

Bobbie Walthall

From: Cummings, Lucy Elizabeth <lucycummings@ku.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 12:02 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Letter of Support for WOC Mural Project

Dear Mayor Boley and Lawrence City Commissioners,

I write to share my support for the implementation for the womxn of color (WOC) oral history and mural project at the Lawrence Public Library. I believe this project is extremely important and is a unique way to build and showcase the voices of womxn of color, who too frequently are marginalized by the world we live in.

I am a masters of social work (MSW) student at the University of Kansas and am proud to be part of the Lawrence community, as I believe it is a place that strives to promote social justice, including racial and gender equity. This mural is a critical way that the Lawrence community can lend its support to pressing issues of facing our society, and highlight the diversity that makes Lawrence great. Installing the mural will also make Lawrence a leader among cities looking to amplify underrepresented voices of their communities.

I am greatly honored to know several of the amazing womxn who have worked tirelessly to make this project's vision a reality. These womxn have positively influenced my life. I have also witnessed them lift up other individuals in the community. They are committed to this community and make Lawrence better and stronger.

I encourage you to vote in support of this project. The mural is overwhelmingly desired by the community. The mural will enrich Lawrence and also symbolize the city's commitment to enhancing equity for all. It should be installed in a place that maximizes opportunity to view and enjoy the mural.

Thank you for your time and for the important work you do to promote the wellbeing of all members of our community and society.

Best wishes,

Lucy Cummings
lucycummings@ku.edu

Bobbie Walthall

From: Dave Loewenstein <dloewenstein@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 12:23 PM
To: Stuart Boley; Jennifer Ananda; Leslie Soden; Matthew Herbert; Lisa Larsen; Tom Markus; Bobbie Walthall; Porter Arneill
Subject: Support for Women of Color mural
Attachments: WoC MuralSupport.docx

July 8, 2018

Dear Mayor Boley and Lawrence City Commissioners,

As a muralist for thirty years, Lawrence resident for twenty-five and big supporter of our Public Library, I strongly encourage you to support the painting of the Women of Color mural, as proposed, directly on the wall of Library building.

Painting directly on the wall is the best approach for technical, aesthetic and conceptual reasons.

Technically

- Painting directly on the wall will provide the best adherence (paint to wall vs. paint to panel to wall) of the paint and longevity of the mural.
- It will require the least maintenance (only the paint would need to be maintained, not panels),
- It will be less invasive since no holes would have to be made in the wall.
- And it will create no possibility of issues that could arise between panels and wall surface such as water/ice build-up, warping or panel deterioration.

Aesthetically

- Painting directly will literally integrate the mural with building, heightening its sense of belonging in the space.
- The wood formed concrete texture will enhance its integration by providing a support that is part of the building and continues beyond the painted surface.
- (Painting on panels would make the mural appear temporary, like an add-on or a way of covering construction or a building flaw.)

Conceptually

- Painting directly on the wall will make the mural one with the building, signifying that what it represents is integral not extra. (Panels would imply removal –and reinforce the idea that the stories represented do not deserve a permanent place.)
- Painting directly on the wall for participants will add to the experience of creating something of significance, power and true civic agency.
- By integrating the mural within the library, we will confirm the community and City's commitment to making and maintaining real space for the voices and stories of Women of

Color.

Thank you again for your support of this remarkable new addition to the cultural landscape of Lawrence.

Sincerely,

Dave Loewenstein

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 442393
Lawrence, KS 66044
eastlawrence@yahoo.com



July 10, 2018

To the City Commission:

Re: WOC Mural

Dear City Commissioners:

The East Lawrence Neighborhood Association supports the WOC mural on the public library, in the location of their choice. A representative visited with the board on our Monday, May 7th 2018 meeting.

ELNA's mission supports the WOC having the opportunity to honor their own narrative. The project has included our own Brenda J Nunez, an East Lawrencian and very long time ELNA Board member, who was born and raised in Lawrence, KS during the Jim Crow Era, as one of the women being honored on the mural. Brenda has served Lawrence, and East Lawrence in particular, for something like 30 years, and she, along with others depicted in the mural, deserves to be recognized for her work in this beautiful WOC mural.

It is fitting that the location of this mural is the Lawrence Public Library which is "synonymous with equity for all... a bastion, a powerhouse, a community hub, and a safe space for all walks of life to come together in celebration of the things that make us beautifully diverse."

The Board of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association,

Phil Collison, President
Aaron Paden, Vice President
Catherine Reed, Secretary
Katherine Harris, Treasurer
Mike Anderson
Pam Blackburn
Joshua Davis
Jennifer Distlehorst
Eric Jay
Dave Loewenstein
Vanessa Reynaga
Judy Romero
Cindy Suenram
KT Walsh

Bobbie Walthall

From: Phil Collison <phil@pcollison.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 10:50 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Support for Agenda item #1

Hi Bobbie, please pass on my personal support for Agenda item #1.

I strongly support the Women of Color Mural to be installed on the concrete facade of the Library. This is a very well planned and executed art project that pays tribute to numerous Lawrence and East Lawrence individuals. It will become an asset to our City in the same way the individuals depicted are an asset to our City.

Thank you for your consideration.

Phil Collison
Lawrence Resident

Letter of Support:

Womxn of Color Oral History and Mural Project at the Lawrence Public Library (LPL)

Wak'o Mujeres Phu nu Womxn Mural Project

July 10, 2018

Dear City of Lawrence and the Community of Lawrence at large:

I, Katherine Romero, have lived in Lawrence since I started my undergrad at KU. After graduating, I decided to stay because I felt like Lawrence was welcoming and has a vibe of community closeness. For that reason I have lived in Lawrence for over 5 years. This city has become my home.

Let me tell you a little bit about me. I am a Social Welfare graduate student. I am an AmeriCorps member at the Lawrence Douglas County Housing Authority. I work with one of the most diverse and marginalized population in the hardest field, which is affordable housing. I started the Housing Clinic that now is being held at the LPL in addition to two other types of resources. I was not born in the United States. I was born in Honduras. I come to this country illegally and I am not ashamed to shout it to the world. I spent most of my years afraid of people knowing the history that runs through my blood. My family and I had struggles living as a migrant family and never really felt welcomed. This is the reason why this mural is so important to me and my family. We identify with the stories told in this mural. We see ourselves in this mural and this is why my family and I support the installation of the mural on the "south-facing" side of the library. We believe that the selected "south-facing" side of the Library is ideal because the proposed mural would be highlighted by the most central location and large amount of foot traffic during the spring, summer, and fall months. I, as a Lawrence community member, support the rare occasion presented to amplify the voices of those unheard and unseen. My family and I actively support lifting up the voices and visualizing WOC oral histories in the very public space occupied by the Lawrence Public Library.

LPL is a public building and community gathering space that hosts a multitude of events that attracts Lawrence's diverse population; one that is cultural, linguistically, and socio-economically varied and diverse. The Wak'o Mujeres Phu nu Womxn's Mural installation created by the all WOC design team and its organizers, is an important and timely project. It's a first of its kind, all womxn of color design and organized, and one that opens and welcomes community dialogue and engagement with the vast array of populations that call LFK 'home.'

Sincerely, and in solidarity with, the WoC Oral History and Mural Makers: Wak'o Mujeres Phu nu Womxn Mural Project,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Katherine Romero". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial 'K'.

Bobbie Walthall

From: Eileen John <eileenjohn87@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 10:57 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Womxn of Color Mural

My name is Eileen John and I am in complete support of the a Womxn of Color mural being created on the walls of the Lawrence Public Library.

I cannot think of any valid reason that this project cannot be accomplished. Womxn of Color deserve to be honored in this way. They deserve to be welcomed into our beautiful city. They should be encouraged to stay and add to the Lawrence community; bringing with them a sense of culture and independence. They deserve to be associated with the successful diversity that Lawrence prides itself in.

Womxn of Color have been conditioned to honor their own predecessors from a young age. They've honored them through song, dance and through the arts so this mural is naturally following those teachings. Such honors aren't hidden away; they're performed, displayed, and revisited time and time again. Any such attire created is worn with pride. Any song drafted is sung with passion and any at created is displayed in the forefront.

As a Womxn of Color I attended one of the meetings at City Hall not knowing what to expect. I had been invited to participate with the mural team but with a busy schedule I couldn't find the time to commit. When I got to see what this amazing group of women created I saw that there's a Diné Asdzaan (Navajo Woman) that made it to the mural. I didn't know she was up there. The moment I saw her, I saw me. She's walking up a set of stairs, and I could easily imagine her getting ready to walk across that stage and receive that degree she's worked so hard for. I imagined her walking up the steps to her work, where she's the only WOC. I imagined her walking up those steps of her first home she bought for her family. I saw her up there with her tsiyeel and moccasins; strong and independent. I saw myself and I cried. I saw her and I wanted every little Navajo girl to feel the way I felt. I wanted my grandmother, in Arizona, to come and see her. When this mural is painted, I'll do just that. I'll bring her here and show her the kind of community I belong to. I'll line up all the Native women I know and parade them in front of her. She not only represents the Navajo tribe, but she represents the strength of the Native people that have attended Haskell Indian Nations University.

Please help bring this to fruition. Bring this about and you'll hear nothing but appreciation from the south end of Mass St. This would be a big win for a great deal of the Lawrence community.

-Eileen John
Nisqually/Navajo
Haskell Graduate/Lawrencian

Bobbie Walthall

From: Phil Collison <phil@pcollision.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 11:00 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Support for Tonight's CC Agenda item 2

Hi Bobbie, one more for tonight's CC! Thanks!

Regarding the declaration of 13th Street as a major trafficway as agenda item 2, since the last meeting I have learned quite a bit about where this new ordinance came from and why it would be adopted. I can now support the declaration of 13th street as a major trafficway so that it can have traffic calming applied. The prior agendas did not have any details on how this came to be, and I would encourage better detail in future agendas so that we can avoid more confusion.

Thank you for your time,

Phil Collison
Lawrence Resident

Bobbie Walthall

From: Kassie Nieters <striveforbalance@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 11:01 AM
To: Stuart Boley; Lisa Larsen; Leslie Soden; Jennifer Ananda; Matthew Herbert
Cc: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Regular Agenda Item No. 1 – Womxn of Color Mural

Dear City Commissioners,

I am thankful that the proposed Wak'ó Mujeres Phų nŭ Women Mural has brought the divisive factions that exist in our community to my attention and challenged me to look at my own beliefs and actions. I acknowledge my own view points on this matter, and have observed some supporters of the mural resort to name-calling of those who question or want to discuss the location of the proposed mural. WOC Mural refuse to compromise on the site location. Civility doesn't seem to be an easy option in our current social and political climate.

It appears to me that there are two issues:

1. Consideration of the WOC Mural as a piece of donated art to the city, and;
2. Lawrence citizens of color feeling unwelcome at the library and in the town.

In regards to the donation of the mural to the city, the WOC submission to the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission was incomplete and the required pending documentation has not been provided. Please refer to LCAC Chair, Kate Dinneen's, June 26th letter and July 9th e-mail.

Can the WOC mural process be used to begin a community discussion of why a portion of our community doesn't feel welcome in Lawrence and our public library? Below is text from the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania mural program web site, mentioned by WOC. How can we use Mural Arts Philadelphia's process of LOOK, LISTEN and CONNECT to better our community?

Mural Arts Philadelphia
<https://www.muralarts.org/about/our-process/>

OUR MURAL PROCESS:

Look: See the Big Picture

Change starts by looking beyond the surface. Our work starts with a genuine curiosity about what makes Philadelphia tick. We look for the issues that drive and make our city, and we look for the problems Philadelphia and its residents are grappling with daily

Listen: Active Listening is Powerful

Listening as part of change is about learning and understanding. Each project begins active listening: we ask questions, and foster dialogue among disparate groups. This is the listening that makes sure that everyone is heard, the listening that amplifies voices that have been muted.

Connect: Build Bridges of Dialogue

Connections begin when people picture themselves in each other's shoes. Once we have found our inspiration, we mobilize our partners and build a team of individuals – artists, participants, residents, nonprofit leaders, funders, policymakers – anyone who wants to help us make change happen. We connect people and institutions who normally do not talk to each other, and build bridges of dialogue over longstanding chasms of misunderstanding, distrust, or ignorance. The connections are not always comfortable or convenient. But they result in important conversations that spark change – in attitudes, in understanding, and in hearts and minds.

I welcome the opportunity to be part of a community discussion listening and connecting with others who don't look, think or act like me. Perhaps through this process we all can create understanding, connection, change and a mural.

Respectfully,

Kassie Nieters
816 Ohio Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

Bobbie Walthall

From: Matt Tucker <mdt.matttucker@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 4:28 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Women's Mural

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing in support of the Women of Color histories mural. As a white, male middle school teacher in Lawrence, I am committed to dismantling oppressive structures and systems for girls and young women of color in our schools. I support this mural with full honor of the tireless work, creative ingenuity, strength, vision, hope, love, care, and dignity the women of this project have put forth. This is an incredible opportunity for the City of Lawrence to hold up our girls and women. Please take this opportunity to do what's right and just - ensure this mural in all of its complexity is afforded the timely opportunity to be painted on the proposed Lawrence Public Library wall.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

--

Matt Tucker

www.mttuckerphotography.com

www.facebook.com/mtuckerphotography

Bobbie Walthall

To: Diane Stoddard
Subject: RE: Please share with City Commissioners

From: Porter Arneill
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 1:54 PM
To: City Commissioners Email <commissioners@lawrenceks.org>
Cc: Tom Markus <tmarkus@lawrenceks.org>; Diane Stoddard <dstoddard@lawrenceks.org>
Subject: FW: Please share with City Commissioners

Mayor and Commissioners,
Kate Dinneen, Chair of the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission, asked me to share this with you.

From: Kate Dinneen <kld310@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 9:40 AM
To: Porter Arneill <parneill@lawrenceks.org>
Subject: Please share with City Commissioners

The LCAC voted to approve the proposed mural pending receipt of the detailed budget, documentation from neighborhood/community groups, and a response from the Library architect. At this time, the Womxn of Color Mural group has provided the LCAC with:

- A [budget](#)
- The following [Correspondence](#):
 - Correspondence indicating that they “engaged with” 9 schools/community groups
 - Correspondence that they “presented the project” to 4 groups including ELNA, Old West Lawrence, Mayor/City Commissioners, and NAACP
 - A letter of support from the NAACP
 - A letter of support from the Old West Lawrence Neighborhood Association from the fall of 2017 indicating support of the mural when it was proposed for the Library garage.
 - A letter of support from the Supervisory Librarian of Haskell Indian Nations University.

Kate Dinneen,
Chair, Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission

Bobbie Walthall

From: Jack Gaumnitz <jegbrown@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 2:22 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall; Kathleen Morgan; Alice Ann Johnston
Subject: Apology/correction

Please accept our sincere apology. Yesterday in our email sent to you our second sentence in the first paragraph stated: "This is an important project and a location of it on the library concrete wall does serve the concept well". This statement was in error. We meant to say: ".....the concrete wall does **not** serve the concept well". Please make this correction.

Thank you,

Jan and Jack Gaumnitz
785-843-0255

Bobbie Walthall

From: Miller, Amanda L <alm.amandamiller@ku.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 1:25 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Wak'ó Mujeres Phụ nữ Women Mural

Dear Commissioner,

I write to you again in support of the Womxn of Color histories mural. As a white woman and KU doctoral candidate committed to dismantling oppressive structures and systems for girls and young women of color in our schools, I support this mural with full honor of the tireless work, creative ingenuity, strength, vision, hope, love, care, and dignity the women of this project have put forth. This is an incredible opportunity for the City of Lawrence to hold up our girls and womxn. Please take this opportunity to do what's right and just - ensure this mural in all of its complexity is afforded the timely (now) opportunity to be painted directly on the proposed concrete wall on the Lawrence Public Library.

Thank you for your consideration.

Take care,
Amanda

[Amanda Miller](#)

Doctoral Candidate, KU [Department of Special Education](#)

Former Doctoral Research Fellow, [Institute for Policy and Social Research](#)

AERA Division G at KU Campus Liaison

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Bobbie Walthall

From: Barry Walthall
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 11:27 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: FW: In favor of the WoC Mural

Barry Walthall, Building Official
Planning and Development Services – www.lawrenceks.org Development Services, 1 Riverfront Plaza, Lawrence, KS
66044-0708 office (785) 832-3101

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From: Lindsay Buck [mailto:msbucklhs@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 10:02 AM
To: Barry Walthall <bwalthall@lawrenceks.org>
Subject: In favor of the WoC Mural

Good morning,

I'm writing to express my support of the Womxn of Color Mural being painted directly on the proposed exterior concrete wall of the Lawrence Public Library. I'm a citizen of Lawrence, I'm a white woman, and I am in solidarity with the Womxn of Color artists and their proposed mural. As a public school teacher, I know the importance of underrepresented populations (such as people of color) to see themselves represented in their schools, communities, and in the nation. The mural is one way that Lawrence can show solidarity and support of Womxn of Color, a group who experiences oppression in ways that white folks do not experience. I also ask that the city consider this piece part of the city's public art collection, as well.

Thank you for your consideration - I plan to attend the City Commissioner meeting on Tuesday to show my support for the Womxn of Color Mural.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Buck

Bobbie Walthall

From: d2low@sunflower.com
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 11:15 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Lawrence Public Library Architecture
Attachments: Library Mural Second Letter.docx

I do not believe the mural should be painted on the library walls. Please see my attached statement.

Diane Grant Low
317 Boulder Street
Lawrence, Kansas 66049
785-841-4897

To: Lawrence City Commissioners
Re: Lawrence Public Library Architecture

I love beautiful architecture. The outside walls of the Lawrence Public Library should not have a mural painted on them.

Architecture is art as much as painting, dance, music and sculpture. The Arch in St. Louis is beautiful because the sides are plain metal with no paintings on it. The Washington Monument is beautiful because of its simplicity. Some architecture is ornate like the Opera Garnier in Paris with paintings covering the inside in the baroque style. The Lawrence Public Library has its own beautiful style that has been recognized with architecture awards, and it should not be changed.

Members of the community bring guests to see our wonderful building; visitors to Lawrence frequently come in to tell library staff how much they love our building; people from surrounding communities come to Lawrence specifically to visit the library. In addition to being a library, it is truly art in architecture.

As a current member of the Friends of the Lawrence Public Library and a past president involved with the planning for our re-designed building, I am passionate about keeping its clean lines and beauty preserved for our community. I hope that the city commission can find a way to preserve our beautiful library and find another place for the mural.

Diane Grant Low
317 Boulder Street
Lawrence, Kansas

Bobbie Walthall

From: Tom Markus
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 10:28 AM
To: City Commissioners Email
Cc: Executive Staff
Subject: FW: Questions for Commissioners re the Proposed Mural Project

fyi

From: Porter Arneill
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 10:13 AM
To: Diane Stoddard <dstoddard@lawrenceks.org>
Cc: Tom Markus <tmarkus@lawrenceks.org>
Subject: RE: Questions for Commissioners re the Proposed Mural Project

I answered what I could. Much is subjective.

From: Leslie Soden
Sent: Sunday, July 8, 2018 3:00 PM
To: Louise Hanson <louisehanson0@gmail.com>
Cc: Porter Arneill <parneill@lawrenceks.org>; Diane Stoddard <dstoddard@lawrenceks.org>; Tom Markus <tmarkus@lawrenceks.org>
Subject: Re: Questions for Commissioners re the Proposed Mural Project

Hi Louise, I have copied staff for response to your questions.

Commissioner Leslie Soden
913-890-3647

On Jul 8, 2018, at 11:18 AM, Louise Hanson <louisehanson0@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Commissioner Soden —

I respectfully request that you consider the questions I have listed below before voting on the important matter of the proposed mural for the outside wall of the Lawrence Public Library. Thank you very much in advance for your thoughtful engagement on this important issue.

Sincerely yours,

Louise Hanson

Questions:

1) Is the highest quality of mural art assured? Are there open bids from competing mural artists so that the Commission

can assure the quality of the work? **This community mural was developed independently by an outside group and is proposed as a donation to the City to be installed on the Library.**

2) Among many worthy social topics that are perhaps under explored, why was this particular subject matter chosen rather

than another? (For example, immigrants who built Lawrence; citizens of any gender or color who have made exemplary contributions to our community.) **The topic was determined by the mural group.**

3) Is the wall of the a public building the best avenue for exploring social issues?

4) Will the aesthetic of our Library's handsome architecture be maintained, enhanced, or compromised by the addition of a mural?

5) If the mural is installed, what are the plans for maintenance over time and who pays for it? Should at some future date

it need to be removed, will the Library building be permanently scarred; and who will bear the cost to restore the siding to its

original condition? **In the draft Public Mural Agreement between the City and the Artist, the Artist (mural team) is responsible for minor maintenance for the life of the mural. If more significant maintenance is required due to vandalism, wear or damage over time, the City will consult with the Artist to develop a plan either to repair or remove the mural. The cost of significant repair or removal would be negotiated between the City and Artist.**

6). Given its charge as overseers, has the Library Board of Directors been fully involved in the discussion of the mural project? **The Library Board of Directors provided a [letter of support](#) for the mural and a more recent [letter](#) suggesting that the mural be painted on panels in reference to the [Historic Resources Commission recommendations](#).**

Bobbie Walthall

From: Barry Walthall
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 8:14 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: FW: Proposed mural on library

Barry Walthall, Building Official

Planning and Development Services – www.lawrenceks.org Development Services, 1 Riverfront Plaza, Lawrence, KS
66044-0708 office (785) 832-3101

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From: Meghan J. Bahn [mailto:meghan.j.bahn@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 7, 2018 7:52 PM
To: Barry Walthall <bwalthall@lawrenceks.org>
Subject: Proposed mural on library

Dear Lawrence City Commissioners,

I support this mural. I delight in the play between the austere minimalism of the architecture and the palpable vibrancy of the mural design in its proposed location.

I've always been interested in the tension between facade and what lies beneath. I think this is perfect. In fact, I think the relationship itself joins both pieces, conceived separately, and creates a new work that is relevant and highly contemporary.

I would love to see a supporting exhibition of the documentation of the struggle to get this piece made inside the library at the unveiling of the mural. I would invite ArtForum to the opening. I think they'd be interested in covering it as it speaks volumes about what art has become and what it needs to be.

I hope you will support this mural with an eye to the future of art. I think it would be short sighted to turn down this proposal as, five years from now, this mural in its proposed location may very well be seen as an early example of where art is headed in light of current events.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Meghan Bahn, MFA, Visual Art with an emphasis in New Genre

--

Meghan J. Bahn

Bobbie Walthall

From: Barry Walthall
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 8:13 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: FW: Support for the Women of Color Mural

Barry Walthall, Building Official
Planning and Development Services – www.lawrenceks.org Development Services, 1 Riverfront Plaza, Lawrence, KS
66044-0708 office (785) 832-3101

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-----Original Message-----

From: Daniel Ward [mailto:daniel.n.ward@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 7, 2018 11:29 PM
To: Barry Walthall <bwalthall@lawrenceks.org>
Subject: Support for the Women of Color Mural

Dear Mr Walthall,

I am writing this letter in support of the Wak'ó Mujeres Phụ nữ Women Mural proposed for the Lawrence Public Library.

Everywhere I go in town, I can find monuments to the men who made Lawrence. I can go past the legacy of Mr. Watkins, Mr. Cordley, the young soldiers murdered by Quantrill, the Pioneer cemetery, and so on and so on.

I'm sure it's just as obvious that Native, Black, Hispanic, and Asian women have played important roles in the history of what is now Douglas County and I'm sure you know that I'm going to point out that memorials to these women are..... harder to find.

I understand there's some controversy over painting this mural directly onto the library and that a "compromise" has been offered to paint the mural on some concrete that will be affixed to the wall.

This compromise has me puzzled. It sounds like getting engaged and then saying "but after the divorce I get to keep the car." In other words, I don't see a reason for planned impermanence. After all, the under celebrated impact women of color have had on Lawrence history certainly isn't impermanent.

For these reasons I support placing the mural, and I support placing directly onto the Library, as opposed to building an escape clause before painting has even begun.

Very truly yours,

Daniel Ward
1530 Rhode Island St.

July 7, 2018

Dear Mr. Walthall and the City of Lawrence,

I have lived in Lawrence all of my adult life. One of the things I love about our community is our many vibrant murals. When friends visit they often remark how wonderful it is that we have so many beautiful murals in our city.

I have been very much looking forward to the gift the Womxn of *Wak'o Mujeres Phu nu Womxn Mural Project* are so generously donating to the City of Lawrence. As a woman who has grown up in Topeka and spent my adult life in Lawrence I am very familiar with classic rock. I would argue that for many it is the soundtrack of Kansas, probably the midwest. This may be a strange thing to bring up. I mention it because as a woman I am thoroughly versed in all things white male. That is fine but it is also tiring.

I am so excited to have my children be exposed to other people's stories. I have seen myself (white cis female) represented in culture and the world around me yet still find that I have to explain myself and my vantage point to so many people around me. I have been immersed in books, movies, tv, and music where I can readily come up with an idea of what it would be like to be a white man in this world. We are so lucky to have a diverse community. We will gain so much from listening to everyone in it. This is going to be such a beautiful mural from beautiful people, we will be missing out if this does not come to fruition.

I so badly want to see this mural from these talented womxn. I also want to see this mural painted directly on that board formed concrete. If it is painted on a material that can be added that means it can be taken away. Please do not do that. Let it be on the concrete, that wonderful texture will only serve to give this amazing gift more dimension.

Thank you to the Womxn of *Wak'o Mujeres Phu nu Womxn Mural Project* for such a generous gift and Thank you for your time and for reading my plea.

Sincerely, and in solidarity with, the WoC Oral History and Mural Makers: *Wak'o Mujeres Phu nu Womxn Mural Project*,

Katie Reese

Bobbie Walthall

From: Jack Gaumnitz <jegbrown@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 8, 2018 6:50 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall; Kathleen Morgan; Alice Ann Johnston
Subject: Mural Project

We are writing this letter to support the "Women of Color" mural as to its design and substance while, at the same time, requesting a different location of the mural other than at the ground-level concrete wall of the Lawrence Public Library. This is an important project and a location of it on the library concrete wall does serve the concept well. You get the feeling that it is just sort of a crammed in minimal space which is not of much use, or purpose, or consequence. The project needs to make more of a statement. You do not hang a Mona Lisa picture in the basement of a building.

Our feeling is that the project should be located on the north wall of the garage in the (orange) facade area more or less trending on the east side (towards Vermont St.). Such a location would allow ample and abundant viewing from the interior of the library through the glass windows, as well as, good viewing from those who are exiting the library and returning to the parking garage. Given the size of the garage (orange facade), the project needs to be "scaled" properly, and constructed appropriately, to be complementary to the area and consistent with the intent of the mural. What we propose is going to cost more money; however, given its significance, it should receive sufficient public and private support.

Sincerely,

Jan and Jack Gaumnitz
785-843-0255

Bobbie Walthall

From: Leslie Campbell <1lesliecampbell@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 8, 2018 6:40 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: library mural

Hello,

After reading the many articles in the Lawrence Journal-World about the installation of the mural depicting local women of color on the wall of the Lawrence Public Library, I wanted to voice my opinion.

First, let me say that such a mural in Lawrence honoring and celebrating women, especially women of color, is welcome and should be embraced by our community.

However, I do not agree that the mural should be painted directly on the library foundation wall. As a taxpayer, I helped to approve the bond issue which allowed the renovation of the library. The library has become one of the central meeting places for our community. It has also won national architectural awards. It is listed among the [top SEVEN most beautiful libraries in North America](#). I believe it is wrong to permanently paint anything on this notable building, as this will change the original intention.

I have read about two points that I feel need to be addressed. One is locating the mural on panels toward the West end of the outdoor plaza. This is much better than painting it directly on the building. The foundation has such a lovely textured wood concrete that painting on it would somehow be next to impossible. Panels would give a flat surface to paint while allowing the original intent of the architects to stay intact. The second point is the original proposal was to put the mural on the parking garage wall where it could be seen by everyone inside and outside the library. How did the proposed location of the mural get changed without public input? If the mural is going to be painted on panels, again a nice flat surface, why shouldn't they be placed where more people will be able to view it? I believe that the mural would be best located on the exterior wall of the parking garage.

As you make this important decision about the placement of this mural and guidelines for future murals, please develop a process that is followed from the beginning of the proposal to the end of the project. This type of problem should never have occurred if the original proposal had been followed by both the city and the team leading the project.

Thank you,
Leslie Campbell

Bobbie Walthall

From: lora jost <lorajost@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 8, 2018 6:18 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Correspondence to City Commissioners
Attachments: SupportWOCMural.docx

(Also attached as .docx)

Dear City Commissioners and City Staff,

I enthusiastically support the painting of a community mural directly onto a portion of the south-facing board formed concrete wall of the Lawrence Public Library, titled *Wak'ó Mujeres Phụ nĩ Womxn Mural*.

Importantly, The Historic Resources Commission, along with affirming that the mural is consistent with local rules on historic preservation and design, *rejected a motion* that the proposed mural application would damage the character-defining board formed concrete element of the library or that paint would negatively impact this concrete. The HRC *passed a motion* that there could be damage to the board formed concrete *only if the paint is ever improperly removed* from the surface. As Commissioner Erby noted in the discussion that is quoted in the report, any potential damage to the concrete that could come through improper removal “is a moot point if the mural is considered character defining and is not removed.” I very much hope that the mural will be treated as a permanent feature of the library.

The idea of a permanent mural honoring womxn of color was born out of a realization by Connie Fiorella Fitzpatrick, a lead artist on the project, that womxn of color had been literally written out of Kansas history. When researching the history of local black womxn for a project she was working on, “she discovered something that unsettled her. Instead of the stacks of recorded history she was anticipating, very little was available at Watson Library about Lawrence’s women of color (*University Daily Kansan*, 6-14-17).” Thus, the intent of the project is for local womxn of color to work together to change this erasure themselves by collecting the stories and histories of womxn of color in our community and representing them on the mural and including them in a related on-line data base for the entire community to see, appreciate, and learn from. The mural is to be “a monumental honoring of our presence, our creativity, and our labor as indispensable and integral members of this community (Womxn of Color Mural Proposal).” The absence of the histories of women of color from history books, museums, and mural collections calls for the broader community to honor these histories, too—in a permanent way. So let’s not ask the WoC design team to agree to the future erasure of their collected stories by insisting the project be painted on panels or other application methods that can so easily be removed.

The library is the perfect location for this mural. Importantly, the WoC muralists state in their proposal: “Painting a mural on a civic space where the community can directly interact with these yet un-told stories is a key element to our mission and vision.” The library, and the central coming-

together place for many in our community, is precisely the right location for this affirmation. As Lawrence-based muralist Dave Loewenstein observes: “our beloved library is the perfect choice, because it is at the library where we gather to expand knowledge and empathy, it is where racism and inequality are challenged, it is where underrepresented voices are amplified, and it is where freedom of expression is defended and celebrated.” I recently showed a mockup of the mural design on the library to a visiting out-of-town friend who, coincidentally, is an architect specializing in historic preservation. She said excitedly, “Oh it’s beautiful!” adding that the library’s concrete wall “looks like it was made for a mural.”

I also hope that the Lawrence City Commission will support this project simply because it is a great project. In addition to adding important historical content to our state’s mural collection, the project should be seen as especially compelling now, a time when racism, sexism, and homophobia seem on the rise. Supporting this mural is in keeping with the city’s stated desire to recognize that racism is a problem here, and that racism of any kind is unacceptable (City Commission Letter to support Black Lives Matter 4/7/16). With the City Commission’s approval, the *Wak’ó Mujeres Phunĩ Womxn Mural* will be a beautiful aesthetic and educational feature of our public library to be cherished for years to come.

Sincerely,
Lora Jost

Bobbie Walthall

From: geoterrysmith@sunflower.com
Sent: Sunday, July 8, 2018 6:00 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: comprehensive mural policy

To whom it may concern:

As I understand the mural project proposed for the library, it aims to recognize the many contributions of minority women to our city. This is a worthy cause and I have no doubt that their contributions are significant, and likely underappreciated. I support their efforts and community involvement. However, faced with making a decision about the proposal, I ask the city to hesitate, step back, and look at the larger picture of what is best for our community.

It seems that commissioners are being asked to decide on a political issue, not a work of art or architecture. Approval of this project would give special recognition to its promoters, over many other deserving groups in our community who might also request a mural. In this troubled time in our country, when our very society appears to be fragmenting into small groups that give priority to their 'group' rather than striving for the greater good, I ask you to consider how this proposal plays into that fragmentation. Please, if there is to be a mural, let it be one with a universal theme of unity that recognizes the worthy contributions of all who make up the great diversity of our culture here in Lawrence. Better yet, delay the question until the city can develop a comprehensive plan for placement of murals on public buildings.

Terry L. Smith

2142 Owens Lane

Lawrence

785-312-9517

Bobbie Walthall

From: Marsha Buhler <randomtas@sunflower.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 7, 2018 5:30 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall

Hello-I am writing in regard to the mural on the Public Library. It seems the content is good and the art is fine..that is not my issue with this. To set a precedent that our public library is open to being covered with murals is just a really bad idea. Please think past the passion of these young women to how we want our publicly funded library to look when it is covered with murals. This needs much further input before even considering approval.

Thank you,
marsha buhler

Bobbie Walthall

From: Mary Gage <mergage@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 4:15 PM
To: Stuart Boley; Lisa Larsen; Leslie Soden; Jennifer Ananda; Matthew Herbert
Cc: Porter Arneill; Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Mural Project

Commissioners,

The thoughts I've been hearing from many Lawrence Public Library patrons, volunteers and donors regarding the mural project include general support for the project mixed with confusion about the location and about the project as a whole. Most are opposed to painting the mural on the new library building but are open and supportive of the mural being placed on the parking garage wall or elsewhere in the plaza on panels. What no one can figure out is how this whole situation got to this point without the larger library community knowing anything about it. When the new library was built, it was touted as the Community's Living Room. It seems unusual and out of left field for there to suddenly be a profound change made to this new, yet already beloved building, without the larger community being notified of it or ever being asked to weigh in on it.

The mural guidelines for the City of Lawrence include engaging the surrounding neighborhood for support. The neighborhood outreach that the artists have done, to my knowledge, is to present the idea for a mural to the Old West Lawrence Neighborhood Association with the location to be on the Library's parking garage.

Because the library is a place that serves and is used by thousands of people who live in Lawrence and the surrounding county, the definition of "neighborhood" in this case is not just the area physically adjacent to the building. The library's neighborhood is everybody who uses it and is there on a daily basis. There has been no engagement of the larger library community or any outreach to library patrons about painting a mural either on the library itself or the parking garage.

Since this is the first time the City of Lawrence is discussing a mural for a high profile public building, it is vitally important that the mural process is conducted in a way that is clear, well thought out, and fair to the artists as well as to the greater community. Because it will be precedent-setting, the process should be one that is sustainable going forward for future mural projects or proposals.

I respectfully request that the City Commission defer a vote on the mural location until community forums can be conducted to inform and engage the larger Library community. In other cities with murals, such as Philadelphia--the one referenced by the artists-- community buy-in is recognized as an essential element of the mural process. This is an excerpt from the Mural Arts Philadelphia web site under "Our Process" - <https://www.muralarts.org/about/mission/>

Listen: Active Listening is Powerful

Listening as part of change is about learning and understanding. Each project begins active listening: we ask questions, and foster dialogue among disparate groups. This is the listening that makes sure that everyone is heard, the listening that amplifies voices that have been muted.

Neighborhood engagement, as stated in the City's mural guidelines, must include library users and patrons. They must be given an opportunity to hear about the project and see a visual representation of the artwork, as well as ask questions and be a part of the discussion in order to make this a successful project for the artists and for the community as a whole.

Thank you,

Mary

Mary R. Gage
mergage@aol.com
785-979-8586

Bobbie Walthall

From: Stan Ring <flplchair@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2018 8:45 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Re: The women of color mural - comment

Mr. Walthall

Something that I thought of in relation to the project that may appease most is this:

Does the mural need to be as long as it is planned? Cannot the story be told in a shorter space?

.
Having the mural Not wrap around the library's West side would remove the stairs from the mural length and therefore one of the handicap accessibility issues.

Avid library user.

25 yr resident

Stan Ring
4505 Winged Ft Ct
Lawrence, Ks 66049
785-550-1889

Letter of Support:
Womxn of Color Oral History and Mural Project at the Lawrence Public Library (LPL)
Wak’o Mujeres Phu nu Womxn Mural Project

May ____ 2018

Dear City of Lawrence and the Community of Lawrence at large:

I/We (organization name), _____ hereby commit and announce my/our support for the creative energies and implementation of the WOC Mural’s planned installation at the Lawrence Public Library (*LPL), on the south-facing side of the building. I/ We believe that the selected “south-facing” side of the Library, next to the green leading pedestrians to and from the library to the Lawrence public pool is ideal because the proposed mural would be highlighted the most due to its central location and large amount of foot traffic during the spring, summer, and fall months. If us Lawrencians believe in collaboration and participatory art project’s power to mobilize and create community cohesiveness, as I/We do, it then makes perfect sense to install, implement, and paint the *Wak’o Mujeres Phu nu Women Mural* on the “east-facing” side of the Lawrence Public Library. I/ We, as a Lawrence community member, support the rare occasion presented to amplify the voices of those unheard and unseen. I/ we actively support lifting up the voices and visualizing WOC oral histories in the very public space occupied by the Lawrence Public Library.

Furthermore, the LPL is a public building and community gathering space that hosts a multitude of events that attracts Lawrence’s diverse population; one that is cultural, linguistically, and socio-economically varied and diverse. *The Wak’o Mujeueres Phu nu Womxn’s Mural* installation created by the all WOC design team and its organizers, is an important and timely project. It’s a first of its kind, all womxn of color design and organized, and one that opens and welcomes community dialogue and engagement with the vast array of populations that call LFK ‘home.’

My desire is to welcome with open arms the WOC Mural project, and in doing so, feature the womxn who are living and have passed; the matriarchs that are unsung and unheard in the hope of bridging community differences and showing those least visible in our community that they matter, and that their stories are key to understanding Lawrence, Kansas as a space and place for all. Lawrence City representatives, please stand with me/us as we encourage and support this very timely project my womxn who are invested in collaborative and participatory community art projects that bring us together and believe that art can be an essential form for social change.

Sincerely, and in solidarity with, the WoC Oral History and Mural Makers: *Wak’o Mujeres Phu nu Womxn Mural Project*

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Letter of Support:
Womxn of Color Oral History and Mural Project at the Lawrence Public Library (LPL)
Wak’o Mujeres Phu nu Womxn Mural Project

June 15 2018

Dear City of Lawrence and the Community of Lawrence at large:

I, Erin Lee, hereby commit and announce my support for the creative energies and implementation of the WOC Mural’s planned installation at the Lawrence Public Library (*LPL), on the south-facing side of the building. I believe that the selected “south-facing” side of the Library, next to the green leading pedestrians to and from the library to the Lawrence public pool is ideal because the proposed mural would be highlighted the most due to its central location and large amount of foot traffic during the spring, summer, and fall months. If us Lawrencians believe in collaboration and participatory art project’s power to mobilize and create community cohesiveness, as I do, it then makes perfect sense to install, implement, and paint the *Wak’o Mujeres Phu nu Women Mural* on the “south-facing” side of the Lawrence Public Library. I, as a Lawrence community member, support the rare occasion presented to amplify the voices of those unheard and unseen. I actively support lifting up the voices and visualizing WOC oral histories in the very public space occupied by the Lawrence Public Library.

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Sincerely, and in solidarity with, the WoC Oral History and Mural Makers: *Wak’o Mujeres Phu nu Womxn Mural Project*



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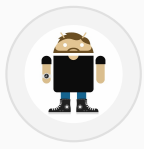
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Nick is an Accounts expert and the author of this help page. Leave him feedback below about how to improve it.

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