



Memorandum

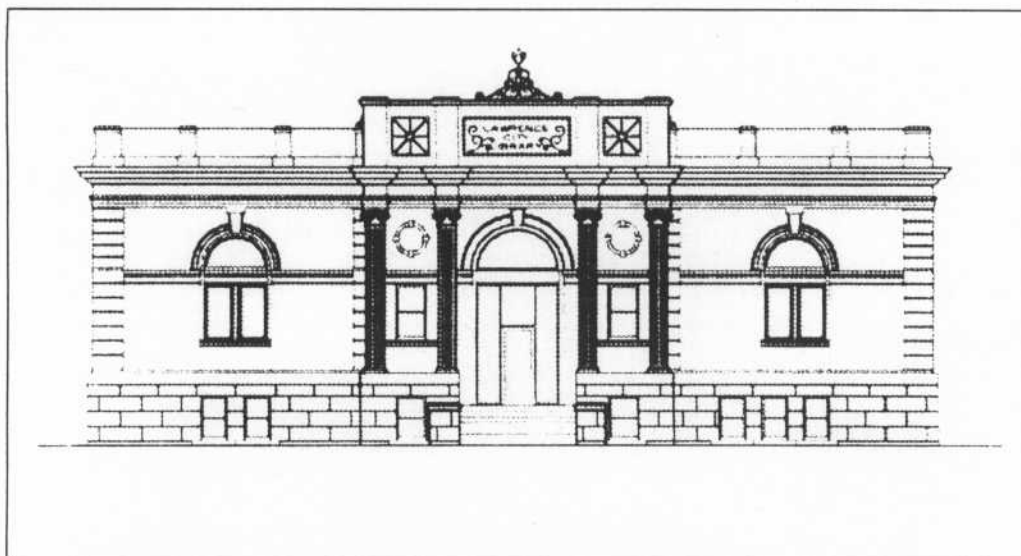
To: Mike Wildgen, City Manager
From: Bobbie Walthall, Executive Secretary
Date: April 8, 2004
Re: Langston Hughes Center for Community Enrichment Proposal

Mike,

I spoke with Dr. Elizabeth Schultz today to confirm the Carnegie Library item on the agenda for April 13. Dr. Schultz has requested that the Commissioners receive another copy of the original proposal so I am including it as an attachment on the agenda.

**Proposal
for
THE LANGSTON HUGHES CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT**

"We have tomorrow bright before us like a flame." Langston Hughes

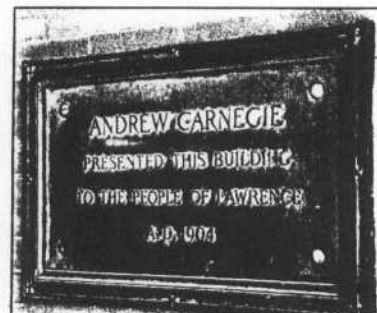


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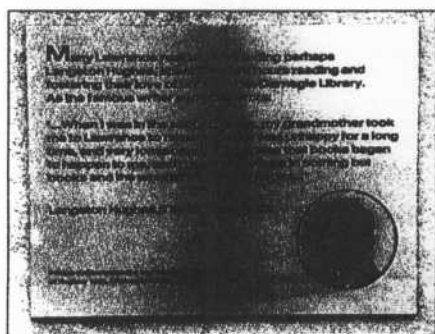
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The proposal to transform the Carnegie Library Building into the Langston Hughes Center for Community Enrichment invites the City of Lawrence to engage in a new venture. With the Lawrence Public Library to the north, the Lawrence Arts Center to the east, the Watkins Community Museum of History to the south, the Langston Hughes Center for Community Enrichment to the west, our downtown creates an important public and cultural space in the heart of the city.



The vision, mission, and activities of the Langston Hughes Center for Community Enrichment complement those of Lawrence's other significant cultural institutions; the specific focus of the Langston Hughes Center, however, is on our community's particularly rich and diverse cultural heritage as well as on the relationship of this heritage to the present.

Through its vision, mission, and activities, the Langston Hughes Center will redress effects of poverty, abuse, and neglect which exist in our community. According to the Douglas County report made for 2000 by Kansas Action for Children, Inc., nineteen percent of Douglas County's population was below the national poverty line, and "the rate of substantiated child victims of abuse and neglect [for the county] in this year (2.9 per 1,000 children, ages 0-17) was worse than the state rate of 12.4 percent and the national rate of 11.8 percent." It is well known that a definitive correlation exists between poverty and low literacy (Vogel, 1998).



The vision, mission, and activities of the Langston Hughes Center for Community Enrichment continue the work of Andrew Carnegie. The partnership between Carnegie, who was committed to establishing free public libraries throughout the English-speaking world, and Lawrence led to the creation of Lawrence's Carnegie Library in 1904. Here, the boy Langston Hughes, to whom many of Lawrence's segregated institutions were closed, could begin to appreciate "the wonderful world of books" and to imagine "tomorrow bright before us like a flame."

The Lawrence Public Library Study Circle on "Envisioning a Future for the Carnegie Building," in presenting a plan for the Langston Hughes Center for Community Enrichment, proposes a similar partnership between a cultural institution and the city. The study circle, which consisted of twenty-nine members representing numerous constituencies in our community, met five times over a period of five months (Appendix I) to draft this proposal.

The study circle participants were:

Cris Anderson	Coordinator, Early Childhood Education, USD497
Judy Billings	Executive Director, Convention & Visitors Bureau
Rod Bremby	Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Mary Burchill	Member, Lawrence Public Library Board
Michael Caron	Program Director, Douglas County Jail
Tom Christie	Executive Director of Educational Programming, USD497
Reta Cosby	Youth Outreach, 9 th Street Baptist Church
Karen Davis	Community Information Services Coordinator, Lawrence Public Library, Study Circle facilitator
Dennis Enslinger	Historic Resources Administrator, Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Department
Ann Evans	Executive Director, Lawrence Arts Center
Frank Farmer	Associate Professor of English, University of Kansas
Becky Fast	Aide to Congressman Dennis Moore
Phil Godwin	President, Board of Directors, Douglas County Historical Society
Sue Hack	Mayor, City of Lawrence
Nancy Hiebert	Former Douglas County Commissioner
Nancy Horner	Information Resource Specialist, USD497
Greg Hurd	Host of Sunflower Cablevision's <i>River City Weekly</i> program
Ron Hurst	Laboratories Manager, Civil Engineering Department, University of Kansas
Rich Minder	Collaborative Projects Coordinator, Success by 6 Coalition
Tony Peterson	Media & Promotional Coordinator, Independence, Inc.
Bobbi Rahder	Director, Haskell Cultural Center & Museum
Mike Rundle	City Commissioner
Elizabeth Schultz	Professor of English, Emerita, University of Kansas
Linda Scott	Facilitator, Adult Learning Center, USD497
Frieda Tapedo	President's Assistant, Haskell Indian Nations University
Verdell Taylor	Pastor, Saint Luke AME Church
Karen Vespestad	Director, Grants, Board Services and Strategic Planning, USD497
Barbara Watkins	Coordinator, Curriculum & Projects, Continuing Education, University of Kansas
Dan Wildcat	Faculty Member, Haskell Indian Nations University
Kevin Willmott	Assistant Professor, Theatre and Film, University of Kansas

During their meetings the study circle gave careful consideration not only to the process by which the Carnegie Library was transformed into the Lawrence Arts Center in 1975, but also to several institutions with similar visions in other parts of the United States (Appendix II).

The study circle proposes that a transition team oversee the details of the implementation of the Langston Hughes Center for Community Enrichment. A transition team will help establish a governance board (501c3) for the center, which will be responsible for its administration. The study circle has identified the center's vision, mission, and its primary activities and services and outlined major issues related to governance, management of space, and funding necessary to operate the center. However, the study circle sees these sections that follow below as suggestive rather than definitive.

VISION

The Langston Hughes Center for Community Enrichment provides opportunities for all members of our community—from new arrivals to lifelong residents—to learn about ourselves, our families, and our neighbors in relation to our diverse heritages and our rapidly changing society. We believe that this knowledge builds a strong foundation for the people of Lawrence and Douglas County to act wisely and to aspire to make tomorrow as bright as Langston Hughes imagined.

MISSION

- * To provide a creative and learning environment for people of all generations and cultural traditions.
- * To encourage learning and promote activities related to the rich diversity of the people in our community.
- * To create opportunities for the members of our community to know and celebrate our varied history and traditions and the importance of this history and these traditions now and in the future.
- * To collaborate with institutions throughout our community, while maintaining substantive links to regional and national resources.

SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

The Langston Hughes Center for Community Enrichment will continue Lawrence's long tradition of fostering community growth through a variety of services and activities. Primary focuses of the center will be on increasing literacy in verbal, visual, technological, and cultural areas and on encouraging concern for and connection to community. Study circle participants generated the following list of activities.

- * Develops programs, lectures, classes, book clubs, and other opportunities to encourage verbal, visual, technological, and cultural literacies.
- * Develops enrichment and remedial classes.
- * Conducts after-school and Saturday cultural literacy and tutoring programs.
- * Provides performance and exhibition space for new creative work.
- * Coordinates and encourages diverse oral history initiatives.
- * Highlights the significance of Hughes and his family to Lawrence in several ways (e.g., through a small, permanent display in the Center's vestibule, through mural art and passages from his writings created by students throughout the building's interior).
- * Provides assistance to genealogists.
- * Houses the National Heritage Area office.

GOVERNANCE

A transition team has been named (Reta Cosby, Jan Dicker, Nancy Hiebert, Elizabeth Schultz, Barbara Watkins) and will establish a governance board modeled on the Lawrence Arts Center's relationship with the City of Lawrence. The transition team has identified the following steps in securing a governance structure for the center.

- * Transition team of volunteers from the study circle develops rules of governance for the Langston Hughes Center for Community Enrichment.
- * Transition team crafts and establishes a 501c3 organization.
- * City of Lawrence and transition team appoint a governance board comprised of members from Lawrence City Commission, Lawrence Public Library, Watkins Community Museum of History, Haskell Museum and Cultural Center, Lawrence Arts Center, Lawrence public and private schools, University of Kansas, representative ethnic groups, and the community at large.
- * Initially a minimal staff, consisting of a director and assistant director.
- * The 501c3 organization makes a request to the city to fund the director's first/second year(s) of operation.
- * Possible partnerships with either or both the Lawrence Public Library and the Watkins Community Museum of History.

SPACE

Considering the management of space in the Carnegie Building and desiring to maintain the historic character of the building, the study circle identified its major uses for the Langston Hughes Center.

- * Offices (east, 1st floor)
- * Multi-purpose creative space (north, 1st floor, former performance area)
- * Large meeting room (west, 1st floor, former exhibition area)
- * Classrooms, small meeting rooms, and tutorial rooms (basement)
- * Historical collections (basement)
- * Computer laboratory (basement)



FUNDING

Funding for the Langston Hughes Center can be divided into two areas: operational costs and building costs. Establishment of a 501c3 will allow for the center to carry the majority of the operational costs. Funding for operational costs will also come from a variety of other sources, including:

- * Fees from workshops, classes, programs
- * Friends of the Langston Hughes Center for Community Enrichment
- * Local and state foundations (e.g., Douglas County Community Foundation, Rice Foundation, Kansas Children's Fund)
- * Local businesses (e.g., Dollar General, Target, Starbucks)
- * National foundations (e.g., Kellogg Foundation, Carnegie Foundation, Kresge Foundation)
- * Federal Grants (e.g., community block grants, Senate appropriations)
- * United Way (after two years of operation)

Funding for building costs would primarily be provided by the City of Lawrence. These would include:

- * Renovation of the Carnegie Building
- * Ongoing maintenance, utilities, and insurance
- * Start-up costs shared between the 501c3 organization and the city (e.g., furnishings, director's salary for first/second year(s))

TIMETABLE

2003

- * March 15: Proposals for the Carnegie Building due.
- * May 15: Evaluations of proposals completed; selection of proposal.
- * June 4: City Commission budget study session.
- * June: Renovation of Carnegie Building begins.
- * June: Transition team develops and establishes 501c3 organization.
- * June: Transition team begins to consider funding options.
- * September: 501c3 governance board is appointed and begins selection of center director.
- * September-December: Transition team and governance board develop funding strategies.
- * December 1: Director of Langston Hughes Center for Community Enrichment hired.

2004

- * January: Assistant director hired.
- * June 1: Renovation of Carnegie Building completed.
- * July 1: Opening of the Langston Hughes Center
- * December: Centennial of Carnegie Building

Reply to:
Professor Elizabeth Schultz
1545 University Drive
Lawrence, Kansas 66044
842-1305
eschultz@ku.edu

APPENDIX I

Library Study Circle Schedule of Meetings and Topics

Library Study Circle: Envisioning a Future for the Carnegie Building

The twenty-nine participants in the study circle met from 10:00 to 12:00 in the Lawrence Public Library.

*** Session One** (November 13, 2002):

What uses could we envision for the Carnegie Building that would enhance the cultural and lifelong learning capacity of the Lawrence community?

*** Session Two** (December 11, 2002):

Nationally, what cultural centers, literacy centers and other similar institutions provide useful models for a Lawrence center as identified in session one?

*** Session Three** (January 22, 2003):

How might a community vision for the Carnegie Building complement and augment existing resources and programs for Lawrence? (one hour)

What structure might allow the center we envision to become a reality? (one hour)

*** Session Four** (February 19, 2003):

Where do we go from here?

*** Session Five** (March 5, 2003):

Reaching consensus on a final proposal and agreeing upon an action plan for presenting the proposal to the Lawrence City Commission

APPENDIX II

Summaries of Models Considered



**Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning
Lexington, Kentucky**

Founding and Governance:

The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, established through a partnership between the Urban County Government, the Lexington Public Library, and private donors and dedicated on September 11, 1992, is located at the old library site at Gratz Park, in Lexington, Kentucky. The Carnegie Center provides leadership to and is a resource for programs enhancing literacy and learning throughout the community of Lexington--and across Kentucky. Governing Board and Advisory Board appointed by the City of Lexington and the Lexington Public Library (60% city appointees, 40% library appointees).

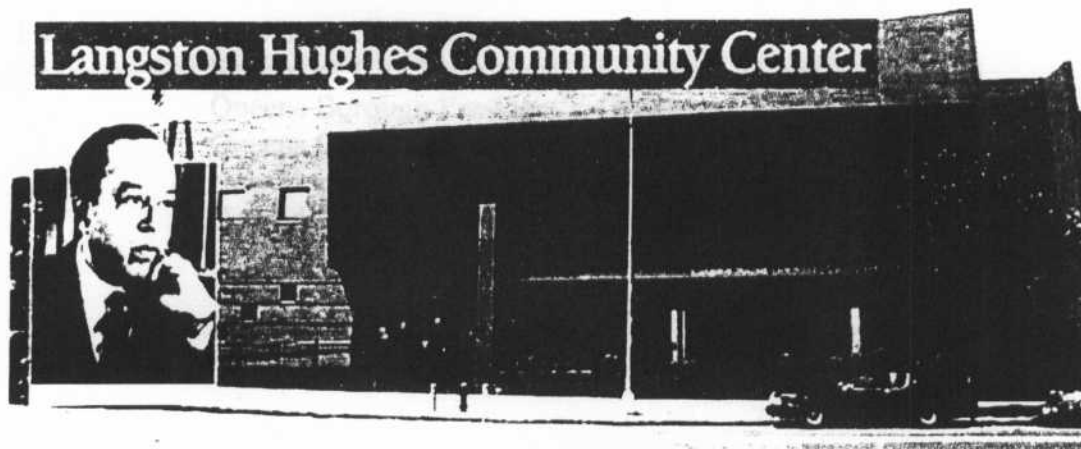
Mission:

The Center's four major objectives are:

- (1) to create and support programs which promote literacy and learning;
- (2) to foster the literate life in all its aspects for all citizens;
- (3) to encourage collaboration among media, businesses, schools, civic organizations, and the community at large on behalf of literacy and learning
- (4) to gather information concerning literacy and learning within Lexington and across the state and nation and to make that information available to the public.

Funding: 70% City of Lexington
10% Workshops, classes
10% Friends of the Carnegie Center
10% grants

- there are difficulties with the granting process because of CCLL's attachment to city government (foundations tend not to fund government entities)
- would have possibly been better off as a United Way Agency



Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center Queens, New York

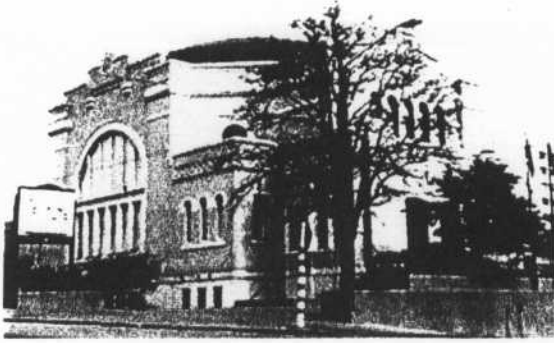
Founding and Governance:

The Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center (LHCL&CC) opened in 1969 as a federally funded special project of the Queens Public Library. The first public institution named after the poet laureate of the Harlem Renaissance following his death in 1967, the concept of the LHCL&CC was different from any branch of the Queens Library system. At that time, no branch offered circulating collections and cultural programs related to the black experience. It was staffed and operated by the Library Action Committee of Corona-East Elmhurst, Inc. (LAC) until it became an official branch of the Queens Public Library in 1987.

One of America's most significant models of a community library with a cultural foundation, the LHCL&CC was conceived and designed by the LAC to be a working partnership between a library (Queens Public Library) and a community-based organization (the Library Action Committee, Inc.).

As a 501c3 tax exempt organization with a board of directors, the LAC is empowered per agreement with the Queens Public Library to submit proposals to fund the educational and cultural arts programs and services of the LHCL&CC outside those covered by the Queens Public Library, i.e. library staffing and daily operations. LHCL&CC cultural arts programs include Black Heritage Film/Video Festivals; musical concerts, gallery openings, literature/poetry readings, a monthly Open Mic Night; and an annual Langston Hughes celebration in February.

The LHCL&CC is the home of the Black Heritage Reference Center of Queens County, serving general readers, historians, scholars and researchers, students and educators with a comprehensive reference and circulating collection totaling approximately 30,000 volumes of material written about and related to Black culture. The LHCL&CC features also the Schomburg Clipping File, an extensive microfiche collection, periodicals, newspaper clippings, typescripts and ephemera of all kinds. The Thesis and Dissertation collection focuses on criticisms of Black writers, with special emphasis on the works of writer/poet Langston Hughes.



Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center Seattle, Washington

The historic landmark, multi-million dollar building, on the corner of 17th and Yesler was originally built in 1918 for the Chevra Bikur Cholim congregation and designed by the well known architect Marcus B. Priteca.

Mission:

The goal of the center is to provide quality cultural entertainment and educational components that meet the needs of the community.

Founding and Governance:

In 1972, the facility was acquired by the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation and for 25 years has been home for hundreds of performing arts groups and thousands of students and audience members. Seattle Parks & Recreation Department LHPAC staff include a managing director, artistic director, administrative specialist, 2 teen development leaders, 3 other specialists, and a custodian. The LHPAC Advisory Council currently has 2 members.

Funding:

- LHPAC is a City of Seattle owned and operated facility; 75% funding is from City (salaries & maintenance); relationship between LHPAC and Seattle Parks & Rec is "politically dicey" because LHPAC is unlike any other entity managed by that the Parks & Recreation Department.
- all programming funds (25% of total budget) are raised by the Center in the form of grants, rental, classes, admission fees
- LHPAC often doesn't receive grant funding because it is a government owned entity; in an effort to rectify this, LHPAC is currently in the process of hiring an evaluator to document how it's programs keep young people out of jail, boost academic performance, create community leaders, etc.



Log Cabin Literary Center Boise, Idaho

Founding and Governance:

Founded by the Snake River Writers group (no longer in existence); the LCLC Board consists of 50% writers, 50% business & professional people.

Mission:

The Log Cabin Literary Center is a nonprofit membership organization serving writers and readers with educational and cultural programs. Among the opportunities are classes and workshops for adults and emerging writers and resources for writers pursuing a career in publishing. The Log Cabin conducts a Summer Writing Camp each year where students work one-on-one with professional writers while exploring the offering of nearby museums. The Log Cabin also places writers in Idaho schools to provide young people and teachers with innovative approaches to writing. Readings at the Log Cabin bring prominent authors to local audiences and, when possible, the Log Cabin has brought those writers into contact with Idaho schoolchildren. In the fall, BookFest celebrates the written word with discussions, presentations and vendors. The monthly newsletter includes fiction, poetry, and nonfiction from writers across the state and the nation.

Funding:

The Log Cabin is supported by a broad membership of writers, readers, editors, small press publishers, graphic artists, photographers, and by the general public as well as family trusts and local businesses.

The **BookFest** budget is \$40,000, raised mostly from local corporations; the **Writers in the Schools** program is funded by grants.

Note: author visits and workshops do not pay for themselves



Log Cabin Literary Center Executive Director is available to consult on the feasibility of Lawrence project

RECEIVED

January 5, 2003

JAN 13 2003

Carnegie Library Use Proposal
City Manager's Office
Fourth Floor, City Hall
6 E. Sixth St.
Lawrence, Kansas, 66044

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS

Dear Committee Members,

I have read with excitement about the possible proposal of a literacy center at the former Carnegie Library. I have included a letter I submitted in February of 2000 that gives specific information regarding the use of the building and the needs of our community. As an educator, I have seen the sad truth that there are many adults in the Douglas County area that have literacy needs. Too often these individuals feel they have no place to turn for help in improving their literacy abilities. I have personally worked with numerous adults that are non-readers, and have experienced parents of students that also do not read or lack the ability and skills to help their children learn to read. Many parents do not realize the importance of their reading abilities and its impact on the literacy success of their children.

When I spoke with Mr. Wildgen several years ago, he talked specifically about funding difficulties. I realize this will be a challenge for a building that will require extensive remodeling for whatever the chosen use. I do believe however funding could be investigated through a variety of resources. Some of these sources might include: grant programs specifically designed for literacy initiatives, city bonds, local fund raising, and individuals that have established funding for literacy programs. There is currently a program in Mississippi that is funded by two individuals that have committed their financial resources for a similar project.

The Carnegie Library is an historic landmark for our city and I hope whatever the committee decides will be the most useful and appropriate for our community.

Sincerely,

Jan Dicker

Jan Dicker
4th Grade Teacher
Centennial School

2805 Blumstein Dr.

66047

Jan Dicker
2805 Bluestem Drive
Lawrence, Ks 66047

February 7, 2000

Mr. Mike Wildgen, City Manager
6 East 6th
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mr. Wildgen,

The purpose of this letter is to share with you an idea I have in regard to the future of the current Arts Center Building, also known as the Andrew Carnegie Building. I have shared my idea with Janice Toeppen who recommended I speak with Jim Henry. After talking with Jim, he suggested I put my thoughts in written form, submit them to you, and request you to share my proposal and vision with other members of the Lawrence City Commission.

I have taught first and second grade for years in the public schools and literacy has always been my first and most important responsibility. Literacy is a priority in the Lawrence Public Schools curriculum. The importance of life-long reading skills has been well documented in our society.

My vision for the future of the Carnegie building is to establish a literacy center for all Lawrence residents which would assist with the development of reading skills, encourage individuals to improve their current literacy, and enable anyone at any age to enjoy and appreciate the world of literature.

The components of the Lawrence Literacy Center might include:

i. Programs for children

- Enrichment classes for advanced readers
- Classes for the average reader
- Classes for readers needing remediation
- Story Hours-children enjoying read aloud books (any age)
- Book Clubs
- Author studies-monthly focus on well-known authors
- Illustrator studies-monthly focus on well-known illustrators
- Genre studies-monthly focus on different genres (including traditional literature, realistic fiction, fantasy, poetry, historical fiction, and non fiction)
- Visiting authors and/or illustrators

- Lending library
 - Art projects and writing projects in accordance with authors and illustrators
 - Technology-internet accessibility to author and illustrator web sites
2. Programs for adults to help and enrich children's reading
- Classes for parents before the birth of a child
 - Classes for parents with children
 - Grandparent classes-aid in reading to grandchildren and volunteer reading in schools
 - Technology-internet accessibility
3. Programs to help and enrich adult readers
- Book Clubs for different reading levels including advanced readers, genre reading, and remediation needs
 - Adult classes for non-readers and beginning adult readers
 - Lending library
 - Author/illustrator studies
 - Art/writing classes in accordance with authors and illustrators
 - Reading programs for senior citizens-reading to seniors and offering off site programs for those unable to go to the Literacy Center
 - Technology-internet accessibility

A Literacy Center in the heart of Lawrence would offer a new and exciting emphasis on reading and literacy needs of our community. One of Andrew Carnegie's lifelong interests was the establishment of free public libraries to provide everyone a means of self-education. Using the historic Carnegie building for such a center would reflect his dreams and desires.

I would appreciate you sharing these thoughts and ideas with the members of the Lawrence City Commission and I look forward to hearing from you concerning their responses. Thank you.

Sincerely,
























Jan Dicker

Lawrence Literacy Center

Needs data: (Statistics provided for Douglas County)

- Percent of population ages 16-19 who are high school dropouts (Kids Count Census)
 - 1990 was 2.5%
 - 2000 was 3.5%
- Percent of population (2000) ages 18-24 who are not high school graduates was 6.3%
- Percent of population (2000) ages 18-64 who are below poverty was 19%
 - In-state county ranking: #2
 - There is a correlation between poverty and low-literacy rates (Vogel, 1998)
- Percent (2000) of own children under age 18 with no parents in the labor force was 4.7%
- The rate of substantiated child victims of abuse and neglect in 2000 for Douglas county (12.9 per 1,000 children ages 0-17) is worse than the state rate of 12.4 and the national rate of 11.8 (Douglas County Report Card, Kansas Action for Children, Inc.)

Ideas on how to address those needs:

1. Programs for children
 -  Enrichment classes for advanced readers
 -  Classes for readers needing remediation
 -  Story hours – children enjoying read aloud books (any age)
 -  Book clubs
 -  Author studies – monthly focus on well-known authors
 -  Illustrator studies – monthly focus on well-known illustrators
 -  Genre studies – monthly focus on different genres
 -  Art projects and writing projects
 -  Technology-internet accessibility
2. Programs for adults to help and enrich children's reading
 -  Classes for parents before the birth of a child
 -  Classes for parents with children
 -  Grandparent classes – aid in reading to grandchildren and volunteer reading in schools
 -  Technology-internet accessibility
3. Programs to help and enrich adult learners
 -  Book clubs for different readers
 -  Adult classes for non-readers and beginning adult readers
 -  Classes for adults who have English as a second language
 -  Lending library
 -  Author/illustrator studies
 -  Art/writing classes
 -  Reading programs for senior citizens – on-site and off-site
 -  Technology-internet accessibility

Possible funding sources:

1. Kansas Health Foundation
2. Dollar General
3. Starbucks
4. Target

Donita Massengill, Jan Dicker, Beth Cigler