

Mayor, Vice Mayor & Commissioners,

At its April 13, 2016 meeting, the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission (LCAC) voted 8 - 1 with 1 abstention (due to artist involvement in the project) to forward to the City Commission a recommendation of support for moving forward with the Conceptual Design Phase I of the East Ninth Project and committing the next phase in the project. Additionally, the LCAC determined that ongoing review at an appropriate step in the process during portions of the Technical Drawing Phase would be consistent with the City's Public Art review policies and would add this as part of our recommendation.

This is a unique streetscape project where an assemblage of a multi-disciplinary team of professional designers, engineers, historians, neighborhood stakeholders, municipal departments, non-profits and multiple advisory boards have collaborated to incorporate art as integrated elements into city infrastructure. The integrated public art as part of a larger infrastructure project is unique in that the art is part of the scope of a larger public project as a whole and is going through review procedures as a piece of the entirety. Many of the typical review criteria for public art have been met by reviewing the project as a whole and through the many steps that have been completed to date. Since the project and the art within it are still in a design concept phase, we do recommend that as the art and infrastructure become more detailed in the technical phase that the LCAC continue to have an opportunity for review and make a recommendation as part of the next phase of the project.

The East Ninth project received a prestigious grant from ArtPlace America with the City of Lawrence serving as a committed partner. This project is an example of art triggering a process that brings multiple groups together into the development of a tangible infrastructure improvement project. The identified partnerships between the City of Lawrence and the many groups involved is one of the goals and driving ideas of the city-wide Cultural Plan "Building on Lawrence's Creative Capital" that was accepted in 2015.

In conclusion, the LCAC recommends approval of taking the Conceptual Design of the East Ninth Project on to the Technical Design Phase with opportunity for continued review of the art as integrated works within the larger project during the Technical Design Phase and continuing the committed partnership of the City of Lawrence on the project.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Simmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "S".

Katherine Simmons
Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission, Chair