DPAC Feedback from Civic Arts Commission
Based on public presentations on August 22 and September 11, 2018

The Civic Arts Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the DPAC, and wishes to share the following feedback and resources with the DPAC.

Feedback Requested from DPAC:
1-Do you generally support the planning concepts being presented at this stage of the planning process?
   Yes.
2-Do you have any concerns, see any fatal flaws, or feel that significant changes in the course direction are needed?
   No.
3-Would you like to see any new or different directions to be taken by staff, consultant and Advisory Committee?
   Please see our additional feedback below.

Affordable Housing, Studio & Performance Space for Artists
Identifying, building, or mandating affordable spaces for artists to live, work, and present was identified as a key priority in order to sustain a rich, vibrant Downtown. We know from research that the establishment of a strong creative community in our downtown will equate to stronger economic vitality and quality of living for all residents.

- Models like WAL (Warehouse Artists Lofts) in Sacramento would be good to review, which have designated permanent real estate to affordable live/work space for artists. Subsidized designated affordable live/work space for artists through tax credits and other community support were used to provide for guaranteed long-term space needs.
- CAST (Community Arts Stabilization Trust) is a Bay Area trust that purchases and leases space for the exclusive use of nonprofit arts organizations, retaining some of San Francisco’s most vital arts organizations who could otherwise not afford to rent in SF. We suggest exploring the use of a similar model in Davis.
- Mandated Affordable housing should be required in all new downtown development to support a diverse population and culture, as well as affordable artist live/work space, studios, venues for showings and performance.
- Promote efficiency of scale for appropriate sized housing.
Placemaking

The Civic Arts Commission recognizes the tremendous role the arts have played in cultivating the community that is Davis today, as well as the critical role the arts can play in impacting the future health and vitality of our community—economically, culturally, and socially.

In 2016, with support from a CA Arts Council Creative California Communities grant, the city supported a partnership with Arts Alliance Davis to develop a Strategic Creative Program Plan to positively impact creative activity in the Davis community. The Strategic Plan identifies near-term strategies, including neighborhood-based placemaking, building community capacity for inclusion (e.g. developing cross-cultural relationships and engagement strategies), and promoting Davis’ diverse community histories through arts and culture. The process also helped to define shared core values, community identity, and a future vision for Davis. We encourage the DPAC to consult this plan in its efforts toward the development of Placemaking in Davis. The process involved over 40 local leaders and stakeholders in the community.

Additionally, we provide the following resources and suggestions:

- Look to [Project for Public Spaces](#) for great models and best practices in Placemaking.
- [SF Public Space Stewardship Guide](#) provides Stewardship for public projects.
- [Expansion of E Street Plaza concept](#)—fountain, play area (artist-designed) look to Golden Gate Park Children’s Playground and [Luckey Climbers](#) for examples, and [artist-designed play areas](#) for inspiration.
- [Open Streets opportunities](#)—more pedestrian and bike-friendly spaces, Third Street
- [Water features](#)—proven positive impact on mental health, stress reduction, ambiance, promote sense of safety and gathering.
- [Sound features](#)—Look at [Bill Fontana Sonic Passages](#) sound installation in Golden One Center in Sacramento, which uses a series of installed speakers in the landscaping to play sounds of birds, water, and nature in an urban park setting.
- [Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDEA)](#) in SF uses Creative Placemaking Strategies as part of its economic development model.
- [US Dept. of Arts & Culture](#) employs “Placekeeping” which they describe as: the active care and maintenance of a place and its social fabric by the people who live and work there. It is not just preserving buildings but keeping the cultural memories associated with a locale alive, while supporting the ability of local people to maintain their way of life as they choose.
- [Tactical Urbanism](#) can be employed as a great first step to prototyping ideas.
Economic Development

- 5 Key Ways the Arts drive Economic and Community Development
- What is Creative Economy?
- Why Arts and Culture contribute more to an economy than growth and jobs
- Arts, Culture and Economic Development
- Arts and Economic Development are Complementary
- Culture Track, a national survey of cultural consumers’ attitudes, motivators, and barriers to participation—demonstrating economic impact of cultural experience.
- Arts integration within new developments. Spaces for live performances, public art=all promote economic development, increased pedestrian/walkability, increased quality of life, incentive for residents and business owners.
- Enhanced mapping of existing small businesses—See city of Mt View for example.

Investment in Public Improvements/Public Art

- Programming/Entertainment—Davis needs additional downtown venues for small/medium sized performing arts-music, dance, theatre, literary readings.
  - We need to work toward ways to incentivize these into mixed-use downtown developments.
  - Additionally, the City should invest in a Downtown music/performing arts venue.
  - Call-out in DPAC plan specifically for designated spaces for indoor/outdoor performances and sites for installation of public art.

- Bank Conversions
  - Convert banks to theatres and studio spaces. Look at the development of the Berkeley Repertory Theatre complex in Berkeley for examples of how this centralized location for performing arts has positively impacted the economic vitality of a neighborhood.

- City Facilities
  - City should invest in enhanced use of existing downtown city facilities-Hunt Boyer, Building at corner of B/3 (currently housing the BHOF), Boy Scout Log Cabin.

- Public Art
  - Plan should ensure inclusion of infrastructure to support Public Art that promotes community values of environmental vitality, inclusion, welcome, equity, diversity, etc.