

**City-Wide Cultural Plan
STEERING COMMITTEE**

Meeting, Wednesday, May 6

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions	Diane
Highlights from Last Visit	Tom, Christine
Characteristics Report discussion	Tom, Christine
Community Meetings	Tom
Survey	Christine
Inventory	Christine
Next Visit: Retreat, June 22/23	Tom
Remaining Project Timeline	Christine
Any Other Business	

May 6, 2015

TO: Lawrence Steering Committee for City-Wide Cultural Plan

FROM:

Christine Harris
Christine Harris Connections

Tom Borrup
Creative Community Builders

RE: How We See the Spirit and Character of Lawrence

Walking Toward a Bolder Future

Lawrence is a proud, diverse, resilient, intellectually curious and weirdly interesting community. Lawrence takes great pride in the quality and level of its citizen engagement as it shapes its future while honoring its illustrious past and celebrating its ongoing accomplishments. This is a community that truly believes that it takes a village to sustain an interesting, honest and compassionate society. The citizens of Lawrence are committed to maintaining their unique ethical fortitude and the rich social, cultural, and recreational amenities it provides residents and visitors.

People of Lawrence are passionate about their eclectic, opinion-rich community that has stayed true to its local roots. Fighting off various attempts to bring big box stores or chains downtown, it has built a varied and unique local culture that draws people to visit, live and do business. Lawrence weaves together local industries, a rich tradition of higher education, and its fascinating historical background. The community sits within the larger fabric of metropolitan Kansas City 40 minutes down the road and within a state political environment that challenges Lawrence's values. Lawrencians (?) have grit, determination and heart.

Now, with the Horizon 2020 plan being shaped along with other planning efforts underway, Lawrence is positioning itself for a future that is sustainable for its people, its industry, its cultural ethos, and its economic prosperity. The community is both identifying the important dots that represent who it is as well as working to connect those dots in a fashion that keeps its character alive in a place that resonates with its unique spirit.

Perhaps one way to sum it up is the ubiquitous LFK (Lawrence F..... Kansas) that pops up on signs and apparel around the area. Will Lawrence always want to be known as LFK or is there a new identity emerging that celebrates the unique spirit of Lawrence in a more inclusive and economically mature manner?

Guided by a Rich and Layered History

History is deeply embedded in Lawrence's present and will be in its future. The Lawrence of today co-exists with the complicated and sometimes contentious Lawrence of the past. The community's history is present in memory as well as in physical structures, the stone with which buildings are made, and in the names of streets and places of significance. *Embattled Lawrence* (by Dennis and Barbara Watkins, 2001) is the name of one of many historical books about the community, a name chosen to represent the struggles experienced by residents from pre-history, to the 1850s and 60s, to more recent battles over development and preservation. Through the millennia of known and recorded settlement, Lawrence fought its way into existence and continues to fight for what is best and just.

Informed by an Engaged, Participative and Intellectually Active Citizenry

Lawrence is a very active community. There are lots of opportunities to take part in a wide variety of activities. The people of Lawrence like being visitors in their own hometown, enjoying basketball, creative and cultural activities, parades, festivals, farmers markets, local pubs and restaurants, artisan foods and brews. Folks actively participate in personal growth opportunities, demonstrating a commitment to lifelong learning. City government meetings now occur weekly because there is so much interest in participating in the process of making community 'work'. Curiosity is a highly prized and very active attribute in Lawrence, and it is rewarded with a respect for engagement.

Many former residents of Lawrence fought for the unique character of Lawrence over the decades and today's Lawrence is not about to let them down. An activist element is present and accounted for. There is strong involvement in organizing for the greater good. People strongly form ideas and opinions and aren't afraid to share them, but commit to working things out in the long run. In Lawrence, you can disagree vehemently and remain steadfast friends. As someone quoted, "we have two important P's that go together – participation and process". Lawrence is a highly participative community that values a respectful process, even if that means protracted or time-challenged decisions.

The transient nature of Kansas University, Haskell University and other higher education facilities means that there is always new blood circulating throughout Lawrence – students, staff and faculty. There is a constant revitalization of ways of thinking, world views, political perspectives, life experiences and that adds to the richness of people who live, work and play in Lawrence. Intellectual pursuits and general intellectual curiosity are highly valued.

Kansas University has a strong influence on the entire community. Many believe that the 'town-gown' relationship is a healthy one and others continue to strive to the relationship. From the first classes at the University in 1886, KU students became well integrated into the community of Lawrence. Many in recent

decades prefer to remain in Lawrence after graduation. The fact that no on-campus housing was built for students until 1923 may have contributed to that. KU alumni are a well-regarded asset for the Lawrence area. The KU community is global and highly educated. It brings a multi-national and multi-disciplined connectedness into the area.

The Haskell University of today is the result of additional battles – tireless efforts of the American Indian community to create an institution that is about sharing tradition and knowledge across tribal communities and with the rest of the world rather than a “training” school for Native people as it was founded by the U.S. government in 1884. The cultural and intellectual richness of Haskell, and the desire for greater connections and exchanges of knowledge, add to the overall wealth of experience available to the people of Lawrence.

Not to be underrated congruent with the intellectual prowess of KU, the devotion to KU basketball borders on the insane. Local, alumnae, and national devotion to the Jayhawks is legendary and each home game brings thousands of people to Lawrence. Connecting these participants to other Lawrence activities, such as staying overnight to enjoy a fine local dining experience or participate in a creative activity is seen by many to be a potential significant growth opportunity.

Challenged by Place

There are challenges with the historic role of place in Lawrence. As in most communities, there is a geographic division of sensibilities and loyalties. Lawrence is no exception. Original residents from indigenous tribes were pushed out and replaced by many eastern tribes in the early 1800s. They were displaced again, pushed south to Oklahoma. Emigrants from Massachusetts who came to help build a Free State were also challenged but they fought to stay. In the current era, students coming to Haskell and KU sometimes felt welcomed, sometimes not. East Lawrence retains a different mindset and economic platform than West Lawrence. The location of the Kansas River forms a boundary for East Lawrence and much of the newer development has gone west. North Lawrence, once an independent municipality, was annexed by Lawrence. People, places, and enterprises remain dynamic and in motion.

There can sometimes be challenges with location of cultural amenities too. On the one hand, more cultural activities on the west side of Lawrence has given more accessibility and participation from those residents while on the other hand, some people are committed to downtown being the center of cultural and creative activity. Development and change downtown and on the 9th Street Corridor represent one current challenge.

“Not Just Anywhere USA”: A Distinctive Pride

Lawrence purposefully prides itself on being ‘weird’ and is not giving up that title to Portland anytime soon! Permission to be ‘weird’ and to accept and enjoy the weirdness about each other – is a mark of accomplishment. Embracing differences is such that being open with each other and seeking common ground is considered a community art form. Some have said they ‘live together in parallel with differences’. Lawrence is very comfortable with diversity and yet the ethnic and racial connections are not nearly as demonstrable as how well the diverse economic, professional and philosophical approaches live together. Many people in Lawrence believe with a very sincere heart that there are opportunities to be better integrated, and to be more holistically unified. Even with the underlying commitment to tolerance and acceptance, many admit they just don’t know how to go about better integrating Lawrence.

The diversity of ways people in Lawrence express themselves reveals the richness of the community’s cultural and creative life. For a community the size of Lawrence, the number and quality of creative activities and organizations is astounding. From the historically rich artist community in East Lawrence connecting with the newly developing Warehouse District to the downtown renaissance including Lawrence Arts Center, the new Library, and renovated Carnegie building to the beautifully cultural campus of Haskell University and to the increased cultural offerings in West Lawrence with Theatre Lawrence, the community of Lawrence is a rich and varied cultural mecca for the region.

Pride is also reflected in the visible support of a strong LGBT community – both on and off campus. The culture of Lawrence is one that fosters openly expressing who you are and provides a unique surround of support. Having said that, there is an identifiable push-pull between the old and young, the big vision and the grassroots. The very grit that pushed back on big box development encroaching on downtown can also display itself pushing back when something comes along that calls for out of the box thinking, a different vision. The current development of the 9th Street Corridor is an example of a cultural process that has folks ‘positioning’ between preserving heritage, history and ways of life, developing the next generation of creative businesses, and bringing more people to live in the eminently walkable and active downtown. Based on its historical patterns, there is an inherent tension between what is and what could be in Lawrence. As new economic opportunities are sought to ensure a sustainable community, this tension will have a tendency to magnify.

It seems that many have long memories and are challenged to relinquish their point of view. In order to move the community forward, resolving differences with animated civility will need clarity of expectations and a willingness to accept the will of the people when a consensus is clear.

Living with Intention

Lawrence is a community that lives with intention. It knows there is value in being close to Kansas City but it is clear about carving out its unique small town experience. No one needs to be anonymous in Lawrence and yet there are always more people to get to know. The community provides endless opportunities to refresh residents' thinking, revitalize the spirit and re-calibrate views.

Lawrence is a compassionate, nurturing community. It is a great place for families and kids. It's a community that cares deeply about others. The narrative about 'Dennis' and how he is cared for by all who come across him despite his obvious challenges is testament to the community spirit. Lawrence pays attention to voices not just check books – the community is less governed by the pocket book, although as economic challenges increase the tension between check book and voice intensifies. The people of Lawrence listen and share stories.

People living in Lawrence support each other. Artists watch out for each other; the community has a priority commitment to making the community a safe and interesting place for seniors to retire; and people are deeply committed to the whole being greater than the sum of its parts.

Lawrence is also planning its future with intention. The focus of the Chamber of Commerce and economic development efforts looks to nurture homegrown business, to support entrepreneurs, and to work in partnership. The long range planning activities; the creative placemaking initiatives of 9th Street Corridor and Free State Festival; the development of the Warehouse District; the Busker Festival; the growth of the Freedom Frontier National Heritage Area; development in West Lawrence; new leadership of Visit Lawrence and the Chamber, along with other developments are spearheading a new era of growth and purposeful growth and change for Lawrence.

There is no place like Lawrence and the good folks of Lawrence are deeply committed to keeping it that way!

Lawrence Arts and Culture Master Plan
Community Survey – DRAFT
May 1

The City of Lawrence is seeking public opinion for input into its master City-wide arts and culture planning process. As a very engaged community, your thoughts and dreams are critical to this process. The City has hired consultants Tom Borrup of Creative Community Builders and Christine Harris of Christine Harris Connections to facilitate the arts and culture planning process, which includes conducting this survey looking at the quality of our cultural life. Your input will be invaluable as we consider how to grow and ensure the sustainability of our vital arts and culture scene.

If you have any questions about this survey or how to complete it, please contact Porter Arneill, Director of Art and Culture, parneill@lawrenceks.org/785-832-3402

1. What best describes how important the following are to you about living in Lawrence. On a scale of 1) Not Important at All, 2) Somewhat Important, 3) Neutral, 4) Important and 5) Very Important.

- a. The rivers
- b. Clinton Lake
- c. The woods and natural surroundings
- d. Recreational opportunities
- e. Arts and culture activities
- f. History, heritage and historic places
- g. Creative 'maker' activities
- h. Downtown Lawrence
- i. Architectural significance
- j. University of Kansas activities, including sports
- k. Haskell Indian Nations University opportunities
- l. The 'proud to be weird' factor
- m. Festivals and parades
- n. The lifestyle
- o. The people
- p. Close to Kansas City
- q. Professional career opportunities
- r. Opportunity to develop 'your own thing'
- s. Other _____

2. We are interested in knowing how you connect with Lawrence's cultural community. Please check all that apply.
 - a. Interested citizen
 - b. Audience member
 - c. Donor
 - d. Board member of arts, culture or heritage organization
 - e. Staff of arts, culture or heritage organization

- f. Professional artist, performer, writer, designer, or other creative worker
- g. Owner, manager, of a 'creative business' with employees
- h. Owner of a solo 'creative business'
- i. Amateur artist, performer, writer, etc.
- j. Educator or teaching artist
- k. Student or parent of student
- l. Business leader, owner or manager of 'non-creative' business
- m. Economic or community development professional
- n. Public official
- o. Staff or board of tourism organization
- p. Community volunteer
- q. Have no connection to Lawrence's cultural community
- r. Other _____

3. Which of the following arts, culture and heritage programs have you attended or participated in at least once in the last 12 months in Lawrence? (select all that apply)

- a. Hands-on arts classes/workshops
- b. Dance
- c. Children's activities at local cultural institutions
- d. Non-commercial community radio or television
- e. Community or professional theatre
- f. Classical music
- g. City band concerts
- h. Blues or folk music
- i. Other music
- j. Film
- k. Art festivals
- l. Parades
- m. Art museums/galleries
- n. Historical museum
- o. Historic and heritage activities
- p. Specialty/craft food production or preparation
- q. Public library events
- r. Literary or poetry readings
- s. Performance or exhibition of ethnic cultures
- t. Special events and festivals other than arts
- u. Music in a non-traditional venue, such as a bar or coffee shop
- v. Purchased original art or craft
- w. Read novels, plays, poetry, or short stories
- x. Attended arts events on KU campus
- y. Attended cultural events at Haskell University campus
- z. Bike and other nature trails
- aa. Recreation Center activities
- bb. Park activities

cc. NONE
dd. other _____

4. What is your favorite place in Lawrence? (i.e., an intersection, a landmark, a building, park, etc.) Why?
5. Where would you take friends or visitors for an arts attraction, cultural event, or experience in Lawrence?
6. Which arts, culture and heritage activities are important for Lawrence to offer, whether or not you go. Scale of 1) Not Important at All, 2) Somewhat Important, 3) Neutral, 4) Important and 5) Very Important.
 - a. Adult Theater
 - b. Youth Theater
 - c. Classical music
 - d. Jazz and blues music
 - e. Other music
 - f. Ballet
 - g. Modern dance
 - h. Other dance
 - i. Film
 - j. Visual art museums
 - k. Historical museums
 - l. Children's museum
 - m. Craft fairs
 - n. Literary arts
 - o. Arts education
 - p. Arts festivals
 - q. Artisan food and beverage fairs
 - r. Heritage venues or trails
 - s. Arts markets
 - t. Public library events
 - u. Other _____
7. What do you see as Lawrence's 3-5 unique arts, cultural and creative assets? Assets could be community strengths, people, places, organizations, or other creative resources.

8. What arts, culture, heritage or creative resources should Lawrence consider developing? List no more than 3.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

9. If you are not able to engage in arts and cultural offerings as much as you would like, what are the barriers. Please check all that apply.

- a. Don't feel comfortable or welcome
- b. No one with whom to attend events
- c. No transportation
- d. Traffic congestion
- e. Prefer to spend leisure time other ways
- f. Driving distance
- g. Don't want to come downtown
- h. Multiple events at same time
- i. Events are not of interest
- j. Difficulty Parking
- k. Lack of information about events
- l. Family obligations or child care
- m. Cost of admission
- n. Hard to make time to get out
- o. Other _____

10. What resources and services do you think would be helpful to arts, culture and heritage development in Lawrence (which may or may not be provided by the City of Lawrence)? Scale of 1) Not Important at All, 2) Somewhat Important, 3) Neutral, 4) Important and 5) Very Important.

- a. Provide resources and services for arts and culture organizations to help build their program capacity
- b. Coordinate marketing of the creative activities in the area
- c. Coordinate long term planning with Downtown Lawrence, Inc. and other civic organizations
- d. Provide resources and services for individual creative entrepreneurs to build their businesses
- e. Ensure that the arts and culture development is included in the city's overall community and economic development
- f. Ensure that City funding for the arts and cultural initiatives is equitably allocated to diverse projects throughout Lawrence
- g. Document the impact of the creative sector
- h. Advocate the value of the nonprofit sector to public officials
- i. Advocate the value of for profit and independent creative business to public officials
- j. Advocate for arts education
- k. Provide an online calendar of all arts and culture events
- l. Provide arts education opportunities
- m. Attract and retain artists/creative workers
- n. Provide opportunities for direct participation in artistic endeavors
- o. Better connection with KU's artistic offerings
- p. Better connection with Haskell Indian Nations University's cultural offerings

q. Other_____

11. What should the City of Lawrence be directly providing to arts, culture and heritage? Please indicate the importance of each activity. Scale of 1) Not Important at All, 2) Somewhat Important, 3) Neutral, 4) Important and 5) Very Important. Have them check the box marked 1,2,3,4 or 5.

- a. Continue direct support for arts and culture activities, i.e. grants to artists, arts organizations, festivals
- b. Continue to support the City's Director of Arts and Culture position
- c. Subsidize arts and culture events by providing free or reduced permit fees.
- d. Publicity and marketing for arts and culture events
- e. Help nonprofit organizations by providing access to technical support, workshops, and other resources and services
- f. Provide resources and services for independent creative businesses
- g. Invest or assist in finding monies for new artistic or creative developments
- h. Provide greater access to cultural opportunities for people with limited means
- i. Provide financially accessible youth programming
- j. Leadership of creative and cultural planning, including new developments such as creative placemaking; new or renovated facilities; etc.
- k. Provide an online database of resources and services available to the nonprofit and for profit creative sectors
- l. Support arts education in the schools
- m. Support affordable artist housing and studio space downtown
- n. Comprehensive arts and culture calendar via online access
- o. Other_____

12. What is a dream or hope that you have for arts and culture in Lawrence?

13. Other comments_____

DEMOGRAPHICS

1. What is your residence zip code? _____

2. Gender:

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Identify as 'other'
- d. Prefer not to answer

3. Age:

- a. Under 18
- b. 19-24
- c. 25-34
- d. 35-44
- e. 45-54
- f. 55-64
- g. 65 +
- h. Prefer not to answer

4. Education – what is the last degree earned:

- a. Elementary or middle school
- b. High school
- c. Community or two-year college
- d. Four-year college
- e. Graduate degree
- f. Prefer not to answer

5. Number of people in household:

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 4
- e. 5 +
- f. prefer not to answer

6. Ages of people in household

- a. Under 5 years =
- b. 5-9 years =
- c. 10-14 years =
- d. 15-19 years =
- e. 20-24 years =
- f. 25-34 years =
- g. 35-44 years =
- h. 45-54 years =
- i. 55-64 years =
- j. 65 + years =
- k. prefer not to answer

7. Number of years lived in the area

- a. Under 3
- b. 3-5
- c. 6-10
- d. 11-15
- e. 16-20
- f. 21-30
- g. 31 +
- h. prefer not to answer

8. Annual household income
- a. Under \$25,000
 - b. \$25,000 – 49,999
 - c. \$50,000 - \$74,999
 - d. \$75,000 - \$99,999
 - e. over \$100,000
 - f. prefer not to answer

DRAFT