

## **Bobbie Walthall**

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**To:** csuen3@sunflower.com  
**Subject:** RE: Dec 9 meeting

Dec. 9, 2014

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

We strongly urge you to deny **Regular Agenda Item #1**, SUP14-00312, regarding the tower request at 1725 Bullene especially when the nearby grain elevators could so easily accommodate said tower.

Regarding **Regular Agenda Item #2** the following correspondence of Nov. 18 that was inadvertently omitted from your packets is the reason we do not agree with beginning negotiations with el dorado, inc.

**From:** Arch <[arch@sunflower.com](mailto:arch@sunflower.com)>  
**Date:** November 18, 2014 at 9:30:13 AM CST  
**To:** [bjwalthall@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:bjwalthall@ci.lawrence.ks.us)  
**Subject: Regular agenda item 3**  
Hi Bobbi,

Please include the following note in the Mayor and Commissioners packets for tonight's meeting.

Mayor and Commissioners,

Please defer voting on tonight's Regular Agenda Item No. 3. The whole ArtPlace grant application process seems seriously flawed.

With Regards,  
Arch Naramore  
Cindy Suenram  
1204 New York  
Lawrence

We also urge you to defer, for a long time, **Regular Agenda Item #3** regarding the parking request from Hillcrest Foods.

With Regards,  
Arch Naramore

Cindy Suenram  
1204 New York

## **Bobbie Walthall**

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**To:** David L. Corliss  
**Subject:** RE: 9th Street Corridor Project, Lawrence, KS

**From:** Amber Hansen [<mailto:1aehansen@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2014 11:07 AM

**To:** David L. Corliss; Diane Stoddard; Christina McClelland; Mike Amyx; Jeremy Farmer; Michael Dever; Terry Riordan; Bob Schumm

**Cc:** [jamie@artplaceamerica.org](mailto:jamie@artplaceamerica.org); [clawhorn@journalworld.com](mailto:clawhorn@journalworld.com); [eastlawrence@yahoo.com](mailto:eastlawrence@yahoo.com); [lyz@artplaceamerica.org](mailto:lyz@artplaceamerica.org)

**Subject:** 9th Street Corridor Project, Lawrence, KS

Dear Mayor, City Commissioners, City Manager, Assistant City Manager and Director of Arts and Culture,

I respectfully write to you with great concern for the Ninth Street Corridor Project.

My name is Amber Hansen. I received my Masters Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Kansas and have lead and assisted numerous community based art projects throughout the country over the past five years. I am writing because I care about the East Lawrence neighborhood and the integrity of community base art as a practice.

I attended the meeting this past Monday at New York Elementary School and after hearing the voices of neighborhood members I wholly support ELNA'S full partnership propositions. I believe that the East Lawrence Neighborhood association should be recognized as an equal project partner with two paid representatives as leaders on the 9<sup>th</sup> street project. I believe that these two representatives should be elected by ELNA's board to insure that the neighborhood's best interests are recognized.

- In regards to the recommended design firm, this project is being described as a "cultural project". The city, as a hiring body, is looking to hire a firm where white men hold all of the lead roles. I strongly believe that we need diversity in these leadership positions both in terms of ethnicity and gender!

- Downtown Lawrence Inc. should not be an equal partner in this project, primarily because it takes place in the East Lawrence neighborhood and Downtown's partnership would give too much control/power to an outside interest.

- It is a vital component of the project's success that it be driven and supported by the people that will be most affected by the project. ELNA's full partnership must include the capability to slow the project if needed and should reserve for the neighborhood representatives, a veto power of actions proposed by the Art Center or by the appointed design firm.

Lawrence is not an isolated example of these sorts of projects gone awry. The cases are beginning to collect and the negative effects of these mishandled projects are becoming the center focus of a national community-based arts discussion. Giving ELNA proper representation is a positive step towards a successful project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amber Hansen

## **Bobbie Walthall**

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**To:** David L. Corliss  
**Subject:** RE: Recommendations regarding the 9th street project

**From:** Eric Kirkendall [<mailto:kirkendall1@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 02, 2014 1:52 PM

**To:** Aron Cromwell; Bob Schumm; Hugh Carter; Mike Amyx; Michael Dever; Amalia Graham; Jim Denny; Jon Josserand; Patrick Kelly; Pennie von Achen; Stan Rasmussen; Christina McClelland; Diane Bailey; David L. Corliss; Diane Stoddard; Christie Scanlin Dobson; Darin White; Jane Swalwell Pennington; John Hachmeister; Kathy Porsch; Lori Madaus; Mandy Enfield; Mari Russell; Richard Renner; Sarah Harris

**Cc:** Nancy Thellman; Leslie Soden; Phil Collison; Katherine Harris; East Lawrence Neighborhood Association; Dave Loewenstein <[dloewenstein@hotmail.com](mailto:dloewenstein@hotmail.com)> Loewenstein; Aaron Paden; Eric Jay; Mike Myers; Katherine Simmons; [letters@ljworld.com](mailto:letters@ljworld.com); Chad Lawhorn; Mike Yoder; George Jorge Pele Paley

**Subject:** Recommendations regarding the 9th street project

Thank you Diane, Christina, David, City and LCAC commissioners, and everyone else who initiated and helped plan and lead the East Lawrence community meeting regarding the 9th Street project. The meeting was facilitated very well, and is a testament to the City of Lawrence, its political representatives, and staff.

For a bit of explanation on why I care about this project - My wife and I once lived at 946 New Jersey, and still own our home there. I wrote the first creative placemaking grant submitted by the city to the NEA, in partnership with the Lawrence Art Center. I work with almost 70 other participants in creative placemaking in East Lawrence - the development and operations of the nonprofit [Lawrence Creates Makerspace](#), at 9th and New Jersey.

I think the 9th Street project could be good for East Lawrence and the city, if the East Lawrence community is truly a full partner in the process. I believe that all of the City and nonprofit participants have had the best intentions, but that we need a more inclusive process going forward. Judging by last night's meeting, the City has reached the same conclusion.

City staff asked an excellent question last night, "What does full partnership mean?". I believe there are two minimum requirements - the authority to drive the process, and funding.

Regarding *driving the process*, please consider this quote from an 18 year veteran of creative placemaking.

"... if the existing neighborhood stakeholders – longtime residents, CBOs, small businesses, social services and public agencies who serve them – are not driving the process, community development or revitalization, as it's often characterized by city planners, can also be highly problematic.

Outside interests (developers, real estate agents, corporations, policy makers, or new residents) who do not have long-established roots within an existing neighborhood can end up destroying years of coalition building, networks of trust, and community frameworks that have proven to be successful and integral to the health of the neighborhood and its residents". (Source: [The Gentrification of our Livelihoods: Everything Must Go...](#))

**Recommendation 1:** In the future, the neighborhood's role in driving the process should start from project conception - not after a grant proposal has been written and submitted. The ELNA should be involved in developing grant proposals that affect the neighborhood, and other stakeholders, including the Lawrence Creates Makerspace, other nonprofits, and East Lawrence businesses should also be invited to participate.

**Recommendation 2:** We can't turn back the clock, but we should do everything we can to empower ELNA to have the major influence on this project that the East Lawrence community deserves, including approval authority.

Regarding funding - is it truly a full partnership if only three of the four partners have the resources needed to fully participate?

**The full partners in the process are:**  
City of Lawrence  
Lawrence Arts Center  
East Lawrence Neighborhood Association  
Downtown Lawrence Inc.

Recommendation 3: Please consider that of the four partners, only the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association lacks funds with which to participate in this effort, and solve that problem by providing city funding so the ELNA can fully participate in this project.

Thank you,

Eric Kirkendall  
Director, Lawrence Creates Makerspace  
[785-550-3408](tel:785-550-3408)