

SUMMARY REPORT



CULTURAL COMMISSION

LEE'S SUMMIT

Priority Setting Workshop

Nov. 15, 2023

Presented to:
The City of Lee's Summit

Mid-America Regional Council
gti@marc.org

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Introduction

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) was engaged to facilitate a priority setting workshop for the City of Lee's Summit Cultural Commission on Wednesday, Nov. 15 from 5 – 9 p.m. The purpose of the workshop was to provide the commission with an opportunity to build relationships and set shared priorities to pursue over the next one to three years.

This summary report follows the workshop agenda and offers brief descriptions of each activity — presenting the outcomes discussed by commission members. The resulting information will help the Cultural Commission operate more effectively as it pursues its objective to aid the Lee's Summit City Council on all cultural initiatives in the city. The roster of attendees is in **Appendix A**.

Getting Started

Following opening remarks from Chair Dave Eames, participants engaged in an interactive activity to get to know each other by answering a variety of questions in small groups. Following the small group discussion, there was a brief report-out period and participants shared unique and interesting facts they learned about each other. The purpose of the activity was to build stronger relationships, which creates more trust. Trusting one another is crucial to create the most effective commission possible.

The Ground Rules

The group discussed and affirmed the following ground rules to guide participation throughout the workshop.

1. Be engaged and fully present
2. Participate by sharing and listening
3. Stay in your lane
 - Commissioners: This is your day
 - Staff: Support and seek clarification
4. Be:
 - positive
 - candid
 - patient and respectful
5. Strive for consensus
6. Disagree agreeably
7. Practice “yes, and” rather than “yes/no, but”
8. Have fun!

Context for Priorities

Prior to the workshop, commissioners completed a survey with information to help the MARC team create an effective agenda. Responses from the survey were reflected to commission members in this opening presentation to set a common foundation of knowledge prior to goal setting. The complete survey report is included in **Appendix B-1**.

General Impressions

- Commissioners represent a wide range of time lived in Lee's Summit, with some having lived in the city for less than two years and others for 16 or more.
- Every commissioner has immense "passion" for the arts, history, environment or all three.
- There was an overarching desire by commissioners to get a better understanding of the commission's purpose and mission.
- The commission is made up of individuals with a combination of art, history and environmental sustainability backgrounds.
- Every participant expressed a desire to serve the Lee's Summit community and make the city a better place to live.

The opening contextual presentation included a review of the Commission's purpose statement and roles as adopted by the Lee's Summit City Council. Commissioners were asked to reflect on the commission roles that resonated most with them and also those roles that felt most ambiguous.

Purpose Statement

The Cultural Commission elevates the public realm by advising the City Council on recommendations regarding arts and cultural programming, community aesthetics, and historic preservation issues relevant to citizens and visitors.

Commission Roles

- Advise on and support the implementation of artistic, cultural, and historic initiatives coordinated through the relevant City departments, commissions or entities.
- Make recommendations to City Council and Administration regarding the creation of programs, events and activities that engage and educate citizens about our City's cultural and historical resources.
- Support the City in telling the story of the people, places and resources that make our city unique
- Work with other City departments and entities to encourage the incorporation of artistic, cultural, historic, tourism and beautification efforts into the City's overall design, function and economic development when possible.
- Serve as the City's Historic Preservation Commission for the purpose of maintaining the City's status as a Certified Local Government with the State Historic Preservation Office, and to preserve Lee's Summit's history and historical resources for future generations to learn from and appreciate.
- Advise on public art initiatives and policies related to the City's permanent and temporary public art collections, monuments, and gateways.
- Upon approval of the City Council, establish subcommittees to assist in accomplishing the objectives of the Commission and may appoint nonmembers to serve on those committees.

Initial Priorities

Commissioners were asked to share in the survey their initial thoughts on the top two priorities that should be pursued in the next one to three years. These were expanded upon during the priority setting and more specifics from that session begin on page 6 of this report. The priorities listed here are a reminder of the starting point and are not listed in priority order.

- Preserve Lee’s Summit history
- Establish local art and artists as integral to Lee’s Summit
- Develop a city-sponsored place for performance
- Determine how to make historical preservation useful for the community
- Continue beatification of streets and neighborhoods
- Figure out how to intertwine history, art, and sustainability into the city’s growth
- Promote public art and history awareness
- Commission public art pieces
- Further enhance economic impact of arts on the Lee’s Summit community
- Create an inclusive environment
- Protect and record archaeological sites (including cemeteries)
- Enhance community involvement in Lee’s Summit’s culture
- Advocate for sustainability practices
- Create events to bring people downtown
- Strengthen relationships with cultural arts organizations

Forecasting the Future

Before refining the initial priorities captured in the survey, commissioners were asked to forecast the ideal future state for culture in Lee’s Summit. This exercise challenged commissioners to explore the most ambitious desires for the community. This step helped ensure that priorities would be written with an aim toward idealistic goals. Below are questions asked and responses from commissioners:

1. The commission advises the city council on plans, programs and projects which improve the cultural experiences of city residents. When you think about the ideal future for culture in Lee’s Summit, what words come to mind?

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| - Inclusive | - Community |
| - Vitality | - Diverse |
| - Hope | - Visionary |
| - Everlasting | - Prideful |
| - Adaptable | - Fun |
| - Future-oriented | - Inter-connected trails |
| - Welcoming | - Murals |
| - Sustainable | - Events |
| - Engaging | - Public theater |
| - Informative | - Culture festivals |
| - Creative | - Art galleries |
| - Accessible | - Honest |
| - Green | - Positive |

2. How does Cultural Commission bring value to the City of Lee's Summit?

- Identity
- Interpretation of the world around Lee's Summit
- A space to hear citizens and encourage art and history
- Propagation of ideas
- Focus on cultural, arts and beautification
- Enhance the city's value
- Create and preserve a sense of pride
- Ideas from a "bottom-up" approach
- Preserve the history of Lee's Summit
- Focus on quality-of-life items

3. What is the Cultural Commission's greatest opportunity going forward?

- Inclusion and having a voice
- Encourage and support the growth art and revitalization of history
- Establish a link between art, history and community
- Preserve native environment while continuing expansion
- Highlight the history and celebrate Lee's Summit
- Plan for a better future
- Fill in deficits
- Programming for the new downtown market space
- Expand current offerings
- Increase awareness around cultural events and projects
- Create a welcoming city
- Tackling small goals to build to larger ones

Priority Setting

Facilitators reviewed and the commissioners affirmed the following four focus areas for the initial priorities submitted by survey respondents:

Historical Preservation

- Preserve Lee's Summit history
- Determine how to make historical preservation useful for the community
- Protect and record archaeological sites (including cemeteries)

Public Engagement

- Promote public art and history awareness
- Create an inclusive environment
- Enhance community involvement in Lee's Summit's culture
- Strengthen relationships with cultural arts organizations

Public Art

- Continue beautification of streets and neighborhoods

- Create events to bring people downtown
- Develop a city-sponsored place for performance
- Commission public art pieces

Arts as an Economic Engine

- Establish local art and artists as integral to Lee’s Summit
- Figure out how to intertwine history, art, and sustainability into the city’s growth
- Advocate for sustainability practices
- Further enhance economic impact of arts on the Lee’s Summit community

Participants split into four groups, each with a different priority focus area. Groups were tasked to clarify or add to the list of preliminary priorities for their assigned focus areas. The objective was to craft specific priority statements that were more focused and actionable. Groups reported their work on flipcharts posted around the room.

The final exercise gave the commissioners an opportunity to prioritize the strategies that were captured in the survey and subsequent discussion. Each participant received nine sticky dots – three green, three yellow and three red. Participants were asked to place dots next to strategies based on the following criteria:

- Green – high priority or “low-hanging fruit” that could generate an early win.
- Yellow – proceed with caution. May need more information.
- Red – wait. Not a priority this time.

The following includes all priorities listed and the amount of each color vote it received. The original content is available in **Appendix C**.

Historical Preservation

Preserve Lee’s Summit History (**11 green, 2 yellow**)

- Widen view of local history
- Location, geography, building types
- Better education of our human history
 - Who was here?
- Focus on our natural history

Determine how to make historical preservation useful for the community (**1 green, 4 yellow**)

- Education, tours, infographics, technology
- Traveling exhibits, ‘museum on the move’

Protect and record archeological sites (including cemeteries) (**1 green, 2 yellow**)

- Have fun with tall tales/myths
- Better maps/diagrams for understanding
- Partner with history focused organizations

Public Engagement

Promote public art and history awareness (4 green, 5 yellow)

- Information clearinghouse
 - Cultural version of LS Aware (public notification system)
 - Not just events, but “this day in history” or “did you see _____ @ (location)”
- Walking tours w/ volunteers
 - Think “300 chats”/geofencing

Create an inclusive environment (2 yellow)

- Tap into established Lee’s Summit R-7 programs
 - Market assets
 - EnviroScience @ Summit Technology Academy
 - Diverse cultural and artistic clubs/groups

Enhance community involvement in Lee’s Summit’s culture

- Meet with retired communities for volunteers
 - Tap into expertise to create experiences

Strengthen relationships with cultural arts organizations

- Work with established groups outside of Lee’s Summit
 - Learn from them
 - Bring art to us

Public Art

Continue beautification of streets and neighborhoods (1 red)

- Create/nurture partnerships with local nurseries and organizations

Create events to bring people downtown (1 yellow)

- Encourage/incentivize community events and programs
- Communicate opportunities for different types of volunteer events
- Educate commissioners/city leaders on best practices from other local governments

Develop a city-sponsored place for performance

Commission public art pieces (2 green, 4 yellow)

- Creation of policies/guidelines & communicate transparent process/expectations/timeline
 - Manage expectations based on budget
- Think outside of downtown for opportunities
 - Public art (buy/rent or create)
- Events for special months and days

Easy wins (4 green, 3 yellow, 2 red)

- Add benches/easier seating in downtown
 - Include “donated by” or “in memory of” signage
- Better signage
- Establish relationships with existing organizations
- Establish relationships with downtown events

Arts as an Economic Engine

Establish local art and artists as integral to Lee’s Summit (12 green, 1 yellow)

- Centralized directory of art/artists/events
 - Look into developing an app
- Affordable/accessible art spaces for local artists

Figure out how to intertwine history, art, and sustainability into the city’s growth (3 yellow)

- Major annual events = Destination Lee’s Summit

Advocate for sustainability practices

- Sustainable construction policies

Further enhance economic impact of arts on the Lee’s Summit community (4 yellow, 1 red)

- Creative funding opportunities
 - Rethink arts funding (arts = \$)
- Art for art’s sake

Recommendations

Facilitators reviewed the votes following the workshop and identified common themes across the four categories that appear to have the strongest support for initial priorities for the Commission.

1. Document the lesser known and unique aspects of Lee’s Summit history

Through the discussion and voting process, commissioners voiced a desire to widen the view of local history to include human history and natural history within a geographic context. The Cultural Commission could engage local experts, such as the Lee’s Summit History Museum or Mid-Continent Public Library, to catalog important aspects of Lee’s Summit history that are not well known or promoted in city publications or facilities. A secondary priority could involve identifying and executing strategies to promote these untold stories through City of Lee’s Summit channels such as websites, newsletters, communication apps or historical displays at city facilities and events.

2. Conduct a needs assessment for dedicated arts and culture spaces

There was extensive discussion about the limited spaces available in the community that are accessible and functional for visual and performing arts. Creating or expanding dedicated spaces for arts is likely a longer-term priority that will require extensive planning and fundraising beyond the initial one- to three-year timeframe designated for this process. However, the Cultural Commission could do outreach to local artists and arts organizations through a process called cultural asset mapping to better understand

the needs and limitations of current spaces. The Commission would complete the cultural asset map for the city relatively quickly, and it would provide ample information to help with understanding space and programming gaps. In 2022, Jackson County completed an [Arts & Culture Strategic Plan](#) that includes a Cultural Arts Inventory for the entire county; this could be a starting point for the Commission. Cultural asset mapping could be foundational work for future facilities planning. In addition, the Cultural Commission could create a centralized directory of artists, art displays and arts events for public promotions and to better connect the local arts community.

3. Build relationships with local and regional cultural partners

As a new entity, the Cultural Commission will benefit greatly by learning about and from the various cultural organizations within and surrounding the city. Learning about the various cultural assets in the community and better understanding their needs, the Commission will be able to effectively serve as a connector and conduit entity.

The Cultural Commission could work to enhance relationships with existing arts and cultural organizations and events. Partners could be invited to make presentations at regular meetings of the Commission to expand awareness of each other's work and open opportunities for future collaboration. The Commission could also work with staff to convene periodic gatherings with cultural organizations and artists to build relationships through collective learning, visioning and idea sharing.

4. Identify necessary policies and guiding documents that can support the City's implementation of a robust arts and culture program

Although this priority scored lower in the voting process, creating and recommending policy is an essential role of the Cultural Commission. The completion of this task could also include further exploration of creative funding opportunities for recommended programs. Working with staff to aid the policy process will be key for this Commission's success. In the immediate future, city staff could inventory and review policies to identify gaps that currently exist.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The purpose of this workshop was to accomplish two key objectives: build relationships and establish shared priorities for the next one to three years. Within the limitations of a four-hour session, the group was able to focus on several key priorities that it can continue to refine in the coming months. The next step for the Commission is to identify actionable short- and long-term strategies that align with these recommendations and key functions of the commission.

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) was honored to facilitate this event. If MARC may be of service in the future, please reach out. The regional council exists to support the effectiveness of local governments. MARC's Government Training Institute specializes in training and professional development opportunities for local government staff and elected and appointed officials. Please contact gti@marc.org to discuss your further training and facilitation needs as a result of this workshop. We look forward to continuing our work with the City of Lee's Summit and hope to be involved in any projects where we can be of service.

Appendices

Appendix A: Attendee Roster

Commission Members:

Alexis Allen
Bernadette Basham
Dave Eames, Chair
Erlene Flowers
Hunter Gale
James Hennequin
Gary Keshner
Bruce McClain
Stephanie Smith
Cole Soucie
Sara Taylor
Jeanine Thill

City Staff:

Glenda Masters, Cultural Arts Manager

MARC:

Lauren Palmer, Director of Local Government Services
Lukas Parrish, Graduate Management Intern

Appendix B-1: Pre-Workshop Survey Report

1. Name (Last, First) – 13 responses

2. How long have you lived in Lee’s Summit?



3. What motivated you to serve on this commission?

1	I am a local artist and very interested in local history. Bill Baird asked if I would be interested in joining and I was happy to.
2	Interested in the history and preservation and the development of the arts.
3	A desire to get out into the community and get more involved in helping the city move forward in a positive direction.
4	I have a passion for history, having an BA in history, and want to see it preserved in a useful way for the community. I am also an attorney in downtown KC and get to see how their history is preserved and used on a daily basis. Those two combined gave me a motivation to serve on the commission, and my age of 29 I feel gives me a different perspective than most, which I hope will aid the commission.
5	I wanted to help further impact our city with arts, history and beautification.
6	The desire to give back and connect with like minded individuals.
7	I am passionate about sustainability and green initiatives. I am also a life long LS resident who enjoys being involved in a variety of ways.

8	Appreciate the opportunity to give back to the community and to support the arts and history of LS.
9	An opportunity to be a contributor of the growth of this city.
10	Help people keep historical buildings and monuments around.
11	My family. I want a wonderful, vibrant, inclusive community around my daughter as she grows up here.
12	I love Lee's Summit and want to ensure our city focuses on sustainability and conservation of our natural environment.
13	As a professor of the arts for MCC Longview I felt that this would be a great opportunity to strengthen the link between the college's Cultural Arts Offerings and the city of Lee's Summit.

4. How do you spend your time when you are not participating on this commission?

1	I spend time with my family/ working/ drawing/ playing golf
2	This is a strange question
3	Other than work, I enjoy playing music, making videos and taking photographs (including special events and outdoor spaces such as festivals, lake activities, extreme weather, etc.), working around the house affecting repairs/upgrades as well as "fun" projects, reading about history including local history, watching and studying film of a wide variety to include documentaries, and watching YouTube videos about all the subjects as well as science.
4	During the day I am an attorney in downtown KC. During the night and weekends, I enjoy spending time with friends, family, my husband, and husky. My hobbies include reading, crafting, and riding horses.

5	I enjoy spending time at our sign shop, design studio and retail store.
6	Working
7	I am a mother, wife, business owner, board member for ProDeo Youth Center, Rotarian, serve the LS Educational Foundation, Leadership LS Coordinator, LS Chamber member, and youth leader at church.
8	Working at GaleHart Communities and Zen Donkey Farms, time with friends and family, volunteering at Deep Roots KC, reading, hiking, gardening
9	I am a freelance artist and writer; at present I'm promoting my book.
10	Working on historical monuments
11	working full time, PTA, being with family and friends, reading, going out & about exploring the KC metro.
12	With family and friends
13	Working at MCC Longview as Professor of Speech/Theatre

5. What will make this workshop successful?

1	N/A
2	I am not sure what your goal is ; I need to know this to determine what would make it a success
3	Moving efficiently through the process and making clear decisions.
4	The workshop will be successful if we find a clear definition and purpose for ourselves. Right now we are all trying to understand what we can do and what is expected of us,

	without having a clear vision or idea. This commission is a combination of many previous commissions so I feel we are murky on our details. If we can find that clarity we will be successful.
5	Listening to other people's hopes and goals to make our city a better place. Then, working to make those ideas happen.
6	Robust conversation about the cultural assests and opportunities action items
7	Keeping an open mind, learning from those who are passionate about other things, asking questions, organized processes.
8	Providing clarity on our objectives and what success looks like for our committee
9	Fresh ideas and a clear vision of what and where we want to go, most all respect for one another's input.
10	N/A
11	Action items with a strategic plan
12	My answer is three-fold: 1) This is a learning opportunity for me so I can understand where we've been and where we want to go 2) Identifying practical strategies both short-term and long-term 3) much of the conversations have been historical focused. I'd like to ensure we incorporate environment preservation in this workshop as well.
13	Gaining knowledge of the city of Lee's Summit Cultural Arts dynamics and the goals of the city regarding this.

6. What are two priorities this commission should focus on over the next 1-3 years?

1	Help preserve the history of lees summit, and help establish local art and artists
---	--

2	Developing a city sponsored place for performance ; developing a real place to hang art ; making art a real Part of Lees Summit
3	I am not prepared to opine with any specifics until after the workshop.
4	Historical preservation in a meaningful and useful way for the community. A permanent and easy way for the community to enjoy the arts. It would be wonderful if we could combine those two with each other and the beautification of the city.
5	Further cementing our city as a place that fosters public art and engagement. And working to continue beautification of our streets and neighborhoods.
6	Establishing vision and goals
7	our role in the city's growth and expansion (historical, art, sustainability)
8	Promoting LS public art and history awareness generally, perhaps commissioning additional public art pieces and further enhancing the economic impact of the arts on the LS community
9	1. Creative collaboration inspires people. 2. Inclusion, people want to be a part of the growth. a feeling that they are community.
10	N/A
11	community involvement / awareness & making sure proper & timely surveys &/or GPR is carried out to protect & record archaeological sites, including cemeteries
12	1) Sustainability and beautification of our natural environment 2) historical preservation
13	1. Keep creating events that bring people to the downtown area of Lee's Summit. 2. Strengthen the relationships between different Cultural Arts Organizations to continue to grow the Cultural Arts Offerings in Lee's Summit.

7. Is there anything else important for us to understand before facilitating this event?

1	N/A
2	What can be done to educate and preserve the history and a real means to share this information with the public - especially school children
3	I am too much of a novice in this arena to offer any useful suggestions. Give me a year or so and I am sure to have some well informed opinions.
4	Thank you for your assistance and time.
5	Excited to step forward with this new commission in a positive and efficient manner. To realize the goals the commissioners bring to our table.
6	Not that I can think of. So excited to have you helping us!
7	Appreciate your time and efforts!
8	Glenda, Shannon and their teams already do a terrific job - excited to learn how best to support and expand on their efforts
9	Only this, figuratively speaking, community is art in the making, the beauty of it are the people who live in it.
10	No
11	Clear action items are a must
12	If there is reading material (articles, websites, other) that you could share beforehand. I'm relatively new to LS (5 years) so would appreciate any information on specific areas we may focus on.
13	I'm excited to learn more about Lee's Summit, MO.

Appendix B-2: Evaluation Survey Report

1. First and Last Name (optional) – 11 responses (10 online, 1 paper)
2. Overall, how satisfied are you with the event?

● Extremely satisfied	5
● Very satisfied	5
● Somewhat satisfied	0
● Not so satisfied	0
● Not at all satisfied	0



3. How did you find the length of the event?

● It was too long	0
● It was too short	0
● It was the perfect length	10



4. What did you find most helpful?

1	Discussion with other members
2	It felt very structured and organized
3	The facilitators did a great job of guiding the group through a process of big picture to smaller manageable tasks.
4	Statements and dot voting
5	Getting to know is other
6	The focusing on action items - the dot exercise was great
7	Sharing information

8	Sharing ideas and prioritizing
9	Lots of great ideas, focus time and got to know my peers better
10	Really enjoyed the conversation with our tables, getting to know each other
11	Getting to know the focus of the commission and better know the other commissioners

5. What did you find least helpful?

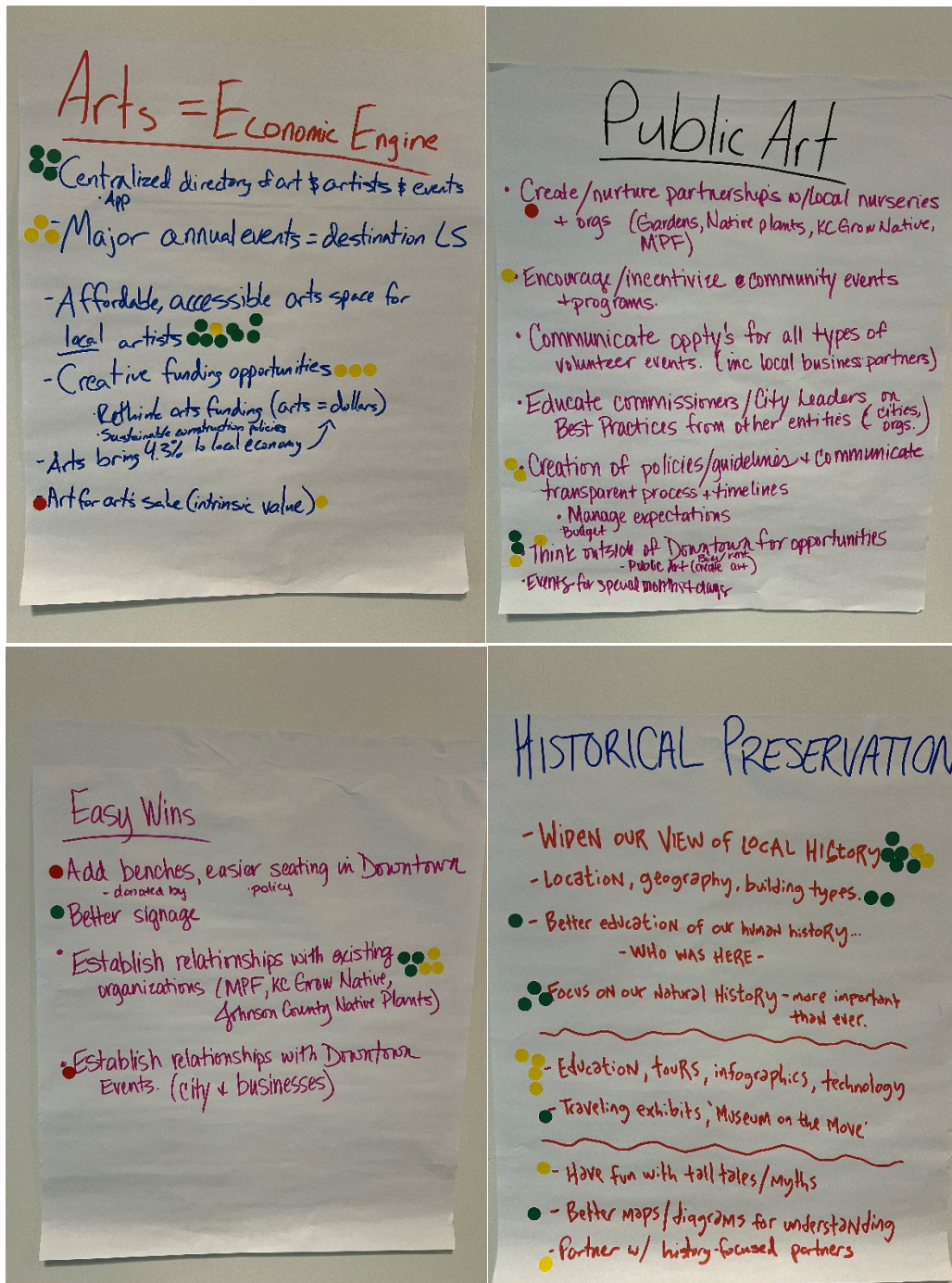
1	Time to know each other activity
2	N/A
3	Nothing
4	Getting to know each other, already introduced
5	N/A
6	Ice breakers
7	Nothing
8	It was all helpful
9	Environmental and Sustainability is under represented in this commission and it shows up in our topics and areas of focus.

10	It all was good.
11	It was all beneficial - thank you for helping

6. Do you have any suggestions to improve future events?

1	I think that we need to have a list of the activities and reprioritize them to get a goal to work toward
2	N/A
3	You all did a great job! Thank you for your time and energy!!
4	N/A
5	N/A
6	More interactive, visual exercises
7	The meeting facilitators were excellent.
8	Have the dots mean Green- immediate goal, Yellow - mid range goal and Blue long term goal. No red dots.
9	This was a great meeting! Nice work!!
10	N/A
11	I was curious about how other similar organizations and towns operate compared to ours, and would like to hear more about that

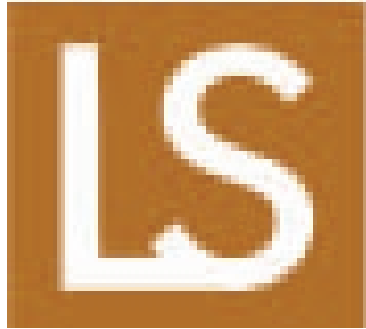
Appendix C: Posters



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Information Clearinghouse
 - Cultural version of LS aware
 - Not just events, but "this day in history" or "did you see ___ @ (location)"
- Walking tours w/ volunteers
 - think "zoo chats" / geofencing
- Tap into programs already est. w/ LSRT
 - market assets
 - classes
 - enviroscience @ STA
 - diverse cultural/artistic clubs/groups
- Meet w/ retired communities groups for volunteers & tap into expertise to create experiences
- Work w/ est. groups outside of LS to create partnerships → learn from them bring art to us

Appendix D: Slide Deck

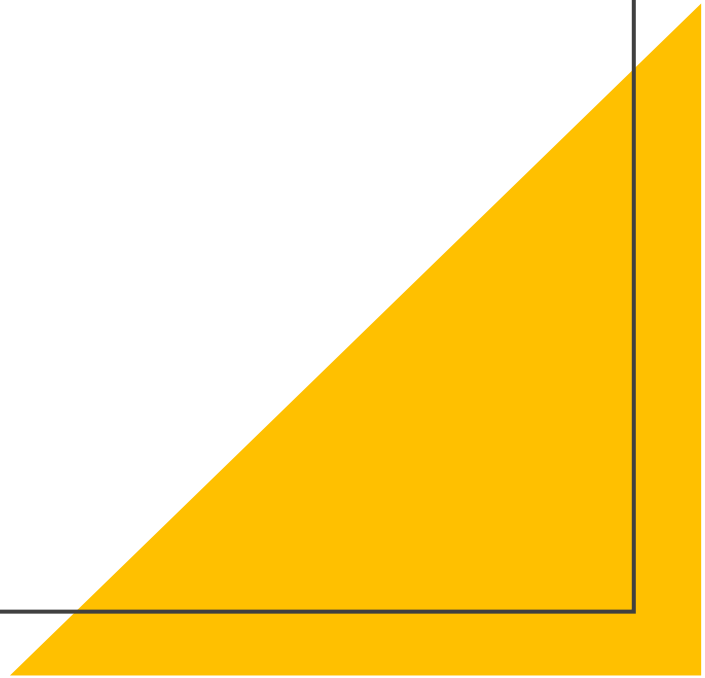


CULTURAL COMMISSION

LEE'S SUMMIT

Priority Setting Workshop

Wednesday, November 15



Introductions

Roadmap

- Getting to know each other
 - Context
 - Forecasting the future
 - Priority setting
 - Next Steps
-

Ground Rules

- Be engaged and fully present
 - Participate by sharing and listening
 - Stay in your lane
 - Commissioners: This is your day
 - Staff: Support and seek clarification
 - Be:
 - positive
 - candid
 - patient and respectful
 - Strive for consensus
 - Disagree agreeably
 - Practice “yes, and” rather than “yes/no, but”
 - Have fun!
-

Getting to Know Each Other

Activity #1

Getting to Know You: **Round 1 of 3** (10 minutes)

- When the bell rings, five (5) questions will be listed on the screen...
- Each person at the table has less than 2 minutes to answer any one of the listed questions





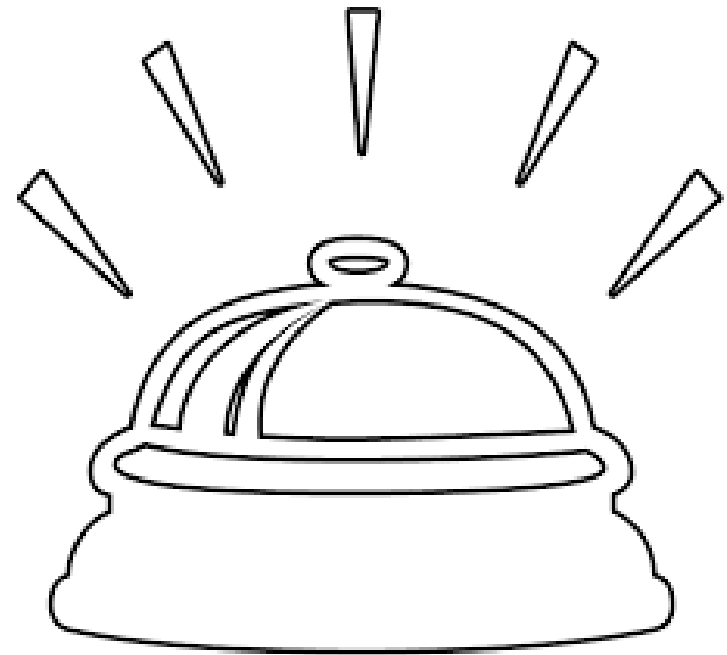
- 1. What is something people are surprised to discover about you?**
 - 2. What is the strangest food you've ever eaten?**
 - 3. What is a fun experience that you recently had?**
 - 4. What language would you most like to master?**
 - 5. What is the strangest thing you believed as a child?**
-

Let's Debrief

Saved by the Bell!

- Quick!
- Move to a new table
- Sit with new people

Round two (2) begins in two (2) minutes!



Getting to Know You: **Round 2 of 3** (10 minutes)

- When the bell rings, five (5) questions will be listed on the screen...
- Each person at the table has less than 2 minutes to answer any one of the listed questions





- 1. What is something you have recently discovered that you are excited about?**
 - 2. What is something you have always wanted to learn?**
 - 3. What new tool or app do you think needs to be invented?**
 - 4. Who, dead or alive, would you most like to have dinner with?**
 - 5. What is one thing that made you smile in the last two weeks?**
-

Let's Debrief

Time's Up!

- Quick!
- Move to a new table
- Sit with new people

Round three (3) begins in two (2) minutes!



Getting to Know You: **Round 3 of 3** (10 minutes)

- When the bell rings, five (5) questions will be listed on the screen...
- Each person at the table has less than 2 minutes to answer any one of the listed questions





- 1. What is your favorite thing about Lee's Summit?**
 - 2. What fun experience have you recently had in the city of Lee's Summit?**
 - 3. What is a hidden Lee's Summit gem you cherish, but many others are unaware of?**
 - 4. What's your favorite Lee's Summit historical or cultural fact?**
 - 5. Why did you decide to serve on the cultural commission?**
-

Let's Debrief

Context for Priorities

General Impressions

- Wide range of time lived in Lee's Summit
(under 2 years – over 16)
- “Passion”
- Overarching desire to get a better understanding of the commission's purpose and mission
- Combination of individuals with art and history backgrounds
- Desire to serve the Lee's Summit community and make the city a better place to live

Purpose Statement

The Cultural Commission elevates the public realm by advising the City Council on recommendations regarding arts and cultural programming, community aesthetics, and historic preservation issues relevant to citizens and visitors.

Commission Roles

- Advise on and support the implementation of artistic, cultural, and historic initiatives coordinated through the relevant City departments, commissions or entities.
- Make recommendations to City Council and Administration regarding the creation of programs, events and activities that engage and educate citizens about our City's cultural and historical resources.
- Support the City in telling the story of the people, places and resources that make our city unique.

Commission Roles

- Work with other City departments and entities to encourage the incorporation of artistic, cultural, historic, tourism and beautification efforts into the City's overall design, function and economic development when possible.
- Serve as the City's Historic Preservation Commission for the purpose of maintaining the City's status as a Certified Local Government with the State Historic Preservation Office, and to preserve Lee's Summit's history and historical resources for future generations to learn from and appreciate.
- Advise on public art initiatives and policies related to the City's permanent and temporary public art collections, monuments, and gateways.
- Upon approval of the City Council, establish subcommittees to assist in accomplishing the objectives of the Commission and may appoint nonmembers to serve on those committees.

Looking forward...

Preserve Lee's Summit history

Establish local art and artists as integral to Lee's Summit

Develop a city-sponsored place for performance

Determine how to make historical preservation useful for the community

Continue beautification of streets and neighborhoods

Figure out how to intertwine history, art, and sustainability into the city's growth

Promote public art and history awareness

Commission public art pieces

Further enhance economic impact of arts on the Lee's Summit community

Create an inclusive environment

Protect and record archaeological sites (including cemeteries)

Enhance community involvement in Lee's Summit's culture

Advocate for sustainability practices

Create events to bring people downtown

Strengthen relationships with cultural arts organizations

Keys to Success

- “Clarity”
- Broad thinking about culture – arts, history, environment.
- Learning from each other.
- Efficient, organized process.

Forecasting the Future

Activity #2



Part 1

The commission advises the City Council on artistic, cultural, and historic initiatives which improve the cultural experience of city residents. When you think about the ideal future for culture in Lee's Summit, what words come to mind?

Compilation of Ideas

Abundance
Accessible*
Sense of community
versatility
Affordable
(spaces for amateur
groups)
Artistic
Fun
Engaging
Informative

Sparking curiosity
Nature blended w/
city
Vitality
Withstands time
Welcoming
Hope
Dependable
Stable

Authenticity
Eclectic art
Progressive
Gracefully growing
Respecting past and
environment
Maintaining historic
assets
Space for spoken word
and poetry

Forecasting the Future: Part 2

A. How does the Cultural Commission bring value to the City of Lee's Summit?

B. What is the Cultural Commission's greatest opportunity going forward?



Compilation of Ideas

- A
 - Arts spaces that meet arts needs – rethink vacant spaces – express the value beyond \$\$
 - Bottom up approach – connection to what people want
 - Identity
 - Maximizing assets – train station
 - Capture institutional knowledge
 - Create and preserve the sense of pride – protect place
 - Expanding/promoting arts-focused events that fuel tourism
 - Have actionable items – be goal-driven
-

Compilation of Ideas

- B
 - Promoting tourism – coordination among existing events (arts calendar)
 - Arts directory (assets, organizations – not just events)
 - Preserving green space as a beautification asset
 - Establish the link between art, history and community
 - Tackling some small goals, then aiming for a lofty horizon
 - Opportunity for meaningful public engagement
 - History walks, arts walks, haunted tours – use technology (app)
 - Good chance for inclusion

Staff are ready! Ideas welcome!

Priority Setting

Activity #3

Historical Preservation

- Preserve Lee's Summit history
 - Determine how to make historical preservation useful for the community
 - Protect and record archaeological sites (including cemeteries)
-

Public Engagement

- Promote public art and history awareness
 - Create an inclusive environment
 - Enhance community involvement in Lee's Summit's culture
 - Strengthen relationships with cultural arts organizations
-

Public Art

- Continue beautification of streets and neighborhoods
 - Create events to bring people downtown
 - Develop a city-sponsored place for performance
 - Commission public art pieces
-

Arts = Economic Engine

- Establish local art and artists as integral to Lee's Summit
 - Figure out how to intertwine history, art, and sustainability into the city's growth
 - Advocate for sustainability practices
 - Further enhance economic impact of arts on the Lee's Summit community
-

Small Group Task

- Clarify or add to the list of preliminary priorities for this topic.
- Objective: Craft statements that are more focused and actionable.

Example

- Create events to bring people downtown

VS

- Enhance promotion of the Community Calendar on the city's website.
 - Identify gaps in programming throughout the year and recruit partners (city or external) to sponsor new events.
-

Hints

- Think back to the words you used to describe the ideal state for culture.
 - Note questions for group discussion.
 - Don't overthink.
-

Stoplight Voting

GREEN

Let's Go!

“This is a high priority.”

“This is low-hanging fruit.”

“I love this idea!”

“This is going to take time to get right, so we better get started.”

YELLOW

Proceed with caution

“This is important but not the highest priority.”

“I need more information or public input.”

“We should do this, but not in the next three years.”

RED

Stop/Wait

“I don't like this idea.”

“I'm intrigued, but the timing is wrong.”

“This isn't the role of the city.”

“This isn't a high priority.”



Thank You!

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