples include parks, lakes, etc.**

The Commission came up with a wide variety of assets including Longview Lake, Lake Jacomo, James A. Reed, Unity Village, Legacy Park, Hartman Park, Rock Island Trail, to name a few.

- **Cultural – The values, norms, beliefs and traditions that people inherit from the family, school and community with examples that include cultural events/festivals, musical heritage, museums, historical associations, etc.**



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A number of assets were mentioned including Octoberfest, Parade of Hearts, Lee's Summit History Museum, Downtown Days, 3rd Street Cemetery, and permanent public art to name a few.

- **Human – Attributes of individuals that provide them with the ability to earn a living, strengthen community, and otherwise contribute to community organizations, to their families, and to self-improvement with such examples as formal and informal educational institutions, workforce training programs, adult and youth leadership programs, and lifelong learning activities.**

The assets mentioned included Youth Leadership Programs such as Pro Deo, Master Gardeners, Council Members, School Districts, volunteers, and MCC to name a few.

- **Social – Connections existing among people and organizations that help make things happen in the community such as activities that build trust among those of different races and ethnic backgrounds, citizen involvement in community discussions and events, community celebrations or parades, involvement in civic and service groups, and organizations that link diversity of people and organizations together.**

Assets mentioned included the Farmers Market, John Knox Village, the Veterans parade, the Optimist Club, Fourth Fridays, Kite festival, Russian Cultural Association, Downtown Main Street Association, MCC Cultural Center, and the Lions Club to name a few.

- **Political – The ability to influence and enforce rules, regulations, and standards with access to individuals and groups with the power to influence decisions with examples of elected and appointed government officials, citizen participation in issue forums, Congressional representative, and political organization leaders.**

The Commission mentioned the League of Women Voters, the Chamber of Commerce, the Tourism Board, the Friends of Lee's Summit, the Economic Development Council, and State Representative to name a few.

- **Financial – The variety of financial resources available to invest in local projects or economic development initiatives with examples being Community foundations, grants, micro-loan programs, revolving loan funds, and community development financial institutions.**

Assets mentioned included but not limited to the Lee's Summit Community Foundation, the Arts & Cultural Grant, Velocity, CID Downtown, Hospital and Corporate Sponsors, the Civic Round Table, and the Community Development Block Grant program.

- **Built – The infrastructure of the community – the basic set of facilities, services and physical structures needed by a community with examples being Broadband & other information technologies, utilities, water/sewer systems, roads/bridges, hospitals/health care buildings, and housing stock.**

Assets mentioned included Downtown Lee's Summit, Historic neighborhoods (District), Legay Park Amphitheater, the Amtrak station, John Knox Pavilion, on demand transit, Urgent Care and Hospitals, and Longview Mansion to name a few.



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The MU Extension representatives left the group with the task to narrow down to three categories in order to start the asset mapping process. It is a starting block and foundation to work from. Once City staff receives information back from the Extension it will be shared with the Commission.

6. Amtrak Planters – Butterfly Garden Project

Ms. Masters led discussion about converting the planter bed at the north side of the Amtrak stop into a butterfly garden and asked to enlist the Commission's help to decide how to move forward. There was conversation with the Master Gardeners and they're interested in helping to turn it into a butterfly garden. The overgrowth and weeds need to be cleaned and soil tested to get it prepped for spring. The Commission will work with the Parks Department to get it cleaned up. It was mentioned to make this as community volunteer opportunity in the future as well. The decision was made for several Commission members to meet and clean out what they can to help with the expense. Commissioner Flowers asked about signage for residents to know what the plants are and the purpose of the garden. Ms. Weber commented that the Master Gardener projects that are under education are required to have signage as well as activities tied to the project. When testing the soil and planting the community will be invited to come learn. The City will be responsible for the regular maintenance.

7. World Cup 2026 Planning—Community Committee Updates

Chair Eames led discussion about Lee's Summit's preparing for the World Cup coming up in June of 26. Thousands of people will potentially come to the City and take advantage of assets in the area with the asset map providing a great resource.

Ms. Masters mentioned that subcommittees, such as Beautification and Welcoming, could use more participation. If members of this Commission want to participate in any of those subcommittees they would likely welcome more people. She will share the full list for those interested.

Ms. Masters mentioned she is working with Arts KC as part of their version of the World Cup Task Force Committee that was formed. They are trying to work with KC 2026 to identify certain nodes or hubs of arts and cultural and entertainment activity within the region outside of the fan fest. They want to be proactive about making sure the different communities that have cultural activity or interconnectedness to different small businesses and other types of assets become utilized. A proposal will be created but will be dependent on what KC 2026 decides to do.

8. Staff Reports

Ms. Masters closed the public art call for the digital printed murals on the outside of the market and Commissioner Flowers and Commissioner Cole will be on the review committee. A new call will be issued for the painted murals for the stairways in the parking garage. The Arts & Culture



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Grant opened for applications and will close January 10th with the review of those applications to follow.

Ms. Weber mentioned that the Master gardeners are offering a Winter Boxing Training in January at Burr Oaks creating tiny greenhouses. It will be shared with the group once scheduled.

Mr. McGuire shared that the Farmers Market is well. They will start sheeting it and get it water tight in the next few weeks. Third Street will remain closed until February. The Canopy will be installed in December. RFP's were released for the sign package and will close in December. A Christmas tree for the area will be purchased off season with funding recommendations to be presented to the City.

The City Council Rules Committee will discuss broadcasting Board and Commission meetings again. Staff has shared that this Commission has interest in meeting off site with partner groups or touring assets and the difficulties that causes in that regard. The goal is transparency of what happens in these groups.

9. Commission Roundtable

The Wellness Commission and have invited the Cultural Commission to join them for a social gathering to be held on the regular meeting night.

10. Adjourn 8:10 p.m.