

Bobbie Walthall

To: Davis Candice
Subject: RE: city auditor

From: Davis Candice [<mailto:cdavis.chc@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2016 1:03 PM

To: Bobbie Walthall

Subject: Fwd: city auditor

Please include this in the CC packet. I realize this may be a little late. Thanks so much, Candice Davis

Begin forwarded message:

From: Davis Candice <cdavis.chc@gmail.com>

Subject: city auditor

Date: July 9, 2016 at 1:10:50 PM CDT

To: soden leslie <lsoden@lawrenceks.org>, amyx mike <mikeamyx515@hotmail.com>, boley stuart <sboley@lawrenceks.org>, herbert matthew <matthewjherbert@gmail.com>, larsen lisa <llarsen@lawrenceks.org>

Cc: markus tom <tmarkus@lawrenceks.org>, McCullough Scott <smccullough@ci.lawrence.ks.us>

Dear City Commissioners,

I was disappointed to hear about the city auditor's position is being considered for elimination. It seems like a step in the wrong direction, unless the City Manager thinks that the auditor cannot be neutral. I personally think he has done a great job. LAN has supported having an in-house city auditor who can provide factual and unbiased information about the performance of various city departments and efforts. That job should legitimize funding by taxpayers and is, by many, considered a check and balance on interests that do not reflect the public welfare. I hope that you will reconsider this suggestion.

Sincerely,

Candice Davis, concerned Lawrence Resident

Dear Lawrence City Commissioners,

The 2017 City Manager's Recommended Budget calls for the elimination of the Director of Arts and Culture position. The Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission (LCAC) does not support the elimination of this position. The LCAC would like you to consider the following history and reasons to keep this position and ultimately decide to not include it in the budget cuts.

The City of Lawrence prides itself as being a cultural and arts rich community, and it is. The creative element of what makes the community such a great place to live is evident both historically and currently. The City of Lawrence needs to continue to be an active partner in the creative fabric of our community. In a time when dollars are scarce, eliminating a full-time staff position that will keep the City of Lawrence actively and efficiently supporting the very element of the community which draws new dollars in through tourism and attracts new residents to retire or start new families here, would be counter productive to finding ways to fund new priorities and programs identified by the commission. Arts and Culture tie into many of the priorities this City Commission has identified in ways that are just now becoming more evident through the work and tasks of this staff position.

A full-time staff position related to Arts and Culture is something that has been many years in the making. A full-time position was identified as being integral to the City of Lawrence by community stakeholders, the creative community and the LCAC prior to the official formation of the Cultural District Task Force. This task force also identified the formation of this position as one of three primary objectives that should be reached to enable the city to support and capitalize on the creative resources it has as well as highlight the city to outsiders who would find it desirable as a business location, a travel destination and a location that exemplifies quality of life for its residents. The city is rich in creative capital (both programmatically and in individual talent) and this warrants staffing that can manage the city's full dollar and resource potential to strengthen the community culturally and economically. There are many partners, programs and endeavors in our community and the full-time staff position of Director of Arts and Culture is key in organizing these, facilitating new partnerships, growing them and having the expert knowledge to leverage the city's assets to garner new funding opportunities or identifying funding efficiencies that can link programs and priorities. There is simply too much to be done to return to operating without a full-time staff person dedicated to this basic community element.



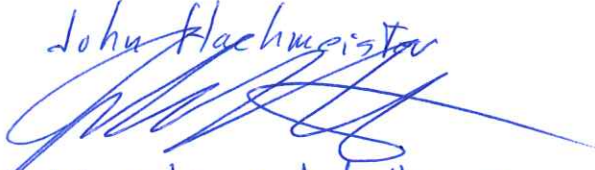
In a single year's time the following can be highlighted as distinct and beneficial accomplishments this position and particularly Porter Arneill, as Director of Arts and Culture, have brought to the operation of the City of Lawrence:


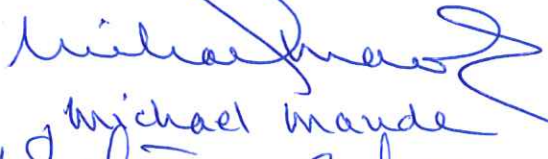



- Assuming the role of project coordinator on the cultural planning process to generate a city-wide cultural plan and coordinating efforts with the design consultants and Planning Commission as cultural planning relates to the revision of Horizon 2020, the City's overall comprehensive planning document.
- Effectively implementing and making improvements to the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission's existing programs like the Phoenix Awards, Outdoor Downtown Sculpture Exhibition, Final Fridays and Community Arts Grants.

- Implementing a fair and effective process to select artists and develop a design that best addresses all concerns and desires as well as effectively and respectfully navigating political waters on projects.
- Assuming project oversight on the East Ninth Street project and serving as staff link between multiple City departments on the conceptual design phase of the project.
- Implementing Arts and Economic prosperity 5, a national research study ongoing in Lawrence and Douglas County to help discern the economic impact locally and regionally of arts and cultural events and related industry.
- Conduct numerous outreach efforts to educate people about the advancement of arts and culture as part of a triple bottom line approach to the city's long-term viability and sustainability.
- Developing relationships with Douglas County, The Chamber of Commerce, Explore Lawrence, Haskell University, The University of Kansas and the School Board USD 497 as well as others to help advance awareness and innovative thinking.
- Serve as the city's point of contact for all things related to all ongoing arts and culture related events, programs, priorities and initiatives which exemplifies the city's express goals and commitment to exceptional customer service.
- Act as the arts and culture connection both regionally and nationally with numerous professional connections and expertise in the field of arts, culture and community and the link creative capital has to economic and cultural viability of a city.

We strongly urge you as the elected body of the community to continue to support the full-time staff position of Director of Arts and Culture as an integral part of the City of Lawrence's commitment to providing thoughtful, cost productive service to the community.

Sincerely, your Lawrence Cultural Arts Commissioners;

Richard Renner

 Kate Dinneen

 Michel Fominis
 John Flachmeister

 Kristina Walker
 Brian Walk

SEAN REARDON

 Michael Maude

 Katherine E. Simmons

 Patrick T. Kelly
 PATRICK KELLY

 Jerry Johnson


Aliza Caldwell

To: Diane Stoddard
Subject: RE: Our Community

From: joanwebgolden [<mailto:joanwebgolden@sunflower.com>]

Sent: Sunday, July 10, 2016 3:22 PM

To: Mike Amyx; Tom Markus; Diane Stoddard; Leslie Soden; Lisa Larsen; Matthew Herbert; Stuart Boley

Cc: susantate@lawrenceartscenter.org; Kimberly Williams; Heather Hoy; Stacy Haywood; Sarah Bishop; Joan Golden; Dan Schriener; Diane Horning; Jean Anderson; Don Buchner; Tim Caboni; Clare Doveton; Josh Falleaf; Matt Gillhousen; David Hollond; Sheryl Jacobs; Robert Krause; Tony Krsnich; Michele Loomis; Cindy Maude; Evan Williams; Kevin Willmott; Kim Wingate; Hong Zhang

Subject: Our Community

Dear Mayor, City Manager, and Commissioners,

Please find attached a letter from the staff and directors of the Lawrence Arts Center.

We appreciate difficult budgetary considerations, but we hope you will not let Lawrence take steps that are backward and antithetical to our City's identity as a City of the Arts, while the most progressive and thriving cities in the country are increasing their investment in arts and culture. Now is not the time to cut arts funding in Lawrence. We have invested city and state money in a city-wide cultural plan; we have an enormous commitment from Callahan Creek to brand our City of the Arts; we have a burgeoning Free State Festival with tremendous potential; we've spent countless hours of citizen and staff time on imagining a cultural district and on advising and planning for East Ninth. We have paid hundreds of thousands of city and private dollars for a streetscape design and have won private funding for the arts portion. We have set in motion a study of the economic benefits of artistic and cultural activity in Lawrence through Americans for the Arts. Suddenly and summarily withdrawing support for these initiatives would disrupt a community-wide planning process intended to make the arts a vital part of the future economic and civic fabric of our city.

We believe the right move is to stay this course, keep our commitments to this vision held by so many in Lawrence, and continue to measure the economic and cultural benefits over a five year period. With the leadership of a City Director of Arts and Culture, the City itself can take the lead on orchestrating these projects and our other rich cultural resources in a way that unites Lawrence and promotes economic development.

While our support of the initiatives listed above and our commitment to all citizens shows that our relationship with the Lawrence City government and the people of Lawrence is much more than our lease conveys, we need to clarify the language in Appendix A #6 ***Such monetary support as the City Commission may deem appropriate from time to time.*** The Arts Center appreciates the history of the financial support received from the

City for maintenance (\$110,000) and the additional financial aid of \$30,000 that allows more individuals to access classes who might not have the ability to pay. This monetary support reflects the City's investment in 2000 to allow the City to benefit from an expanded Arts Center and its commitment to making this facility and its programs available to as many as possible regardless of ability to pay. This was a well-conceived strategy by the City and we believe the City has benefitted as much as or more than anticipated.

We must also clarify that the annual payments by the City of approximately \$200,000 for the "building debt payments" is specifically for the public or City's portion of the public/private investment and is a contractual obligation. The private portion has a small balance of \$6,423.64 remaining, which will be paid off in 2018. The Arts Center makes \$2,000 annual payments to the City to cover this.

It is within this historic understanding that the Arts Center has requested and relied on funding from the City over the years. It is our hope that the long relationship, 42 years, of our public/private partnership will not be forgotten. And, together we can continue to promote arts and culture as part of the essence of our community. The proposed \$55,000.00 cut will directly harm our ability to maintain an open, safe, welcoming arts center. This is funding the Lawrence Arts Center needs to meet the community's expectation of an arts center open to all and free for use by city entities and nonprofits. We urge you to reinstate this funding.

The presence of a lease does not disqualify us as applicants or recipients of monetary support from the City during the annual vendor application process. In fact, we may be the only vendor with a lease that specifically states we are eligible to apply.

Joan Golden, Board Chair

Susan Tate, CEO



lawrenceartscenter
FIND YOURSELF INSIDE

July 8th, 2016

Tom Markus, City Manager
City Hall
6 E. 6th Street
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

2015-16

Board of Directors

Joan Golden, Chairman
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Clare Doveton
Joshua Falleaf
Matt Gilhausen
David Holland
Sheryl Jacobs
Robert Krause
Tony Krsnich
Michel Loomis
Cindy Maude
Evan Williams
Kevin Willmott
Kim Wingate
Hong Zhang

National Advisory Board

Rocco Landesman
Mike Michaelis
Deanell Reece Tacha
Roger Shimomura

Susan Tate,
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Mr. Markus and Commissioners:

As you prepare to make final, difficult decisions about the 2017 Lawrence City Budget, we would like to further present a case for keeping funding for the Lawrence Arts Center at current levels.

The Lawrence Arts Center and the City of Lawrence have a 42 year history of collaborating to bring arts exhibitions, performance, and visual and performing arts education to everyone in the community. Highlights of our work include:

- Providing arts education to over 8,000 students each year from preschool through adult years.
- Providing financial aid to over 1,000 students each year. We are committed to access for all families regardless of their ability to pay. The City has been contributing \$30,000 toward this fund for which we need to raise approximately \$130,000 each year.
- Providing financial aid to support arts education for children in CASA, Boys and Girls Club, Head Start, Haskell Indian Nations Little Nations Preschool.
- Providing access to our facilities on average 350 days a year, 12 hours a day. The Lawrence Arts Center has approximately 200,000 visitors each year for exhibitions, performances, concerts, gallery openings, and classes.
- Promoting the artistic and cultural investment of the City of Lawrence and Lawrence citizens to our readership and social media followers throughout the world. We focus positive media attention on Lawrence throughout the year and play a major role in the conception of Lawrence as a City of the Arts.
- Leveraging each dollar of City investment in our work to bring in grants from federal and private organizations, just this year including the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Hearst Foundation. The greater the City support, the more likely we are to bring in outside funds based on the strength of our long standing public and private partnership, and these funds are immediately reinvested into the Lawrence community.
- Offering usage of the building for meetings, conferences, and receptions free of charge to all city entities and nonprofits and at a reduced rate to artists and arts groups, although the Arts Center, incurs hard costs for janitorial work, maintenance, and technology and tech crews for every event.
- Employing over 150 contract artists each year. We have 25 salaried employees.
- Enhancing tourism and encouraging investment by high tech, knowledge-based businesses and individuals for whom a city's cultural life is highly valuable.
- Showcasing civic investment in culture for Lawrence-based businesses and universities who wish to attract top level employees from urban areas around the world.

- The Lawrence Arts Center is a community hub that enhances connection to a place through aesthetics, social offerings, and openness.

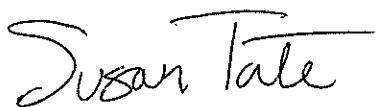
Of our \$3,000,000 annual operating budget, the City provides \$140,000, or has traditionally done so. As our budget has grown, this represents a smaller and smaller percentage of our income, and yet it is vital to our ability to operate. This funding allows us to continue to operate with the philosophy on which the Arts Center was founded—the belief that arts are for all of our families regardless of their ability to pay. The spirit of our partnership with the City is embodied in the fact that half of the funds to build this facility were from a private campaign, and the building was then given entirely to the City. While we do have a lease that absolves the City of providing financial support for this building, the City has provided this support since 940 New Hampshire opened and at slightly increasing levels as the building ages and use increases.

City funding for maintaining this city-owned asset continues to make good economic sense, especially as the building is now 15 years old and is, happily, more fully and exuberantly used than ever before. We not only need the continued investment of the City in the building and our outreach to continue to fully serve Lawrence citizens, we also need it to build the case to outside funders that this is a true public and private partnership and that Lawrence is a great place to invest in arts and culture.

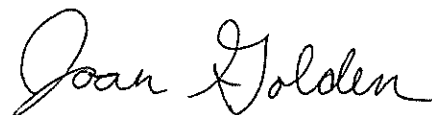
On behalf of all in our community who greatly value the accessibility, the safety, the cleanliness, the openness of the Lawrence Arts Center, and the high quality of the artistic experiences we offer, and in the spirit of our long standing relationship with the City, we hope you will consider maintaining current funding levels for this nonprofit and, further, develop a long term plan for future support that will enable us to continue this mutually beneficial public-private partnership.

We respectfully ask you to leave City funding for maintenance of 940 New Hampshire at the 2016 level of \$110,000.00.

Sincerely,



Susan Tate, CEO



Joan Golden, Board Chair

Aliza Caldwell

To: Diane Stoddard
Subject: RE: Our Community

From: Daniel schriner [<mailto:danescaped@sbcglobal.net>]

Sent: Sunday, July 10, 2016 8:20 PM

To: joanwebgolden

Cc: Mike Amyx; Tom Markus; Diane Stoddard; Leslie Soden; Lisa Larsen; Matthew Herbert; Stuart Boley; susantate@lawrenceartscenter.org; Kimberly Williams; Heather Hoy; Stacy Haywood; Sarah Bishop; Joan Golden; Diane Horning; Jean Anderson; Don Buchner; Tim Caboni; Clare Doveton; Josh Falleaf; Matt Gillhousen; David Hollond; Sheryl Jacobs; Robert Krause; Tony Krsnich; Michele Loomis; Cindy Maude; Evan Williams; Kevin Willmott; Kim Wingate; Hong Zhang

Subject: Re: Our Community

I want to add to Joan's comments in support of the arts in our city. Lawrence City Commissioners will be doing a great disservice to our community by defunding the arts in any way. I ask you to quit rebuilding roads that do not need to be rebuilt, with the exception of east 9th st. I'll take a pothole or two next year in exchange for ***increased funding for the arts!*** I ask you to reduce spending on bike lanes that I rarely see used, in exchange for ***increased funding for the arts!*** I ask you to look in the mirror tomorrow and think you might ever be elected again if you do not ***increase funding for the arts!***

Dan Schriner

Vicechair, Lawrence Arts Center, 6 year board board member in service of Lawrence

Sent from my iPad