

**Dane County Comprehensive Plan
Agricultural, Cultural & Natural Resources Work Group &
Housing and Economic Development Work Group
12/10/03
Joint Meeting on Arts & Cultural Resources**

Group Brainstorming Recommendations on Goals & Objectives:

- Explore resources for celebrating rural culture, perhaps countywide.
- Explore ways to improve countywide celebrations and events (in order to accommodate our rich heritage).
- Explore whether this (the Dane County Comprehensive Plan) is the correct venue (for an ‘arts plan.’)
- Explore possible city-county integration of arts plan.
- Look into working with the city on ‘arts.’
- Look into barriers (e.g. ordinance barriers) that may restrict access to the arts.
- Incorporate (downtown revitalization efforts) refurbishing small downtown districts and historic districts with ‘arts planning.’
- Incorporate area agencies on the aging (with ‘arts planning’ for senior arts programs):
 - (Explore art as a way to create) legacy and link generations
- (Create) maps and visuals to inventory ‘arts and cultural resource’ programs, facilities, organizations, and people.
- Inventory “enclaves” of artisans – e.g. furniture makers, glass blowers, etc.
- Separate “arts” from comp plan to give the issue adequate time and commitment; but also “start something for the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission.”
- The statewide impact of the arts on economic development is important -- \$289 million – 10,000 Jobs
- Arts connect to quality of life issues, which attracts a quality labor force (a “creative class”) beneficial to local economic development.
- Identify ‘art programs & planning’ in k-12 Dane County schools to help network existing activities.
- Facilitate the creation of an entity/council (a non-profit organization) on arts or cultural resources.
- Build community through the arts at every scale – towns, villages, and cities
- “Deal with immigration” - ethnic festivals and ethnic point-of-view for problem solving.

Individual Comments on arts and culture goals (if any) and the Dane County Comprehensive Plan from the 12/10/03 Joint ANCR/HED meeting:

Respondent A:

“[I] would like cultural planning to explore improving resources for celebrating/experiencing and accommodating rural culture related to agriculture – county fairgrounds and the ag-type culture there such as cattle judging, horses, 4-H, bake judging, etc., as well as planning for this at locations throughout the county. Also plan for ways to improve celebration and accommodation of county’s existing rich variety of ethnic heritage.”

Additional Comments from Respondent A:

“DC Cultural Affairs Commission, based on the advance materials for this meeting, does not appear to have much experience in planning and strategy, so should (be) involved only in an advisory capacity.”

Respondent B:

“Is our increasingly elderly population – baby boomers as they age – influencing the interest in culture – (do) they have time to be entertained and to entertain? They want to leave something for their children and their children’s children that are fun and enjoyable. I think the arts are a place seniors can feel good about leaving an endowment...knowing that younger people will benefit.”

Respondent C:

“Arts and culture should be a part of this plan, but I don’t think we can give it the attention and detail it deserves...can someone else (Cultural Affairs, other groups) do a detailed plan and then the comp plan can come back and incorporate this into the plan? We shouldn’t ignore it, but just like we are not doing the DC Parks & Open Space Plan, we should not do this plan, but build upon the goals of it. We should do what we have to do – historical and archeological - in the meantime.”

Respondent D:

Lists Potential Goals: “(1) To integrate arts more fully into our community; (2) To enhance and expand access to arts, culture and heritage resources by residents and visitors; (3) To strengthen cultural resources; (4) To involve more of the public in diverse cultural activities; (5) To provide resources to ensure a healthy, sustainable community of cultural organizations and artists.”

Additional Comments from Respondent D:

“I’m a strong supporter of incorporating arts and culture planning into housing and economic development work group and the comprehensive plan as a whole.”

Respondent E:

“Arts and culture are in my opinion very important in maintaining and enhancing quality of life in a community. I think a vibrant arts community can help prevent urban blight by giving people a reason to stay in a city so they can more conveniently experience and participate in arts events/culture/communities. At the same time, it isn’t obvious how to fit this type of planning into the Comprehensive Plan for Dane County. Some reasonable suggestions were made at this meeting of elements that could be included...One thought – making ‘cultural services’ or events directed at children and families may offer families an incentive to stay in the city.”

Respondent F:

“Good meeting last night! The presenters were very informative. After hearing them I think the Steering committee did a good thing by moving the arts to the subcommittee handling economic development. I think it appropriate that the arts be a part of our comprehensive plan. The presenters put forth the idea that promotion of the arts adds to “quality of life” in the county, and a higher quality of life helps to keep and attract intelligent and talented people. Some of those talented people will create jobs for others and thus increase the overall economic development of

the county. Jerry Bradley had the numbers, if I recall correctly. We have a very active arts community in Dane County, and a lot of opportunities for participation, it would be negligent on our part not to include some kind of recognition of the arts in our plan.

Other thoughts I had, some of which were expressed by others, are:

- Mapping of existing arts facilities.
- Suggest that the arts community point out items in the zoning code or other ordinances that are a deterrent to production, performance, or promotion of the arts.
- Suggest that the arts community set up a network to communicate between disciplines, so that organizations work to promote the arts in a cooperative manner.
- Identify programs that are in the school districts and share the data between districts.
- Identify what should be done – who should do it – and who should pay for it.

Some maybe disappointed if this planning effort does not produce a full and through plan for the arts. I think, however, we should only suggest some goals, objectives, identify some tools that the county can provide; and let the arts community take it from there.”