



CULTURAL COMMISSION

LEE'S SUMMIT

Cultural Commission
Action Letter
October 15, 2025

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Eames called the October 15, 2025 Cultural Commission to order at 6:07 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present

Chair Eames
Commissioner S. Smith
Commissioner Thill
Commissioner Townsend
Commissioner Keshner
Commissioner Soucie
Commissioner J. Smith
Commissioner Chubbuck
Commissioner Gale
Commissioner Spangler

Staff

Silvia Arellano Fernandez
Christal Weber
Lisa Azimi

Absent

Commissioner Flowers
Commissioner Taylor
Commissioner Forton

3. Public Comments None

4. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Townsend, seconded by Commissioner Soucie to approve the agenda as published. The motion carried by a 10 to 0 vote. (Commissioners Flowers, Forton, and Taylor absent).

5. Approval of the September 17, 2025 Action Letter

A motion was made by Commissioner Townsend, seconded by Commissioner Spangler to approve the August 27, 2025 Action Letter. The motion carried by a 10 to 0 vote. (Commissioners Flowers, Forton, and Taylor absent).

6. Committee and Task Force Reports:

- a. **Public Education and Engagement** – Chair Eames kicked things off by mentioning a Public Art Walk on Sunday, November 8, 2025, from 2-4pm. All should meet at the Green Street pavilion and walk the downtown to view murals and public art. The Commissioners were invited in case help is needed with corralling stragglers. Ms. Weber stated it will be advertised in the Cultural Arts Newsletter, Cultural Arts webpage, Facebook event, and the Tourism calendar.



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They gave an update on the coloring page submittals for Good Neighbor week. This year they received teenager and adult submittals only. The awards will go out soon.

Ms. Fernandez sent a few of the characters from the scribe mural to integrate into the shirt. They will get them printed up soon. It will be sent to the group to get sizes.

Chair Eames asked for an update for the Bloomberg app with Ms. Fernandez stating she just finished adding the history tour. It will be officially done on Nov. 3rd. She asked for volunteers for the audio part of the guide. Ms. Weber asked Councilmember Townsend if knew of students from Longview that wanted voiceover credit.

The fountain in downtown was also mentioned. Lane 4 is the owner of the area and is in favor of possibly changing the structure. The option is to turn it into a planter. The art is damaged and will be deaccessioned.

- b. Preservation Committee** – Commissioner S. Smith shared that Farmers Market didn't have room for the October for the mock excavation and will be rescheduled for spring. Good Neighbor week had a few more groups than spring. As an update on Certified Local Government status Ms. Weber said that Ms. Adair has the State Historic Preservation Council (SHPO) staff coming in to do a presentation on the Certified Local Government program. They will do a training for the whole commission to explain the program and about the responsibilities. They focus on buildings but will also talk about preserving the City's cultural heritage or artistic opportunities. They will tentatively come to the January meeting and the Liaison who is over historical preservation purposes for the Planning Commission will also be in attendance.

Commissioner Smith then gave a positive update on the WWII event partnering with LSR7 for Dorinda Nicholson, author and child survivor of Pearl Harbor, that came to speak. The books there were donated by Alissa's Wishes and helped to draw people in. A bigger media plan should be used in the future to get a larger audience. It was a good test for the Preservation Committee. There was positive feedback from the history museum. The goal is to work with the Truman Library for future events.

- 7. Missouri Creative District Designation** – This item was forwarded to the November meeting. They first need to meet with the Cultural Arts Committee with Downtown Lee's Summit.

- 8. Public Art Grants Presentation and Confirmation of Awards**

Chair Eames shared a list of the six organizations that are up for grants provided by the City. The \$2500 grant should be used for general operating costs or for a specific project within the City limits. The grant is awarded to the department in July, issued in Sept or Oct, then at the end of the year the applicants turn in a report. The groups under consideration include Downtown Lee's Summit Main Street, Lee's Summit Symphony, Summit Art, Summit Theater Group, Truman Medical Center (Jackson County Public Health), and the William Baker Choral Foundation (LS Singers). After discussion through each group's programs all were approved for the grant. Staff recommends funding all grants since there is adequate funding, the



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organizations meet the requirements and align with the goals of the Commission as a whole. Motion was made by Commissioner Chubbock to fund all the programs presented, seconded by Commissioner Townsend. The motion passed by a 10 to 0 vote. (Commissioners Flowers, Forton, and Taylor absent)

9. Future Public Art Grants

Ms. Weber asked for a couple Commissioners that would be on a task force to look at next year's budget and to create a public art matching grant program. The Commission has a big push in the Strategic plan focusing on public art and it would be a way to incentivize the public and art partnerships. The task force would look at future grants and meet once in January and once in February. Chair Eames and Commissioner Thill expressed interest in helping.

10. Roundtable

Chair Eames thanked staff for the promotion of Neon Nights event which had 76 people in attendance. Commissioner Thill gave kudos to Chair Eames for bringing it downtown. Ms. Weber said her husband had the best time and talked about it for two days. Chair Eames is taking the Visitors Bureau on a private Neon Nights tour Monday night and invited the Commission.

Ms. Fernandez gave an update on Public Art saying she met with Parks to nail down the final three artists for the mural at Pleasant Lea Park. Interviews are on October 28th and 29th to finalize the selected artist. She will put the Sculpture Walk on Café that will be closing late November or early December.

The sculpture calls for Lovell are due November 10th or 11th.

The canine memorial sculpture mold is being finalized. SShould be able to see it is before bronzed soon. She meets with St. Lukes on October 20th for a public art plan for their signage for Green Street since they are sponsoring the Grove. They hope to get a public art piece that will be interactive. Next Silent Book Club. is November 6th. It is in the Arts and Culture newsletter and on the tourism calendar.

As far as programming there is a Critter Chat October 15 at 5:30pm. They are making sculpture hedgehogs with hedgehogs. . Friday, October 17th, is Adult Night Out with line dancing by instructor. They will teach four different styles of line dancing. There will be 6-8 events per month. Ms. Fernandez sent out a volunteer link for any Commissions to help and there is also a signup page. Any help is appreciated.

Commissioner Townsend brought posters advertising the Longview performance of RENT. Please get the word out for the show for the initial twelve performances, November through December.

Commissioner Spangler hoped that the performances for the High School theater shows can be announced. She was directed to email the flyers to Ms. Weber.



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Commissioner Chubbuck mentioned the Seeds of Life gardens. The vegetables have quit but the aromatic asters are filled with bees and butterflies. She enlisted prayers to help her figure out community involvement. Ms. Weber mentioned possible partnering to do programming at the garden at SE 3rd and SE topaz.

Commissioner Thill gave a shout out to Arty Party which is an event sponsored by LS Creates next Thursday 10/23 5:30-8:30 with \$50 tickets. There will be interactive artists with a live and a silent auction of art. They selected 6 artists with special pieces, musical performers, live artistry, comedian, improve comedy group at Unity Village. She gave an update from the Tourism Board that they are refining the marketing campaign and it will be rolled out soon.

All are invited the Boards and Commissions Celebration on December 4th at 5:30 pm. for hors d'erves and socializing. Bring partners and families that support you in your involvement. Invitations coming soon.

11. Adjourn Commission Meeting 7:29 p.m.