

NASHUA **ARTS** COMMISSION

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February 8th at 8am

Room 208

Nashua City Hall

AGENDA

- 8:00am Call To Order
- Roll Call of Members
- [Approval of Minutes](#) (December 2021)
- Communications (None)
- 8:15am Report of the Chairman and Committees/Old Business
- Grant Committee (Judy):
- Presentation of 2022 Grant Working Group Recommendations
- 8:30am Arts & Culture Plan (Lindsay)
- Discussion of Summary Report from Public Input Session
 - Finalize any necessary edits prior to submitting to Mayor and BOA for final approval
- 9:00am Public Comment
- 9:15am Adjourn

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 8th, 2022

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 Summary Public Input Meeting 1/24/22
 Submitted by Lindsay Rinaldi
 2/1/22

This report serves as a summary of the comments made during the Nashua Arts & Culture Plan Public Input Session held virtually via Zoom on 1/24/22. The report includes additional comments submitted directly to Board Chair by those unable to attend the meeting. All comments relate to the DRAFT of the Nashua Arts & Culture Plan for 2022-2027.

What items in the Draft of the Nashua Arts & Culture Plan are you most concerned about?

- There's a lot in this plan, who is going to do it?
- Will there be art in Renaissance Parc that represents French culture?
- How will this plan build more "after hours" arts and culture?
- The Performing Arts Center may overshadow what's going on in other places throughout the city
- Does this plan encourage more diversity and inclusion within the arts organizations?
- Document in general is too cerebral. There is not enough emotion or heart represented.

Instead of leading with economic development first, we should be explaining things like, "Why do the arts need to be here? Why is this plan necessary for the city? Why do the arts have to exist?"

We need to think less about economic guarantees and more about how to present arts as a necessity.

We should define messaging that prioritizes art above all else so that enthusiasm for the plan is built via love and as a need for our city.

- Do a better job at supporting local artists first before going outside of Nashua to find and showcase talent
- The Cultural Connections Committee has recognized that there is a problem reaching multicultural organizations.
- Studies limit you from creating, you need people with vision to accomplish things.
- This plan does not address a method for maintaining and preserving art that currently exists across the city.

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Suggestions:

- Revamp the approach of the document to frame art as an essential element first and an economic driver second.
- Hold a meeting for arts and multicultural organization representatives featuring the topic: What does it mean to be an art leader? What does an art leader do?
- Cultivate a pool of volunteers and collegiate internship candidates for the arts organizations to share
- Be careful how the plan is communicated.

This is an opportunity for people to get involved. We need to create a method of translation to the grass roots arts organizations.

- Foster Collaboration by focusing on outreach to the arts organizations first. Start with a series of 1 on 1 meetings to present the plan so that we can engage each organization directly in its success.
- Keep in mind "How do we get the word out to people in Massachusetts about the arts in Nashua?" when devising marketing strategies

What items in the Draft of the Nashua Arts & Culture Plan are you most excited about?

- Greeley Park Amphitheater improvements
 - 14 Court Street improvements
 - Dedication to preserving the Keefe Center for the Arts
 - Fostering collaboration between arts organizations
 - Pooling resources to increase the amount of public art
 - Creation of an accessible Central Annual Arts Event Calendar
 - Marketing Downtown as an arts district
- Could be an opportunity to present nontraditional art forms and more multicultural art

Comments Submitted Directly to the Board Chair

ACTION #1 - I prefer Recommendation A - I like the idea of having a measurable baseline as I feel it gives as an idea as to what is working or even what isn't. Plus it helps to educate the public on how the arts work to enhance the community.

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ACTION #2 - I will be honest in that I am not sure that any of the recommendation fill the action of affordable space however, I am biased towards Recommendation A. I often hear that the "bandshell" was never completed and looks horribly unfinished... and that the sound system needs to be upgraded with an eye on protecting the neighbors near and far. I also feel very strong about Recommendation B as I do agree that we need to do a whole lot of renovations to 14 Court St but I think there may already be a plan in the works.

ACTION #3 this is how I would rank the Recommendations

- 1 Rec B
- 2 Rec A
- 3 Rec D
- 4 Rec C
- 5 Rec E

ACTION #4 this is how I would rank the Recommendations

- 1 Rec B
- 2 Rec A
- 3 Rec C

ACTION #5 this is how I would rank the Recommendations. I believe that A & C go together.

- 1 Rec A
- 2 Rec C
- 3 Rec B

ACTION #6 this is how I would rank the Recommendations

- 1 Rec A
- 2 Rec B

ACTION #7 this is how I would rank the Recommendations

- 1 Rec B
- 2 Rec A

ACTION #8 this is how I would rank the Recommendations

- 1 Rec A
- 2 Rec B
- 3 Rec C

ACTION #9 this is how I would rank the Recommendations

- 1 Rec B
- 2 Rec A

ACTION #10 this is how I would rank the Recommendations

- 1 Rec A
- 2 Rec B