

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association

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December 15th 2014

To Mayor Amyx and Lawrence City Commissioners,

The proposed ArtPlace project for East 9th Street is a new kind of project for Lawrence and it requires a new kind of process. This is the first project that the Arts Center or any other institution in Lawrence has proposed that seeks to use art as a catalyst for remaking part of a neighborhood. Because of this, we need to develop a truly inclusive and accountable process that ensures the rights of East Lawrence residents and businesses to their cultural identity, as well as to the homes, streets and shared spaces of the neighborhood they care for and love.

In order to achieve this, the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association (ELNA) proposes that in accordance with our statement of values:

- 1) ELNA as a full partner must approve design plans before the plans go on to the city commission for the East 9th Street Corridor project.
- 2) Two East Lawrence residents, selected by and accountable to ELNA, will be included as neighborhood specialists for the project. As part of the project management team they would be involved directly in shaping the engagement process and design plans, as well as helping coordinate all meeting times and agendas. These two positions should be paid at a living wage.
- 3) ELNA will be granted funds to compensate for the time and expense of newsletter & extra communication expenses related to the East 9th Street Corridor project.
- 4) All proposals and present and future budgets related to the East 9th Street Corridor should be known and made publicly accessible.

We believe that a successful and equitable East 9th Street project must address these requests. Input alone under the auspices of the design firm selected for the project does not achieve this. These requests recognize that the proposed project will impact East Lawrence far more than any other neighborhood or constituency, and that neighborhood residents' and business owners' experience and knowledge are integral to a successful process and outcome.

We acknowledge the potential harm that unchecked development, branding, and real estate speculation can do to the social fabric of a community. We expect that this project will address these issues in accordance with of our stated values.

Underlying values of cultural equity, self-determination, and community cohesion are the basis for projects that respect residents. Granting these requests recognizes the value of East Lawrence's participation in developing and implementing a successful and equitable project. It also affirms that the neighborhood, as represented by ELNA, has the right to determine how its own story is shaped and how it is represented in that story.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this project and for allowing ELNA the time to come to consensus around an approach to engagement that supports our values.

ELNA (East Lawrence Neighborhood Association) as the representative civic body of East Lawrence hold these shared values.

1. We value East Lawrence as a working-class neighborhood where rents and housing prices are affordable for low-middle income residents.
2. We value the heritage of East Lawrence as a nationally significant part of Lawrence's original town site, and we value its continued progressive spirit that has attracted generations of people to this place and has shaped its culture.
3. We value cultural and economic equity and understand that unchecked development and real estate speculation can erode this value.
4. We value the cultural, racial and age diversity of our neighborhood and the resulting community.
5. We value preservation of the unique cultural and physical characteristics of the neighborhood; from our longstanding oral history, vernacular architecture and superlative trees, to the ephemeral gestures of the families, children, and animals who inhabit our neighborhood.
6. We value creating and maintaining an ecologically, economically and culturally sustainable neighborhood for all residents and especially families.
7. We value the local businesses and organizations that serve the neighborhood and provide living wages.
8. We value empowering neighborhood residents in having their voices heard on issues that matter to them. We acknowledge that some people have more access to political and economic power than others, and we will work to ensure that historically disempowered constituencies will be heard and represented.
9. We value each other as caretakers of our shared home and our rich heritage.
10. We value a quality of life that enables and supports our collective neighborhood creativity.

Thank you,

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