

City of Lawrence
Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission (LCAC)
Monthly Meeting, March 11, 2015
City Commission Room, City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street

Members present: Chair: Katherine Simmons, Christie Dobson, Kate Dinneen, John Hachmeister, Patrick Kelly, Michel Loomis, Mike Maude, Kathy Porsch, Richard Renner

Members absent: Jerry Johnson, Sean Reardon

Also present: Diane Stoddard, City Liaison; Diana Dunkley, Studio 3D; Susan Tate, Lawrence Arts Center Executive Director; and muralists Alicia Kelly, Katy Clagett, and Dave Loewenstein, representing Lawrence Intersection Repair.

MINUTES

Chair Katherine Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Lawrence City Council Chambers at Lawrence City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street.

Action Items:

- The February 11, 2015 minutes were accepted with a correction to clarify that LCAC Chair Katherine Simmons contacted Mayor Mike Amyx to request a listening session with the City Commission (p.3).
- Kathy Porsch made the following motion, which was seconded by Kate Dinneen and approved unanimously by the LCAC members present:

The Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission recommends that the Lawrence City Commission approve the proposed Lawrence Intersection Repair project at Tenth and new Jersey, subject to compliance with City traffic safety recommendations and establishment of a formal agreement between the City and Lawrence Intersection Repair's fiduciary agent, Lawrence Organization for the Advancement of Visual Arts (the Percolator), related to the impact of necessary street maintenance by the City and regular maintenance of the street mural by Lawrence Intersection Repair.

New Business:

1. Fair Housing related to Cultural Districts.

Susan Tate and Diana Dunkley spoke on issues related to fair housing in cultural arts districts. Susan urged support by the City, the Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Chamber and other Lawrence entities, for HB 2368, a proposed bill aimed at making available tax breaks to encourage artists to stay in neighborhoods designated as cultural districts. She said promotion of fair housing to mitigate gentrification was laid out by the Cultural District Task Force in its vision.

Diana read a handout (appended) advocating for the City and County to establish measures to help avoid the negative impacts of gentrification, for example, residents being taxed out of their homes as property values rise, and presented examples of possible incentives. She said measures such as C3 zoning would help Lawrence become a widely known cultural destination and contribute significantly to the local economy, as well as protecting existing residents from losing their homes or experiencing a reduced quality of life due to raising property values. Susan said the idea is to provide incentives to encourage creative sector businesses in the area of the Ninth St. Corridor.

Patrick asked if Lawrence has C3 zoning, which says on-street parking is not required for buildings that have living spaces and businesses within it. Diane Stoddard said Lawrence does not have this type of zoning any longer because C3 turned into downtown zoning. Patrick said in that case, he didn't know that there was a need for a change to the zoning code.

Katherine said there has been discussion of creative maker spaces in the ongoing discussions related to the Horizon 2020 revision. Patrick agreed and encouraged Diana to send this information to the Horizon 2020 steering committee because there will be a major section on arts and culture in the new document. He encouraged attendance at the Horizon 2020 meetings and said arts and culture ought to be part of the broader conversation. Susan said the Lawrence Arts Center is strongly in favor of there being a separate chapter comprised of the Cultural Plan, rather than arts and culture being a sub chapter of another section. Patrick said that had been mentioned. He said he hoped Diana would submit the materials she had gathered to the Horizon 2020 group because it is currently considering all of these types of proposals.

Patrick asked Diana if she had discovered any information regarding impacts on residents of areas adjoining cultural districts when she did her research. Diana said she found that successful cultural districts fully engaged the community members. Patrick said the repercussions of establishing a cultural district with special incentives to those who are outside of the district also must be part of the Culture Plan discussion.

John agreed and said he had read about the creation of cultural districts and subsequent negative reactions by parts of the community that did not get similar benefits. Diana said the information she provided was simply for ideas and she was not advocating for any particular part of the materials.

Diane Stoddard said, in looking at the documents, there is a lot of material that might be considered during the development of a cultural plan. I think one thing you should recognize is that some of the items in the handout are not currently allowed by state law, she pointed out. There may be things we want to support legislation on, and it will take some time to do that. What is and is not allowed by law is a big issue in itself. We just recently have been allowed to use state funds for incentives, and there are rules attached, meaning incentives can be used in some ways but not in other ways. That research needs to be done and presented carefully if there are items that need to be addressed in a legislative platform, she added. The current bill probably won't get traction this year, Diane said, but if it can be expanded to more of a coalition effort it may be more coordinated and fully developed to represent a broader range of Kansas communities and eventually be successful.

Patrick said the idea of incentivizing arts through the guest tax has made him wonder if there are ways to waive sales tax in some districts of the city. Diane said sales tax is bound by state law and that means the city cannot change some things unilaterally. We need to do enough research to know what is practical for Lawrence, she said.

Katherine said the culture plan consultants have been tasked with evaluating these types of items and incorporating that research into their analysis, she encouraged Diana to submit any relevant materials to Diane Stoddard to be passed on to the consultants and the culture plan committee, in addition to the Horizon 2020 committee.

2. Lawrence Intersection Repair's request for approval of a street mural. Alicia Kelly asked the LCAC to support an "intersection repair" project that would involve painting a street mural in the intersection of 10th & New Jersey Streets. She explained that "Intersection Repair" is the community driven transformation of a street intersection into a safer, more beautiful public space. In 1996, after being inspired by plazas in foreign places, the Portland, OR organization "City Repair," founded by architect Mark Lakeman, started painting murals directly onto residential intersections. This is simply a part of the

Portland street budget now, she said. The collaborative creation of these artworks is intended to create a sense of identity among neighbors while helping calm traffic, promote local culture, and serve as a central gathering space for a community.

Lawrence Intersection Repair has selected the intersection of 10th & New Jersey for the location of the inaugural "intersection repair" due to its proximity to Massachusetts St. and Haskell Ave., Alicia said. The street is a central node within the community that serves as an introduction point to East Lawrence, she said. The group felt that the proximity of New York Elementary was vital for the street mural's success, in part because it would allow school children to participate in the actual development of the intersection and also because the existence of the mural could serve to create a slower stream of traffic closer to the school, Alicia said. She added that the group has been in close contact with the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association, with which it is partnering, as well as with individual community members, and it is also partnering with the Percolator, which is serving as its 501(c)3 fiscal agent. The group hopes this will be the first of many such street murals in Lawrence, she said.

Alicia said Lawrence Intersection Repair presented this idea to EALC in October and did a call for community volunteers, who helped determine which intersection to use as the test. She said their ideal plan would be to aim for painting the street mural in the fall after the street construction currently underway at that intersection is completed. Maintenance would be an annual neighborhood repainting party, and would be both quicker and at minimal new cost. She said she had talked with the original "intersection repair" designer, Mark Lakeman, and learned what special kind of traffic marking paint to use. He told her the Portland, OR, experience has been that the intersections look great after a couple of years; but they have a different weather situation, she said. The Lawrence group anticipates repainting every year. Kate asked how slick the surface would be. Alicia said she did ask about that, and there are different treatments that can be used to keep it from being too slick for safety, including mixing in crushed walnut shells or sand.

Kate asked for the definition of the intersection. In addition to working within the neighborhood, the group has talked with Lawrence traffic control, Alicia said. The group is currently working with traffic safety control to determine what will be safest. Diane Stoddard said Alicia and her team have also been meeting with the Lawrence public works director to ascertain what the impact of street maintenance would be and figure out an appropriate process for this both street and mural maintenance. There will be some kind of agreement with the city detailing the maintenance issues and so on, Diane said.

Katherine asked if the group will need a sign permit for this project. Diane said no, because this artwork is getting into other facets that maybe a mural doesn't with traffic safety. We need to make sure that because, of the proximity of the school, we make certain it is safe and has the appropriate crosswalk signage and markings, she said.

John asked how the project would be funded. Alicia said Lawrence Intersection Repair will apply for grants for the initial \$2,000. For the year-to-year maintenance, the paint will be the main cost because the labor will be volunteer. It would be maybe \$200 per year, so a benefit every couple of years should keep it maintained, she said. Kate asked who will be responsible for the annual maintenance. Alicia said she is invested and doesn't plan to leave East Lawrence so she intends to continue to spearhead it. Dave Loewenstein added that, traditionally, the artist or whichever entity is the fiscal agent, in this case the Percolator, is responsible for appointing a replacement when the responsible party changes.

Kathy made a motion to recommend approval of this project, subject to compliance with City traffic safety recommendations and a formal agreement related to the impact of necessary street maintenance and maintenance of the street mural. Kate seconded and the LCAC members present approved unanimously.

3. 2016 Budget Request.

Patrick asked for background on each item. Diane said the LCAC effectively absorbed the increased costs for the Outdoor Downtown Sculpture Exhibition (ODSE). She said, although the budget is tight, LCAC has been able to stay within it even with additional funding for the ODSE program by cost cutting in other areas. This year everything was entirely electronic, which saved the artists a lot of money, she said, and we had more entries than we've had in recent years. The announcements were posted to the right outlets. This saved on printing, and we may talk about reducing the amount that we put into the pamphlets for the outdoor sculptures, she said.

Patrick noted that last year the LCAC proposed putting funding for festivals into the budget, which would avoid having requests for festival support come before the City Commission out-of-budget-cycle, but this was apparently not considered by the City Commission. Diane said the commission does like to have items budgeted, but also likes flexibility to address unanticipated opportunities.

Katherine said the LCAC is trying to be more proactive about the Percent for Art program. Where will those numbers show up? Do we want a pool in the budget request? Diane said yes, that request should be part of the request based on 2015 capital numbers and that the LCAC would need to point out the specific projects that qualify for percent for art. She said she thinks it is better to say what specifically these funds will be spent on than to ask for them to go into a pool for public art, including festivals, as the latter is easy to say no to.

Why couldn't the guest tax money go towards arts-related festival events? Richard asked. Diane said the guest tax has to be used for certain things.

Patrick said finding ways to address the problem of out-of-cycle requests for arts- and culture-related funding is important, and that leads to another item LCAC needs to consider in relation to the budget, Percent for Art on the new wastewater treatment plant. Even a much a reduced Percent for Art on the wastewater treatment plant would fund a lot of festivals over time, he said. He asked if there is anything in the existing Percent for Art ordinance that requires it to be used for the specific capital project. Kathy said no, although that has been the tradition, the ordinance does not tie Percent for Art funding to being used only to create permanent artwork on the site of the construction or renovation project.

Richard asked whether Percent for Art funds ever come into our budget and how the Library Percent for Art project worked.

Diane said it was part of the building budget, but the Percent for Art committee was integral in the selection of the artwork.

John said the argument would be not only whether Percent for Art would be used for the purchase of permanent city-owned art, but could also be used for starting up festivals and sustaining them. Patrick said the idea of using Percent for Art to help fund community arts events as well as permanent art installations is a non-traditional way of looking at art that will take sitting down and talking with the City Commissioners to ascertain whether they are open to the idea.

Katherine said, based on the reaction when she and Kathy attended one of Vice Mayor Jeremy Farmer's "Conversations with Commissioners" events, Percent for Art is not well known by the City Commissioners. We need to bring it to them directly and tell them this is how we do public art, she said. We need to keep the explanation as simple as possible in our budget and show them examples where we've identified the projects and the cost is a good investment for the City.

Patrick said he thought the LCAC members needed to get input from the Commissioners about how they want to see such a proposal presented. Katherine said this may not be possible before the election and, until then, we don't know who the City Commissioners will be next year.

Kathy suggested the LCAC members make a special effort to attend the "Conversations with a Commissioner" sessions that are intended to encourage community interaction and conversations with elected officials. She noted that these are held three times each month:

- First Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at Decade Coffee Shop, 9th and Delaware;
- Second Thursday of each month at 12:00 p.m. on the second floor of Merchants Pub & Plate, 8th and Massachusetts
- Third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at various places in the community.

She also noted that Vice Mayor Farmer is hosting community chats through his website at <http://voteyourselfafarmer.com/chat> each Monday evening from 8-8:30 p.m. as well as on Twitter @jeremyfarmerks.

Kathy also encouraged LCAC members to attend the Candidates Forums with the six City Commission candidates, the next of which was scheduled for Monday, March 16 in the City Hall Commission Chambers, and ask questions aimed at learning the candidates' thoughts on issues related to arts and culture.

Old Business:

1. Mural Review Criteria. Kathy reported that the Murals Working Group members had scheduled their first meeting for 3:30 p.m., Monday, March 16th at Z's Divine Espresso. The Study Group is currently comprised of LCAC members Kathy Porsch and Jerry Johnson, and muralists Nicholas Ward, Amber Hansen, K. T. Walsh, and Dave Loewenstein. The two LCAC members are working with Lawrence muralists to develop a draft document aimed at addressing both the City's and the artists' concerns about the mural review and approval process and longer term ownership and maintenance.

Committee and Liaison Reports:

Lawrence Community Arts Grants Committee: Chair Patrick Kelly noted that the deadline is March 23, 2015. Kathy said there had been a problem with the online form (not the PDF downloads), so it was removed, but will be revisited next year after City IT has time to create the missing components. Specifically, there were no instructions on the form related to the project description, budget, and supporting materials or how to submit them. Richard said the way to a good online form is to provide ways to upload the documents directly and also incorporate instructions for doing so. Kathy agreed.

City Owned Art Maintenance Committee: Chair Katherine Simmons said she had nothing to report.

Outdoor Sculpture Committee: Chair John Hachmeister and member Katherine Simons said eight sculptures were selected from the largest field of applications in many years and March 12th will be the meeting with City Parks and Recreation staff to determine placement. The public reception will be Final Friday, May 29 starting at the Lawrence Arts Center at 5 p.m., followed by a guided tour of the sculptures.

Percent for Art Committee: Chair Patrick Kelly. See the budget discussion above.

Phoenix Awards Committee: Chair Michel Loomis said she will meet with Mandy to collect the SOPs.

Lawrence Arts Roundtable Liaison: Kathy reported that the 3/11/15 speaker was City Communications Manager and Interim Convention and Visitors' Bureau Director Megan Gilliland, who provided an update on the new Convention and Visitors' Bureau website, expected to go live in late March or early April.

Lawrence Arts Center Liaison: Katherine Simmons reported that she had not met with Susan Tate.

Commissioner Items: No commissioner items

Liaison Items:

1. Update on search for Director of Arts and Culture. Diane reported the search committee has sent suggestions to the City and now interviews will progress. She said the search committee was pleased with the applicant pool.

2. Culture Plan. Diane said a press release had gone out announcing the following:
The City of Lawrence has engaged the team of Christine Harris Connections and Creative Community Builders to complete a city-wide cultural plan for Lawrence. The cultural planning process will create a functional and sustainable guiding plan which a) documents Lawrence's unique cultural assets, b) defines cultural priorities, c) recommends strategies and tools which the City of Lawrence can provide to support the efforts of the community to accomplish those priorities, and further enhance the climate in which artists, art-related businesses, cultural tourism and creative sector economic development can thrive, and d) provides recommendations for integrating infrastructure and capital improvement projects with the overall goals of the cultural plan. The city's consultants will host public meetings, several with a focus on particular groups. The schedule follows:

Tuesday, March 24 3:30-5:00 pm – **Cultural Plan Steering Committee Meeting** – at Theatre Lawrence, 4660 Bauer Farm Drive

Tuesday March 24 6:30-8:30 pm – **Artists Meeting** at Theatre Lawrence, 4660 Bauer Farm Drive. The consultants will meet with artists in the community to discuss their needs and input into the City's cultural plan development. All artists in Lawrence are invited to attend.

Wednesday, March 25 3:00-5:00 pm – **Arts Organizations Meeting** at Van Go, Inc., 715 New Jersey Street. The consultants will meet with various arts/cultural organizations in the community to discuss their needs and input into the City's cultural plan development. All arts/cultural organizations in Lawrence are invited to attend.

Thursday, March 26 8:30-10:30 am – **Creative Sector Businesses Meeting** at the Lawrence Visitors Center, 402 N. 2nd Street. The consultants will meet with various for-profit creative sector businesses in the community to discuss their needs and input into the City's cultural plan development. All for-profit creative sector businesses in Lawrence are invited to attend.

Wednesday, May 6, 2015 – **Town Hall Meetings on Cultural Plan**. Location and times to be determined. The consultants will meet with the general public regarding the City's cultural plan development. Citizens with an interest in the arts, performing arts, history, and culture in Lawrence are invited to attend.

The LCAC meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Presentation To the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission 3/11/2015

Some of you may remember that around 20 years ago a group proposed the development of a Pedestrian Arts Corridor based on the huge population of incredible artists in Lawrence and the newly legislated C-3 zoning.

To develop a plan for the 1994 Pedestrian Arts Corridor, successfully developed arts districts around the country were researched with Lawrence in mind. Peekskill, NY, steered by planner Ralph DiBart (see City of Peekskill, NY Artist Loft District Resource Guide), and Canyon Road in Santa Fe, NM, were two of the more successful ventures at that time. Both offered artists, property owners in the area, and art-related businesses a variety of incentives to make the transition to arts corridor or arts district a win-win situation for all concerned.

Since then, many other successful Cultural Arts Districts have flourished around the country, such as the list of communities located through the Artist Relocation and Housing Projects, Paducah, KY, the 1998 Rhode Island General Assembly Tax-free Arts District Program, and current Detroit programs. Existing Arts Districts that have been operating for a while - like Peekskill, for over 20 years - are a good resource for what has worked and what hasn't. The 2013 Lawrence Cultural District task Force also provides examples of what communities have done in this area.

As Lawrence is just embarking on a cultural planning process, Susan and I want to share some of the incentives that have made existing Cultural Arts Districts the successes that they are today. We believe that you, the Cultural Arts Commission, are the group to consider these incentives and take them to the City and County for implementation. The new Director of Arts and Culture needs to be included also, when they are hired.

Not all of the incentives are currently in the code as written by other cities and states, but perhaps they can be accommodated by Lawrence in some revised format. Lawrence has also been invited to take part in a statewide initiative to develop a House bill related to incentives to keep cultural districts affordable. Our Director of Arts and Culture would be the person to take the lead on this. We have included the draft of the House Bill and a recent news article.

Incentives can be designed to:

1. Address gentrification of Cultural Arts Districts and preserve the vital and healthy pre-existing population and culture.
2. Attract Arts-related businesses to the area - specifically for Lawrence, to the East end of the Ninth Street Corridor.
3. Draw artists to the area.
4. Provide economic gain to the area and the City.

There are many key elements that are necessary to make this project a success. This is not just about designating a Cultural Arts District in Lawrence. Its success is also dependent upon further City and community support and commitment which simply is the right thing to do.

Diana Dunkley and Susan Tate

Possible Incentive points for the Lawrence Cultural Arts District

1. Address gentrification of the Cultural Arts District and preserve the vital and healthy pre-existing population and culture. As the arts culture of East Lawrence is nurtured, the culture and spirit of place already existing in East Lawrence needs to be nurtured as well. There will need to be fair and tangible incentives to allow the current residents and property owners to remain and also benefit.

Once an area is identified as an Arts and Cultural District, this designation almost surely stimulates gentrification. In Worcester, MA, real estate prices rose almost as soon as the district was designated. A designated Cultural Arts District needs to be handled differently than the rest of the city. New governing laws and considerations need to occur. Let's address this aspect immediately to protect the mixed use and existing vitality of the East Lawrence community that the District encompasses.

- A. Create a Tax Rebate/Abatement/Freeze/Tax Cap on Real Property tax for all property owners in the Cultural Arts District, to be in place until the property is sold. This isn't a new idea - the City and County do it for industry and development all the time.
- This provides the City and County with passive funding - they don't have to put money out, and they will still be receiving a fixed amount of money.
 - This doesn't ask the City or the County to lose revenue from East Lawrence, it just asks them to do the right thing.
 - This will allow the current population in the Cultural Arts District to remain there and enjoy the appreciation of their property values without having to move or sell because they can't afford to stay.
- B. Create a Conservation Easement to control development of the Cultural Arts District and preserve residential development.

2. Attract Arts-related businesses to the area - specifically for Lawrence, to the East end of the Ninth Street Corridor so there will be something for visitors to travel the Ninth Street Corridor for. There will need to be fair and tangible incentives to draw the necessary businesses to the area.

Of utmost importance - the corridor must have a density of artists and art businesses at the East end that are open at least 6 days a week with consistent business hours to draw people there. A concerted effort to woo museums (Kemper satellite - partner with the competition?), galleries, framers, art supply stores and other art-related businesses to this area needs to be focused on. And we have to have something special to offer them.

- A. Offer Tax incentives, grants, facade improvements and loans through the City.
- B. Offer sales tax abatement for one-of-a-kind art sales. (See Rhode Island Tax Free Art)
- C. Provide Industrial Revenue Bonds. Arts businesses in the Cultural Arts District can easily meet the following criteria: the rehabilitation of deteriorated properties, the adaptive use of historic properties, enhance downtown, provide other public benefits to the community, bring in new revenues from outside the community while enhancing local quality of life.

- D. Put in place appropriate screening for legitimate art businesses with business hours and business plans who apply for the above incentives (see Peekskill artist screening committee). There is a myth that galleries and other art-related businesses cannot flourish in Lawrence. That myth needs to be debunked by realizing that part-time art businesses and hobby galleries that don't keep regular business hours and don't have five year business plans are the source of this myth.

3. Incentives to draw artists to the area: there will need to be fair and tangible incentives to draw artists to the area and to allow the current residents and property owners to remain and also benefit.

- A. Tax incentives for work/live/exhibit occupancy by artists - fixed property taxes, C-3 zoning, grants, and offering low interest rate loans to renovate for live/work spaces for artists. This live/work/exhibit situation assures that art and artists will be available to the public consistently. (In Peekskill, NY the city has an Artist Certification Committee to certify qualifying artists.)
- B. Income tax and sales tax exemptions - i.e a "tax-free arts district"
- C. Organized public and private events to showcase artwork and encourage sales - and the more the merrier and the more artists the more participants.

Artists and art businesses can be actively recruited with advertising and promotion of the above incentives.

4. Provide economic gain to the area and the City of Lawrence: the total concept of a Cultural Arts District, fully implemented through City and community support helps further economic and community development objectives.

- A. Creative Capital draws good technology folks with a vibrant art presence.
- B. Attracts new visitors (what I call clean money) to town and will finally identify Lawrence as a cultural destination.
- C. To understand economic gain to the area through the Cultural Arts District we must look at the current losses to the City. What is the economic loss to the City from art sales outside Lawrence and other art-related purchases made outside of Lawrence? We still have one of the highest per-capita number of professional artists for a town of our size, so the loss is significant without an economically supportive network for art. I have always said that visual art is the greatest untapped economic resource in Lawrence.
- Every piece of art sold outside of Lawrence leaves 50% of it's sale value outside of the city.
 - Every frame ordered online and every art supply bought in Kansas City or elsewhere is City income lost.
 - These are obvious losses of income for the City. The hidden income losses are the groceries and gas not bought by the Art Business owners that don't exist, the art-business jobs that don't exist, and . . .

- Without developing it's creative capital, Lawrence loses out on drawing new technology businesses to town.
- This isn't just about revenue from the Arts District, it's about building Lawrence's "Brand". Are we a nice college town where Alumnus come for a game and a beer, or do we want to add to that and be a place where our huge artist population can thrive while helping to draw new business to town?

We hope some of these suggestions will be helpful in developing for Lawrence one of the most successful and community-enhancing Cultural Arts districts of the nation.

Thank you.

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Subject:

CULTURAL ARTS DISTRICTS

The City of Wichita is asking the state to consider cultural arts districts legislation in cities across Kansas. The following is some background information for your review. Cultural Arts bill is HB2368 is now assigned to House Federal and State Affairs. Rep. Steve Brunk, R-Wichita, is chair and we will work with him to get a hearing scheduled, probably after March 1. I would ask all of you for your support.

HB2368: ESTABLISHING CULTURAL ARTS DISTRICTS

A cultural district is a well-recognized, geographically defined, mixed-use area of a city with a high concentration of cultural and/or arts facilities.

- Over 200 cities in 14 states have planned or implemented cultural districts to encourage arts-based economic development and community revitalization. Established cultural districts have been show to encourage:
 - technology center development
 - creation of education facilities
 - specialized retail
 - employment opportunities
 - enhanced property values
 - increases in business activity
 - enhanced tax revenues
- Historically, cultural districts naturally occur in areas that are considered economically depressed since these areas provide housing that is affordable for artists. Over time, naturally occurring districts can transform these areas into safe and clean public areas.
 - Cultural districts are also known to address the needs of the surrounding community by incorporating interests of local residents, schools and neighborhood organizations.
 - They play a central role in shaping social and physical characteristics of a neighborhood.
- State legislation can create a mechanism for communities to further develop and market cultural assets by offering tax breaks to those residing in a cultural district.
- There are four arts districts in Wichita: Delano, Old Town, Douglas Street Design and Commerce Street.
 - Commerce Street:
 - founded in 1995, most of the buildings are owned by artists who have converted the buildings to work/live spaces.
 - has a market rate loft project that attracts artists, creative residents and businesses
 - has been working to stabilize their neighborhood since 2005 .
 - can help attract additional economic development to the city.
- Additional cultural districts in Kansas include:
 - Warehouse Arts District in Lawrence, KS
 - Downtown Lawrence Arts District in Lawrence, KS
 - Better Block Lawrence in Lawrence, KS
 - North Topeka Arts District (NOTO) in Topeka, KS