



Commission for Diversity & Inclusion

Culture and Arts Working Committee

ACTION LETTER

Thursday, September 13, 2021

Call to order:

Chairperson Martin called the September 13, 2021 Culture and Arts Working Committee meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present

Chairperson Martin
Commissioner Courtney
Commissioner Harrison
Commissioner Presley

3. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Rachel Courtney, seconded by Ben Martin, to approve the agenda adding the mission statement. No vote was taken.

4. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments

5. Continued discussion – Challenges and opportunities

No discussion

6. Continued discussion – Identifying and working with stakeholders

Glenda Masters, Cultural Arts Manager, was invited to speak to the Committee about the art scene in Lee's Summit and efforts towards diversity, inclusion, and equity. She reported there is now historical data from grant applications gauging where the organizations are with diversity. She has also been capturing the City's cultural resources by creating a spreadsheet of arts and cultural/historic assets in the community. She was asked how the Arts Council is chosen and if they could use help with diversity. Glenda is the staff liaison to the Arts Council and the Beautification Commission and mentioned that the Council has 12 members with at least one person of color, an even mix of male and female members, but not a wide age range missing the opportunity for younger voices in the community. Those interested in serving fill out an application with the City Manager's office and the Mayor appoints.

Glenda listed non-profit arts organizations in the City, such as the Lee's Summit Symphony, Summit Theater Group, the Lee's Summit Jazz Orchestra, Summit Art, and Art School KC. Downtown Mainstreet is considered part of the cultural scene running the Art Walk, Music in the Park, and Downtown Days. Chairperson Martin added Kantorai, which is a choral group, and the Summer Singers.

7. Roundtable

Chairperson Martin suggested for the next meeting to invite individual artists to talk about what their organizations do and how they operate. He requested each person on the Commission submit 5-10 questions that each organization could respond to. He will send out invitations to let them know the questions coming their way. Commissioner Courtney suggested sending them the questions even if they are unable to attend.

Commissioner Presley said that as a Commission, the need is to include a wide range of people and making sure programs are accessible to all. Not focusing on who the programs will reach but how they go about reaching them.

8. Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Chairperson Martin adjourned the September 30, 2021 sub-committee meeting at 8:48 p.m.