



CULTURAL COMMISSION LEE'S SUMMIT

Cultural Commission
ACTION LETTER
February 21, 2024

1. **Call to Order**

Chairperson Eames called the February 21, 2024 Cultural Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Strother Conference Room at City Hall, 220 SE Green St.

2. **Roll Call**

Members Present

Chairperson Eames
Vice Chairperson Allen
Commissioner Basham
Commissioner Gale
Commissioner Keshner
Commissioner Taylor
Commissioner Thill
Commissioner Flowers
Commissioner Hennequin
Commissioner Townsend

Absent

Commissioner Soucie
Commissioner Smith

Special Guest

Lauren Palmer, Director of Local Government Services, from the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC).

Staff

Shannon McGuire
Glenda Masters
Silvia Arellano Fernandez
Lisa Azimi

3. **Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Basham to approve the agenda as published. The motion carried by a 10-0 vote (Commissioners Soucie and Smith absent).

4. **Approval of the January 17, 2024 Action Letter**

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Taylor to approve the January 17, 2024 Action Letter. The motion carried by a 10-0 vote (Commissioners Soucie and Smith absent).

5. **Public Comments**

None



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6. **Develop Work Plan for Commission Priorities**

Ms. Palmer listed the four priorities to focus on strategies, objectives, and action items to build a plan around. She shared a draft of the Cultural Commission Workplan for 2024-2026 plan to insert strategies and action items for each priority.

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

One strategy is to create and consistently update a location for the history to exist. Action items could be to brainstorm local resources of LS history, create a forum for local historians to share important stories, and determine a location to house a centralized directory. Discussion centered around methods of gathering history to reach different demographics including individuals calling in, surveys, one on one interviews, social media, videos, and online submittals. Talk to Stakeholders, learning what already exists and identifying gaps that the Commission will help to fill.

The next step is exposure and suggestions were a rolling exhibit that is small and mobile, or historians and people providing a workshop, talk or presentation. Maintaining the Certified Local Government status through public education opportunities and awareness opens doors for grants for funds to execute goals of the Commission. Ms. Masters mentioned that work with Historical Society will also open up different funding sources to help implement ideas.

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

Possible first strategy is to determine the level of interest & desire for different arts/cultural space needs. Ways to accomplish could be to conduct a survey of artists and organizations as well as listening sessions and surveys to invite public comment. The cultural asset map of spaces and amenities is a good framework to add to and can be self-populated.

Second strategy would be to engage in a formal cultural mapping process. Staff can reach out to the MU Extension to see what it would take to conduct a mapping session in a way that reflects the needed assets in Lee's Summit. It was also suggested to create a shared document to share with Commissioners and members of public to suggest assets to add to the image.

3. **Build relationships with local & regional cultural partners.**

One strategy is promotion and public education. Possible action items can be to identify existing resources that serve the public and cultural sector as well as the Cultural Arts team activating the ExploreLS as a community calendar. Ms. Masters suggested to look at the map as internally focused or make it public facing with map layers on the website. The larger piece is redoing the Cultural Arts webpages to make them more robust and informative.



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Another strategy is to brainstorm a list of partners to formerly engage with the Commission then conduct networking gatherings to foster relationship building among cultural and sustainability organizations.

Eames recommended that Environmental Education and Sustainability be the **5th goal** of this Commission and will help fulfill their mission.

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

The staff will compile a summary of all current cultural policies and plans to provide a starting point on what exists. Staff shared that the most urgent need is for a public art policy. Staff has already done research of peer cities and existing best practices. The Commission can review and recommend a public arts policy for adoption. Ms. Masters said that creation of the Public Art Policy is most important since the call for art for the iconic piece in the Market Plaza was just released.

A motion was made by Chair Eames, seconded by Vice Chair Allen, to create a subcommittee to discuss and create public art policy in conjunction with Lee's Summit. The motion carried by a 10-0 vote (Commissioners Soucie and Smith absent).

7. Discuss Homework and Approach for March Meeting

Ms. Palmer will polish it what was discussed and share with Glenda and Dave. The Commission will receive a version with possible homework assignments to be prepared for the next meeting.

Chair Eames stated he would meet with Commissioners Gale, Basham, and Taylor prior to the March meeting to formalize the 5th goal.

8. Sculpture Walk 2024

Ms. Masters said they are finalizing the selection of sculptures and will notify the artists to make sure of availability. Every May they rotate in new sculptures. Once the list of artists is solidified it will be sent out to the Committee.

Ms. Fernandez talked about the 4th Friday Art Walks. April's event is a scavenger hunt with Autocast, an app used for the sculpture walk, and a paper scavenger hunt with Downtown Lee's Summit. The app has a feature to take pictures and create pins of locations or they can do the paper hunt and explore the public art around downtown. Ms. Masters is talking with the Historical Society to do a similar event in May for Historic Preservation Month.

The Public Artist roster is available online by going to LSculpturalarts.net. The Public Art Archive is a museum without walls and a way to make public art accessible around the world



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and in Lee's Summit. It gives a map of each art piece, where it is, and details. Staff will produce a guidebook defining what public art is and why it's important to the community.

9. Roundtable and Staff Updates

Shannon McGuire gave an update on the Market plaza. Currently have roads closed down behind university health building to work on storm sewers. 2nd Street will be closed down in march.

Ms. Masters and Ms. Fernandez are working on Earth Day and other possible events. They will email the group to get ideas of events. Ideas mentioned were asking if the Audubon Society can come do a bird walk, sketching in nature, doing a pollinator festival, and have more beautifications conversations and activities for Earth Month.

Christal Weber, Assistant City Manager, said the City is reapplying for Tree City USA. It will provide opportunities for this Commission for education of tree cover, reforestation, vistas covered with trees and how much that impacts Lee's Summit. She also mentioned that the Human Relations Commission is looking at planning a cultural festival. She encouraged them to come to the Cultural Commission to partner together since their missions cross over.

10. Adjourn

Chair Eames adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.