



CULTURAL COMMISSION

LEE'S SUMMIT

Cultural Commission
Action Letter
October 16, 2024

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Eames called the October 16, 2024 Cultural Commission to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present

Chairperson Eames
Vice Chairperson Allen
Commissioner Smith
Commissioner Gale
Commissioner Thill
Commissioner Keshner
Commissioner Hennequin
Commissioner Taylor

Absent

Commissioner Townsend
Commissioner Basham
Commissioner Chubbuck
Commissioner Flowers
Commissioner Soucie

Staff

Christal Weber
Glenda Masters
Silvia Arellano Fernandez
Adair Bright
Lisa Azimi

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Keshner to approve the agenda as published. The motion carried by an 8 to 0 vote (Commissioners Townsend, Basham, Chubbuck, Flowers, and Soucie absent).

4. Approval of the April Action Letter

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Gale to approve the September 18, 2024 Action Letter. The motion carried by an 8 to 0 vote (Commissioners Townsend, Basham, Chubbuck, Flowers, and Soucie absent).

5. Public Comments None

6. Defining "Culture/Cultural" Discussion – Chair Eames started the discussion. Ms. Fernandez sent a survey for the Commissioners to fill out. Ms. Masters shared what the questions were and the group responses that were submitted. As a group come to a consensus to hone in on the meaning of culture for the Commission. A definition she shared was - To sustain a thriving arts community and to preserve our region's diverse culture. Culture of a community refers to the shared beliefs, values, customs, practices, and social behaviors of a particular group or



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community. It encompasses many aspects, including language, art, religion, cuisine and social. She then shared the purpose statement of the cultural commission that is on the Ordinance and website. **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.

Glenda shared the study slides discussing each question and responses. The list can be edited in real-time for anything missing and expanded as needed.

- **What key words define culture to you?** The group talked about this question and additional key words to add.
- **What general elements, features, or characteristics within Lee's Summit could be considered "cultural" to you?** The key words were brainstormed with additional words added to the list.
- **Do you have examples of communities or commissions that successfully support the arts, history, humanities, natural resources, or heritage of a place?** Thirteen cities were listed and the Commission members gave reasons for their submittal.

Ms. Masters then shared the Purpose Statement asking if it still fits, does it work, or does it need to be adjusted? Chair Eames suggested coming up with a two to three sentence statement with more vibrant language. Based on the discussions, Ms. Masters will pare things down and create bullet points and then get feedback from the Commission.

7. 2024/25 Work Plan

- The MU Extension will lead an active discussion on Cultural Asset mapping at the next meeting on November 20th. They have a framework they utilize and will lead the group through the types of funding and other support systems.
- A Google drive has been created for the Cultural Commission. Documents will help staff to share information. One document is a calendar of activities through the end of this year and will be updated to include future activities and events. A second document is a list of cultural and community organizations and assets within Lee's Summit that are mostly 501C3 arts and cultural organizations. All will be able to view and add to the list.

8. World Cup 2026 Planning

- The organizations involved include the Lee's Summit Chamber, Downtown Mainstreet, as well as the Destination Marketing Organization (DMO). Ms. Masters reached out to the Chamber for an update. Commissioner Thill said there was not an official report from the DMO but there were emails about gathering information and getting a core group together to figure out the path forward. Commissioner Taylor said the next DMO meeting is set. An update will be available for the November meeting.

9. Cultural Arts Grant Process Review Committee Formation Discussion—

Ms. Masters reported that currently the Cultural Arts Division has one grant carried that over from the Cultural Commission that started in 2009 and 2010 for arts organizations and has expanded to arts and cultural organizations that provide activities within Lee's Summit. The funding pool is fairly limited. With this new commission and perspectives it would be timely to organize a subcommittee to look at the current grant program and find other available funding



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opportunities. Chair Eames suggested three to four Commissioners could meet with staff to work with current grant funding and expand that process beyond the traditional arts program. An invitation will be sent to the Commission so all are aware of the opportunity to be involved in that subcommittee.

10. Staff Reports

Ms. Weber thanked the Commission for helping to promote and participate in Good Neighbor Week. The Human Relations Commission will plan early to work with this Commission for next year. They would also like to collaborate for the Neighborhood Art Week as well.

Adair Bright gave an update from the Historic Preservation Conference and will share the link for others to have access to the presentations. She mentioned CLIO, an online mapping service, items can be put in and you can do a self-guided tour from that website. They talked through Ordinances for deconstructionist preservation when things cannot be preserved, with what has to be saved and salvaged. Then state tax credit and funding for Downtown Mainstreet Marketplace. There is a CLG grant for historic preservation efforts with the City needing to match that amount.

Ms. Masters met with some master gardeners in Lee's Summit that currently work with the Parks Department at the Sylvia Bailey Park community garden. There is a raised landscape bed by the train station and we are looking at forming a partnership with them to transform that space into a butterfly garden. It will need to be cleaned out and prepped for planting in April or May. Parks can be utilized as well as the landscape vendor Rosehill.

The Topping Off ceremony for the Downtown Market across the street was held signifying that all the steel beams are up.

11. Commission Roundtable

Commissioner Thill shared a Tourism Board update. DMO is the same organization as the tourism organization. It started as a 501C6 and will file to be a 501C3. Initial interviews for Executive Director position have taken place and have narrowed it down to 3 finalists. Hoping to have someone on board by end of year or early next year.

Commissioner Taylor reported that Fred Grogan, who is part of the Historical Society, presented to the Rotary Club that once a month they are inviting people to come in to tell stories and that they would try to record them. Mr. Grogan mentioned the Legends of Lee's Summit program and wanting recognize those still living and active. Chair Eames suggested they come to this meeting near the first of the year to give an update. Commissioner Thill said at the Preservation Conference that the state organizations of humanities has a grant for communities that want to video people telling stories. That might be a resource to share. Commissioner Smith also shared that transcription would be a good way of recording.

Chair Eames bragged about the second Neon Nights for the year with 75 people signed up.

12. Adjourn 7:23pm