

STATE OF KANSAS            )  
WYANDOTTE COUNTY        )) SS  
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS  )

REGULAR SESSION  
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in regular session Thursday, July 9, 2015, with nine members present: Melissa Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Holland, Mayor/CEO. Commissioners Murguia, Third District; and Walker, Commissioner At-Large District 2; were absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator; Joe Connor, Assistant County Administrator; Melissa Mundt, Assistant County Administrator; Jody Boeding, Chief Legal Counsel; Bridgette Cobbins, Unified Government Clerk; Lew Levin, Chief Financial Officer; George Brajkovic, Economic Development Director; Tyrone Garner, Deputy Chief of Police; Maureen Mahoney, Assistant to Mayor/Chief of Staff; and Captain Greg Lawson, Sergeant-at-Arms.

**MAYOR HOLLAND** called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:** Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Holland.

**INVOCATION** was given by Reverend George Kemper, Ebenezer Ministries.

**Mayor Holland** asked if there were any revisions to the agenda. **Bridgette Cobbins, UG Clerk**, stated there were none.

**MAYOR'S AGENDA**

No items of business.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mayor Holland** asked if any member of the Commission, staff or citizen in attendance tonight wish to set-aside an item for tonight's Consent Agenda. **Commissioner Bynum** said she would like to set-aside Item No. 2, the ordinance on parades and marathons.

**Action:** **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve the Consent Agenda, excluding the set-aside.** Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook.

### **ITEM NO. 1 – 150161...RESOLUTION: 2600 N. 131ST ST. SHORT SPAN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

**SYNOPSIS:** A resolution declaring the necessity and authorizing a survey of land to be acquired for the 2600 N. 131st St. Short Span Bridge Replacement Project (CMIP 5303), submitted by John Menkhus, Engineering. On June 22, 2015, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

**Action:** **RESOLUTION NO. R-39-15,** "A resolution declaring the necessity and authorizing a survey and descriptions of lands necessary to be condemned for the construction, maintenance, operation, use and repair of the 2600 N. 131st St. Short Span Bridge Replacement (CMIP 5303), all in Wyandotte County, Kansas." **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook.

**ITEM NO. 2 – 150162...ORDINANCE: PARADES AND MARATHONS**

**SYNOPSIS:** An ordinance governing parades and marathons, submitted by Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator. On June 22, 2015, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

**Commissioner Bynum** said I really just have one question that I guess is more of a request. I've been visiting with the folks at our Convention & Visitor's Bureau because I feel like a large part of their work is marketing and working with groups that bring in these types of events. It leads me to just request that we communicate well with them regarding the parades, the marathons, the runs, the permits, and to the extent that we approve or deny them and that's really all I had to say. I just wanted to make that request out loud and for the record that the CVB be communicated with as it regards to these events.

**Tyrone Garner, Deputy Chief of Police,** said our goal is to basically continue those relationships with our local stakeholders and event planners here locally. The Chief of Police is going to vet all those out and as far as any fees or anything like that up front, the plan is not to charge local citizens, residents, and organizers that are KCK based with any types of fees, and continue the relationship we've always had of vetting those out and making sure that we accommodate where we can.

**Action:** **ORDINANCE NO. O-34-15,** "An ordinance relating to Chapter 32 Streets and Sidewalks, amending Article VI, and Sections 32-289, 32-292, 32-293, 32-294, 32-323, 32-324, 32-325, 32-327, 32-328, and 32-329 of the Code of Ordinances for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas."  
**Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Philbrook, to approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook.

**July 9, 2015**

**ITEM NO. 3 - 150140...ORDINANCE: PROHIBIT ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE USAGE**

**SYNOPSIS:** An ordinance amending the UG's smoke free environment ordinance to ensure electronic cigarette usage remains prohibited in specific areas, submitted by Misty Brown, Legal. Additional changes were made to ensure compliance with state law. On June 22, 2015, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

**Action:** **ORDINANCE NO. O-35-15**, “An ordinance relating to smoking regulations in the City of Kansas City, Kansas and on property owned, controlled or leased by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas; amending Sections 17-133, 17-135(a), 17-136(b), and 17-137 and repealing original Section 17-141.” **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were eight “Ayes,” Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook.

**ITEM NO. 4 – 970013...APPOINTMENTS: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**SYNOPSIS:** Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

Roderick Bettis to Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID), 7/9/15 - 5/30/19, submitted by Commissioner Bynum

Emma Fonseca to Advisory Board on Disability Issues, 7/9/15 - 5/30/17, submitted by Commissioner Townsend

**Action:** **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were eight “Ayes,” Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook.

**July 9, 2015**

**ITEM NO. 5 – MINUTES**

**SYNOPSIS:** Minutes from special sessions of June 8 and 25, 2015.

**Action:** **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were eight “Ayes,” Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook.

**ITEM NO. 6 – WEEKLY BUSINESS MATERIAL**

**SYNOPSIS:** Weekly business material dated June 25 and July 2, 2015.

**Action:** **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve fund transfers and receive and file.** Roll call was taken and there were eight “Ayes,” Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook.

**PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

No items of business.

**STANDING COMMITTEES' AGENDA**

**Mayor Holland** said the next three items on our agenda are from the Standing Committee. They are on our agenda because they were fast tracked. All of them received unanimous approval.

**ITEM NO. 1 – 150175... RESOLUTION: SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR 57TH & STATE REDEVELOPMENT TIF DISTRICT**

**SYNOPSIS:** Request approval of a resolution setting a public hearing date of August 13, 2015, to consider the 57th & State Redevelopment TIF District, submitted by Charles Brockman, Economic Development. The district is bounded by N. 57th St. and Meadowlark Lane on the east, approximately N. 59th Pl. on the west, State Ave. on the north, south of State Ave. on the south. On July 6, 2015, this item was presented at the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner McKiernan. It was requested, and approved by

**July 9, 2015**

the Mayor, to fast track the scheduling of the public hearing item to the July 9, 2015 full commission meeting.

**Action:**       **RESOLUTION NO. R-40-15**, “A resolution calling and providing for notice of a public hearing to be held on August 13, 2015, on the advisability of creating the 57<sup>th</sup> and State Redevelopment District in the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.”   **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Philbrook, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were eight “Ayes,” Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook.

**ITEM NO. 2 – 150176...ORDINANCE: VACATION VILLAGE PROJECT AREA 4 BONDS**

**SYNOPSIS:** An ordinance authorizing the issuance of Sales Tax Special Obligation Capital Appreciation Revenue Bonds (Vacation Village Project Area 4, major multi-sport athletic complex project), Series 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$66M, submitted by Lew Levin, Chief Financial Officer. On July 6, 2015, this item was presented at the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner McKiernan. It was requested, and approved by the Mayor, to fast track this item to the July 9, 2015 full commission meeting for preparation of the necessary bond sale documents.

**Commissioner Walters** said, Mayor, I need to recuse from this item since my firm is doing site work on the project

**Action:**       **ORDINANCE NO. O-36-15**, ‘An ordinance authorizing the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas to issue its Sales Tax Special Obligation Capital Appreciation Revenue Bonds (Vacation Village Project Area 4 – Major Multi-Sport Athletic Complex Project), Series 2015 in an aggregate original principal amount not to exceed \$66,000,000 for the purpose of providing funds to finance certain costs relating to the Vacation Village STAR Bond Project

**July 9, 2015**

Plan; authorizing and approving the execution of certain documents in connection with the issuance of said bonds; authorizing the removal of certain property from the Prairie-Delaware Redevelopment District upon satisfaction of an event; and authorizing certain other actions in connection with the issuance of said bonds.”

**Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Philbrook, to approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Philbrook.

(Commissioner Walters rejoined the meeting.)

**ITEM NO. 3 - 150181... RESOLUTION: SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR VACATION VILLAGE**

**SYNOPSIS:** A resolution setting the public hearing date of August 13, 2015, to consider the First Amended STAR Bond District Plan and Project Area 2A Plan (Vacation Village), submitted by George Brajkovic, Economic Development Director. On July 6, 2015, this item was presented at the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner McKiernan. It was requested, and approved by the Mayor, to fast track the scheduling of the public hearing item to the July 9, 2015 full commission meeting.

**Action:** **RESOLUTION NO. R-41-15,** “A resolution of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas establishing the date of August 13, 2015, for a public hearing regarding a proposed First Amended and Restated STAR Bond District Plan and a Proposed First Amended and Restated STAR Bond Project Plan for Project Area 2A, all within the proposed expanded STAR Bond District in the city of Kansas City, Kansas, and providing for the giving of notice of such public hearing (Vacation Village).” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Philbrook, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were eight “Ayes,” Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook.

**July 9, 2015**

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S AGENDA**

No items of business.

## **COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA**

### **ITEM NO. 1 – 150183...ORDINANCE: MORATORIUM ON VENDING MACHINES**

**SYNOPSIS:** An ordinance establishing an additional 90-day moratorium on the enforcement of Ordinances in Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances and Resolutions as they relate to existing vending machines located in Kansas City, Kansas, submitted by Jody Boeding, Chief Legal Counsel. The Commission previously granted a 120-day moratorium on such enforcement beginning March 5, 2015.

**Mayor Holland** said we had slated discussion for this month but because some interested parties were not able to be at the scheduled meeting, we are going to extend that until after the budget. We're just going to extend the moratorium until after the budget.

**Action:**       **ORDINANCE NO. O-37-15**, “An ordinance continuing the moratorium on the enforcement of Ordinances in Chapter 27 of the 2008 Code of Ordinances and Resolutions of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, as they relate to existing vending machines located in Kansas City, Kansas.” **Commissioner Kane made a motion seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were eight “Ayes,” Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook.

**Mayor Holland** recognized two boy scouts. Devin Rice and Andrew Hart are both in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Troup #160 from St. Pat's.

**July 9, 2015**



**ITEM NO. 2 – 150164...PRESENTATION: ONEARTSKC REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL**

**SYNOPSIS:** A presentation from OneArtsKC Regional Arts Council. On June 22, 2015, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

**Mayor Holland** said this was conceptually approved by the standing committee. The presentation is now ready. Since the standing committee had moved it forward, we'll hear the presentation for the whole Commission.



**Allan Gray, City Councilman of Lee's Summit, MO,** stated it's good to see everyone. Many of you know that I am not Harlan Brownlee. My name is Allan Gray. I am a city councilman in Lee's Summit. I want to thank you for the opportunity to miss my city council meeting tonight. Harlan Brownlee could not attend unfortunately tonight so I'm going to try to go through this presentation the best I can. If I skip over a few things, it's not from a lack of knowledge. If I see your eyes glazing over, I'm going to try to be considerate.

**July 9, 2015**

Before I begin, I want to thank each of you for your support and your interest and allowing us to talk with you prior to this meeting. Mayor Holland, I appreciate the time you and your staff had extended to us.

ArtsKC is your Regional Arts Council. We have been embarking over the last 18 months on what we think is one of the most significant initiatives to become engaged in in the arts community for some time and that's the Regional Culture Plan.

## The Arts Ripple Effect

- Benefits to our region
  - Economic driver
  - Building community



*"A creative economy is the fuel of magnificence."*  
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

The arts have a ripple effect in our community as you probably are aware of. The arts, some of our benefits, the arts are an economic driver. Nationally, the arts are a \$132B economic engine for the country. The arts are also important for building community, building community in a lot of directions in terms of connecting, connecting communities, educating communities, helping communities to promote and develop their own ideas.

**July 9, 2015**

## What is the Regional Cultural Plan ?

- A first-ever Regional Cultural Plan in the Nation
- Sets forth a vision for successful cultural development
- A new collaboration of county governments for the arts
- Identifies investments for Counties and Cities to meet the cultural needs of their constituents
- Establishes a regional platform for continued arts development

What is the Regional Cultural Plan? We'll, it's the first ever regional cultural plan in the nation. It sets forth a vision for successful cultural development. It's a new collaboration of county governments for the arts. Identifies investments for counties and cities to meet the cultural needs of their constituents. It establishes a regional platform for continued arts development.

This is the first Regional Cultural Plan of this type. It brings together five counties over two states. It sets forth a vision, as we indicated, for cultural development. I had the opportunity to attend the American for the Arts a couple of weeks ago in Chicago. I was very proud to stand next to individuals from communities such as New York City, Florida, Dade County in Florida, Chicago, San Jose, many communities, Charlotte, NC, for one. Many communities have been engaged in cultural planning. Cultural planning is simply put as a way of bringing arts and culture into the DNA of your community. Allowing arts and culture to help our communities to achieve greatness, allow arts and culture to achieve infrastructure needs, cultural needs, bring communities together along diversity. It's very important.

**July 9, 2015**

## Overarching Goals of the Regional Cultural Plan

- To advance the remarkable arts and cultural life of communities throughout the five counties of the Kansas City
- To increase public benefits from arts and culture through greater coordination and resource sharing.
- To envision a future where the arts are embedded in daily life;
  - Creating a foundation for a critical and engaged populace who are part of inventing a dynamic, responsive, and resilient region.

The overarching goals of the Regional Cultural Plan are to advance the remarkable arts and cultural life of communities throughout the five counties of the Kansas City. To increase public benefits from arts and culture through greater coordination and resource sharing. To envision a future where the arts are imbedded in daily life. Creating a foundation for critical and engaged populace who are part of inventing a dynamic, responsive, and resilient region.

As we look at ways for our communities to have that competitive edge, a community is more and more looking at arts and cultural. Those are communities large and small. I spent some time at Paducah, KY, recently where that community of some, I think, 32,000, 33,000 people had invested in a performing arts center, local theatre. It's also had an effect on them allowing them to put in condos along the river and to increase their tourism. Arts and culture do have a great impact on communities and enabling communities to begin to plan to look at how to attract individuals from a wide grouping of backgrounds into their community

## Regional Cultural Plan Supporters

*Regional and National Partners*

- Five county governments: Clay, Jackson, Johnson, Platte & Wyandotte
- Francis Family Foundation
- Ewing Kauffman Foundation
- Sprint Foundation
- Missouri Arts Council
- National Endowment for the Arts



The Regional Cultural Plan supporters have been five county government: Clay, Jackson, Johnson, Platte & Wyandotte and this is not in any particular order of importance. We are very appreciative of the support that Wyandotte County has extended.

We have a variety of foundations that have been involved. The Francis Family Foundation, The Ewing Kauffman Foundation, Sprint Foundation, Missouri Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which incidentally the CEO for the National Endowment for the Arts, Jane Chu is from this region and had a chance again to talk with her recently about the cultural plan and the NEA continues to be very excited about what we're doing here.

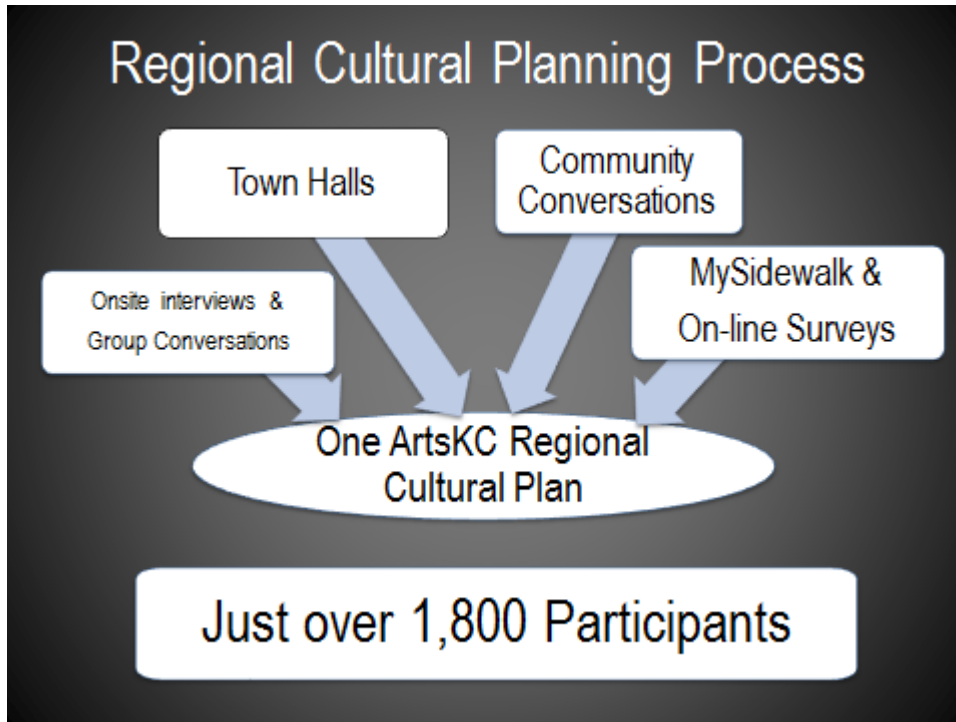
**July 9, 2015**

## Developing the Regional Cultural Plan

- Engaging stakeholders across the region
- What do residents (in each county) value about the cultural life of their town, county and the region, and what are the cultural assets that come to mind?
- What are their aspirations for the cultural life of their communities and the region (what would success look like)?



Developing the Regional Cultural Plan. We engaged stakeholders from across the region and we ask them what do residents in each county value about the cultural life of their town. We ask them about what are the cultural assets that come to mind. What are the aspirations for the cultural life of their communities and the region, and what does success look like. We did this through a structure that engaged the individuals that participated in on-site interviews and group conversations, town hall meetings, community conversations, MySidewalk.



Utilizing MySidewalk as an online survey system, just over 1,800 participants were involved in this process. Even Wyandotte County provided us with five individuals that served on the steering committee. The steering committee was involved in each of these areas that you see before you. We chose a bottom-up approach where we didn't go out and get the usual suspects but we got people from the community; people that were engaged in a variety of activities and involvements in their neighborhoods and community centers and businesses. They were the ones that helped us to formulate the plan.

## Key Findings: Regional Priorities

- Arts education for life long learning and K-12
- Communicating the unique arts and cultural offerings of all counties to the region
- Creating places for people to gather to create, collaborate and participate in the arts
- Support for and collaboration of arts organizations across counties
- ArtsKC playing a role in connecting the counties

What were the key findings of the plan? Well, we discovered that arts education was one of them. Arts education for life-long learning and from K-12.

Communicating the unique arts and cultural offerings of all counties to the region. One of the things that consistently came back was that there was a great deal of activity in the arts and cultural communities but quite often, one community doesn't know what is taking place in the other community. What we expect to come forward is a mechanism by which we can market our entire region where eastern Jackson County knows what's going on in Wyandotte County or Wyandotte County knows what's going on in Cass County or Cass County knows what's going on in Johnson County. Through that and through that collective approach, we'll be able to support organizations in a unique way.

Creating places for people to gather to create, collaborate and participate in the arts. I'm sure everyone has heard about the crossroads at this time. As we look around the country, communities are using the arts to develop neighborhoods. They're using the arts to create centers of interest to attract tourism.

We found support for collaboration of arts organizations across counties and arts playing a role in connecting the counties.



## Six Core Strategies

- Strengthening and deepening arts education and arts integration in schools throughout the region.
- Improving public access to information about the region's cultural offerings through coordinated marketing and promotion.
- Supporting creative placemaking.



There are six core strategies that evolved out of the plan. One, a strengthening and deepening arts education and arts integration in schools throughout the region. Improving public access to information about the region's cultural offerings through coordinated marketing and promotion. Three, supporting creative placemaking.

## Six Core Strategies

- Strengthening the capacity of the cultural sector to deliver services to their communities.
- ArtsKC Serving as the primary advocate for the arts in the five-county region.
- Supporting economic development of regional creative economy.



Four, strengthening the capacity of the cultural sector to deliver services to their communities. ArtsKC serving as a primary advocate for the arts in the five county region and supporting economic development of a regional creative economy.

## Funding Considerations

- Counties can contract with ArtsKC or other qualified agencies for services
- ArtsKC Fund
  - Expand re-granting services for counties
  - New granting areas
- Private support
  - Region or county specific
- Arts ticket surcharge
- Community wide tax



There were funding considerations, of course, that go along with this. We believe the counties can contract with ArtsKC, for example, and other qualified agencies for services. An example of that might be ArtsKC assisting with deciding which organizations should be supported. That would enable the counties in other communities to not be weighted down with making those decisions and staffing up to make decisions for the arts; essentially serving as a consultant for the counties.

The ArtsKC Fund. This is a fund that's been in place now for some eight years. This year we just announced that we raised a record amount for the ArtsKC Fund some \$500,000 plus. Those funds would go to expand re-granting services for counties and new granting areas. Continue to garner private support, regional support for our counties' specific support. We've also looked at perhaps an arts ticket surcharge. Maybe a \$1 or \$2 added to each ticket price that would go into a collective fund.

A community wide tax. That's the politically correct way of saying the b word and that's bi-state. As we talked to each of you and talked around the community, we first of all expressed that this was not a roundabout way to get to a bi-state tax and we stand firm with that. We received enough feedback and that question kept coming up and coming up that we felt that it was important to put this as a funding consideration. It's there, we don't know if that is

something that will come forward as a need in the future, but it's an option their consultants and communities that we spoke with felt we should include so we were ingenious.

## Public Benefits

- Greater access to and availability of arts education experiences for children and young people.
- Greater capacity to imagine, plan, and implement creative solutions for complex problems and community issues.
- Increased attraction and retention for businesses
  - Increased attraction and retention of talented people.




Public benefits. There are many public benefits with greater access to the availability of arts education experiences for children and young people. That is a benefit and an idea and a need that consistently came back during our process.

A greater capacity to imagine, plan, and implement creative solutions for complex problems and communities. The arts aren't just fluffed. The arts can be used to address educational needs. They can be used to address social needs. By example, Wyandotte County is the home of the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey, Ailey Camp. I'm proud to say that's an organization that I founded some 30 years ago. We've been conducting Ailey Camps for 27 years. Last night was our 27<sup>th</sup> annual performance. I only say that to say that Ailey Camp is not an art program that is designed to create dancers. It's a program that's designed to give children tools for survival. It's a program that's designed to lift self-esteem, to enhance cognizant skills and learning. It's a program that enables kids for maybe for the first time in their life to take control of their lives and see a future beyond the end of their block. That's just an example that I

**July 9, 2015**

know works. It has been working. In fact, there are nine Ailey Camps around the country now. Wyandotte County is the home of one of the first Ailey Camps in the country.

One of the benefits is to increase attraction and retention for businesses. Increase the attraction and retention of talented people as businesses look at where they will locate and put their resources. Art and culture remains high on the top of their list. I'd like to give the example of Brown Company that years ago decided to move from New York City and they had about six different communities that they were looking at and one of them was Atlanta. I happened to be living in Atlanta at the time. As the CEO had come down and visited and went back to New York to talk about where they might go, his wife had a conversation with him. She said I don't want to go anyplace—well, let me put it in a positive—I want to go someplace where there's ballet, where there's an opera, where there's a symphony, where there are museums for our children to have access to and based upon that, the Brown Company decided to select Atlanta. That happens over and over again and we're seeing that as we see the influx of companies into the Kansas City region where we're developing a reputation of a community that does have creative talent that can support the business needs of corporations and companies and entrepreneurs.

## Public Benefits

- Increased awareness of and participation in the rich and often hidden or overlooked array of the region's cultural opportunities.
- Increased tourism
- Increased pride and sense of place for tax payers and workers in all five counties.



July 9, 2015

There's the increase awareness and participation of the rich and often hidden or overlooked array of regional cultural opportunities. There is increased tourism. Increased pride and sense of place for taxpayers and workers in all five counties.



**Commissioner Bynum** said I saw Missouri Arts Council. What about Kansas Humanities Council or is there an organization on the Kansas side that mirrors that that you can reach out to?

**Mr. Gray** said there is the Kansas Arts Council. I don't know the latest information on how they were supported this year for the budget but yes, there is a counter for that. I used to serve as the chair of the Missouri Arts Council and those art councils continue to be important.

Now on a local level, what we found in talking with some communities and some cities is that the cities are interested in how their local arts councils can tie into the cultural plan. How the cultural plan can help provide some structure, some direction and some vision for how cities and communities can achieve their needs with their own arts council.

I'm from Lee's Summit. We have an arts council and we actually did our first cultural plan back in 2007. We are about to embark on our second cultural plan. As a result, we were

**July 9, 2015**

able to enhance our arts council. It now serves under the Parks and Recreation Department. We have established an array of programming. Two years ago in 2013, I believe, we were able to pass a \$3M no tax bond increase to build a downtown cultural space, outdoor performance space, to build our first historic museum and to expand an amphitheater at Legacy Park.

**Commissioner Johnson** said, Mr. Gray, I was just looking at the arts participation by region or by area. Kansas City, Kansas, is significantly lower than the metropolitan average and certainly be compared by other regions and/or counties I suppose as well as the arts spending per capita being the lowest. How do you see Wyandotte County fitting within your overall plan and scope in terms of at least increasing the participation numbers? Have those conversations been had? Is there a sense of how that can be increased? **Mr. Gray** said that's a good question. One of the strengths of this plan is that it's not cookie cutter. What our intent is is to work with each county to prioritize what's important for those counties. As we move into implementation, it would be our intent to work with Wyandotte County to determine just how do you increase your audiences? How do you strengthen your existing arts organizations and create capacity with those arts organizations that would in turn bring about greater participation?

One of the areas that we remain diligent to, and quite honestly we have to continue to do a better job, and that's reaching out to the broad spectrum of communities for their participation. That's just not putting people in the seats. Quite often we get that confused. It's getting people completely engaged in the arts and understanding the relationship of the arts to their own lives and to their own neighborhoods. That's where you begin to get the total buy-in.

The flipside of that is Kansas City, or our region is ranked third and actually ahead of New York and so that's something that's encouraging in terms of per capita participation.

**Commissioner Johnson** said the only other comment that I would have, and I noticed that you have already identified the fact and we already know, that we are one of the most diverse counties in the country. I would suppose that part of that would be to increase that diversity, the cultural aspects of the arts so that it speaks to all of the audiences in our community. **Mr. Gray** said you're right, Commissioner. One of the issues that we identified is that with many of our merging communities and the wide variety and diversity of cultures, we have a lot of cultures that are coming into our communities and they don't necessarily see themselves as arts

organizations or having a formal structure for the arts. Their celebration of the arts is really the celebration of their culture. That's why we say this is an arts and cultural plan because we recognize that as this moves forward—and this is just the first generation. This cultural plan will evolve and it will evolve according to the needs of different communities. One of the areas that we have identified is to work with those communities and try to bridge that understanding that how they celebrate their culture is part of the arts community, if you will.

**Commissioner Philbrook** said you guys have done so much wonderful work already. I almost hesitate to suggest that you contact a few more organizations. **Mr. Gray** said we'll be glad to. **Commissioner Philbrook** said well, the Kansas Arts Council and the Kansas Humanities Council have not been that active in Wyandotte County for a while. I was wondering if you might like put a hand out and encourage them to come east young people, come east, come to Wyandotte County and help establish some work with them again.

The other thing is, our Wyandotte County Historical Museum has a lot of our arts and a lot of our background that you can refer to to help on the diversity. They are just one great group. **Mr. Gray** said excellent. We welcome any ideas and thoughts and directions. Again, we're at the front end of this.

I'm really excited about this because this gives every community an opportunity to put their particular fingerprints on it and to design it in a way that is relevant to what they need. Many times you see plans, and I've worked with consultants and I've been a consultant, and you get a cookie cutter. It comes in and says well this worked in x community and so we know it'll work in your community. We don't want to plan like that. We want a plan that is actually, it's a living document. Our children and our grandchildren will have an opportunity to address this.

One of the things that ArtsKC does as part of our mission is to advocate and so we want to be your advocate. If there is a need to reach out to the Kansas Arts and Humanities Council or the Kansas Arts Council or any agency or any group, we're the organization that is set and established, and by this plan is supported to take on that need.

**Commissioner Philbrook** said well, I am sure that there are a lot of people that are very artistically inclined in this community and are very, very happy with their heritage in a lot of



different areas that are excited about this. How could they not. Thank you so much. **Mr. Gray** said thank you so much.

**Mayor Holland** asked is it your request for each of the counties to formally adopt your proposal. **Mr. Gray** said yes. **Mayor Holland** asked that's the request that we have tonight. **Mr. Gray** said yes.

**Action:** **Commissioner Philbrook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bynum, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook.

**Mayor Holland** said I would add one word of commentary that the state of Kansas would do well to fund arts education in the schools and to fund the arts generally in our state. It's an embarrassment that our state is not supporting the arts the way other states are. Thank you, sir, for coming over. Give our best to our friends in Lee's Summit. **Mr. Gray** said thank you very much.

#### **LAND BANK BOARD OF TRUSTEES' AGENDA**

No items of business.

#### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No items business.

**MAYOR HOLLAND  
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:30 P.M.  
July 9, 2015**

---

Bridgette D. Cobbins  
Unified Government Clerk

tk

July 9, 2015