

From: [Dorman, Jacob S](#)
To: [Diane Stoddard](#); [David L. Corliss](#)
Cc: [Graham, Maryemma](#); [Dave Lowenstein](#); [Brad Allen](#); [Steve Nowak](#); [Hardy, Saralyn Reece](#); [Earle, Susan E.](#); [Alexander, Shawn Leigh](#); [Halegoua, Germain R](#); [Sally Zogry](#); [Lynne Zollner](#)
Subject: Langston in Lawrence Marker Project
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 4:40:52 PM
Attachments: [LIL Final Proposal 031315.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. Corliss and Ms. Stoddard,

Attached please find the County grant for the KU “Langston in Lawrence” project, which we would like you to place on the City Commission’s agenda next Tuesday April 21, as discussed. As you know, the Langston in Lawrence team envisions signage and an online app or mobile website to commemorate the great poet Langston Hughes’ life in Lawrence in physical and virtual space.

In addition to the intangible benefits of teaching residents about the past, about poetry, and about Lawrence’s unique history, this project will also attract visitors and boost the local economy as they spend money with local merchants.

After a discussion with Lynne Zollner, we are planning on modifying the project to feature mainly bronze plaques embedded in the sidewalk outside the 20 sites. We can reduce the number of total signs to 13 and place 20 bronze plaques for almost the same amount of money as it would cost to have 20 signs, and that way we address Ms. Zollner’s valid concerns.

Under the new plan, the signs in downtown would be at the following locations:

The planters around the corner from Liberty Hall on 7th (the one furthest to the east, so as not to intrude on the view of the building itself).

The new Lawrence Public Library

The Kaw River pedestrian bridge

The alley next to Antique Mall (site of the former Patee Theater).

Outside Watkins Community Museum (formerly Watkins bank).

By restricting ourselves to these five sites downtown we hope that we can educate the public but not intrude too much onto Lawrence’s historic streetscapes. Ms. Zollner’s creative solution of bronze plaques embedded in the sidewalk will allow us to mark all 20 sites unobtrusively. For the complete list of sites, please see the attached grant.

Many thanks to you and the City Commissioners for your time. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with me here or on my cell: (310) 367-8723. The support of the City of Lawrence will be crucial to properly commemorate one of its most famous former residents— and to driving literary tourism and boosting business here in Lawrence, Kansas.

Sincerely

Jake

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