

Minutes: Housing / Community Development Subcommittee

July 23, 2018

Columbia/Ellicott Conference Room

George Howard Building – Ellicott City, MD

The meeting began at 3:35p.m.

In attendance: Anne Brinker, Paul Casey, Ana Cisneros, Kim Flowers, Coleen West, and, by phone, Cindy Parr. Also attending, Jeff Meyers, Council staff.

The subcommittee unanimously approved the minutes from July 23, 2018.

The subcommittee discussed and reviewed the subcommittee's recommendations formatted as a pillars chart. The chart is appended below.

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| Pillars | Subcommittees suggestions | Features & benefits for businesses | Features and benefits for residents | Background | foundation |
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| <p>Housing</p> | <p>The County should develop a master plan for identifying and addressing the housing affordability needs of a broad spectrum of workforce families, low and limited income families, seniors, and other vulnerable populations.</p> <p>The master plan shall be developed by a task force under the direction of the Department of Planning and Zoning with representatives from the Department of Community Resources and Services, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Howard County Housing Commission, the Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation, as well as representatives from stakeholders in the community.</p> <p>The master plan shall consider locations integrated in developments county-wide, funding, the availability of transportation, and proximity to employment opportunities, health services, and education. We recommend constructing and placing such units in a dispersed and distributed way in the development to minimize signaling a concentration or separation from other units.</p> | <p>Workers need housing reasonably proximate to employment centers. Employee retention and productivity is enhanced when employees have appropriate, affordable housing that does not consume more than 30% of the employee's income. Appropriate affordable housing strengthens the workforce, leads to better performance and higher productivity, and enhances family stability, safety, and security.</p> | <p>When you are thinking about public health, sound programs that improve housing, transportation and food security (and I would add the physical/built environment and policies that make the healthy choice the default choice) will have a positive impact of economic development and prosperity</p> | <p>Vulnerable populations include senior citizens, individuals who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, disabled persons, immigrant populations, and ALICE (Asset-limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) individuals.</p> <p>The County should strengthen the commitment to affordable housing as represented by the Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA) for Downtown Columbia and other development policies.</p> | <p>A master plan provides goals and timelines and increases efficiency and effectiveness of efforts.</p> |
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| | <p>The master plan shall address the provision of annual and sustained funding to attain long-term and annual goals and plans and programs to achieve those goals.</p> <p>The County should implement programs to incentivize private developers to partner with the County to create mechanisms that ensure the on-going ability to develop affordable housing.</p> <p>The County should ensure coordination of the delivery of affordable housing resources and services to efficiently achieve the goals of the master plan.</p> | | | | |
| Transportation | | | | | |

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| Business and workforce development | <p>Recognizing the increased demand for services to immigrant populations, the County should provide additional resources for immigrant service providers. Agencies that service immigrants lack sufficient space that is appropriate for the unique needs of the immigrant population given the sensitive nature of immigrant services and privacy concerns. Foreign credentials and education should be recognized. The County should train employees on how to deal with immigrants and assist employers in finding ways to employ immigrants.</p> | <p>The immigrant population is often under-employed. The community would benefit when foreign credentials are more transferrable; using employees' skills and abilities improves efficiency and contributes to a better economy. Providing temporary support to immigrants allows them to integrate into the community and become contributing members of society.</p> | <p>Allowing immigrants to use their training, education, and skills would reduce under-employment leading to more productive, healthier, and stable families. Providing social services to immigrants leads to improved health and educational outcomes.</p> | <p>About 20% of the County's population is foreign born. Many of these individuals and families struggle with finding suitable, appropriate housing and employment. Given the national political climate, providing services to immigrant populations has unique challenges. Numerous anecdotal reports suggest that some County employees are inadequately trained to deal with immigrants.</p> | <p>A diverse community is healthier and more productive.</p> |
| Affordable child care | | | | | |
| Communications | | | | | |

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| <p>Arts & Culture</p> | <p>A new master plan for arts and culture should be developed to address the interests of a growing and diverse population County-wide including addressing the needs for adequate dedicated spaces for the performing arts and visual arts and guidelines for a formal public art program. The master plan should address the provision of annual, capital, and sustained funding to attain long-term and annual goals and how often the plan should be updated.</p> <p>The master plan should be developed by a task force under the direction of the Howard County Arts Council and Department of Planning and Zoning with stakeholders representing a variety of arts disciplines and cultural traditions as well as stakeholders from business, education, government and the broader community.</p> | <p>Communities that embrace and invest in the arts create exciting and vibrant places to live, work, learn, and play. In turn, these investments attract new people, businesses, and ideas. In today's global economy, local companies face a marketplace where value is increasingly determined by technology, knowledge and ideas. The majority of business leaders say that creativity is the number one skill they are seeking when hiring.</p> <p>Workforce Development: To be competitive in attracting and retaining creative workers and industries, Howard County will need not only need strong public education, housing, safety and transportation, but it will need to have unique arts, entertainment, cultural, recreation and live-work options to appeal to a diverse active community.</p> <p>Economic Development: A strong arts sector is an economic asset that stimulates business activity, attracts tourism revenue, retains a high quality work force, and enhances property values. The arts, both for-profit and nonprofit, are an important part of the County's small business sector.</p> | <p>The arts contribute significantly to the County's high quality of life. The arts promote personal well-being, help us understand diverse cultures, are essential to a well-rounded education, and provide opportunities for civic engagement and dialogue.</p> <p>Civic Engagement, Cultural Preservation and Understanding: As the County continues to grow it will continue to experience demographic and ethnic changes. The arts preserve and celebrate culture and heritage passing cultural traditions along to future generations while providing opportunities to gain greater knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures. Exhibits, concerts, festivals and other events bring people together and provide a forum to learn about diverse cultures, religions, and values and thereby help to foster and nurture a community. They encourage us to converse, build relationships, and express opinions and ideas in a proactive, constructive manner. They shed light on issues that confront us and teach us how to be a more civil, tolerant and open society.</p> | <p>The County conducted a needs assessment in 1989, which informed the 1991 master plan for arts and culture, <i>ArtsVision 2001</i>, which is obsolete. Subsequent surveys and studies have consistently documented the following areas as priorities and needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • art-in-public spaces • arts education and life-long learning • foster and strengthen diverse arts and cultural organizations • audience development and marketing • funding • non-profit board development • affordable live and work space for artists and arts groups • appropriate space to present the arts and enhance the experience for both artists and audiences. | <p>Recognizing the important contributions arts and culture make to the County's quality of life, the Howard County Council adopted Section 12.804(a) to the County Code with the purpose of establishing a private, non-partisan arts agency to serve the public and foster the arts. In 1984, the County Council designated the Howard County Arts Council as the agency to permanently fulfill that role.</p> <p>County investment in arts and culture serves the public interest by broadening public access to the arts; improving the quality of life of residents, employees, and employers; and fostering diverse forms of individual self-expression in dance, music, literature, theatre, visual arts and other cultural traditions.</p> <p>By developing a new master plan and determining the artistic and cultural desires of the community, County policy makers will be able to plan for and provide the vital, vibrant community residents and businesses seek. A master plan provides direction, goals, and timelines and increases efficiency and effectiveness of efforts for both public and private stakeholders.</p> |
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| | | <p>The County is home to more than 750 arts-related businesses that employ approximately 3,500 people. The arts sector accounts for about 4% of the total businesses in the County and about 2% of the people they employ.</p> <p>The non-profit arts sector is key to incubating artistic ideas and creative enterprises and engaging County residents. Non-profits support the local economy generating approximately \$4 million in direct revenues and their audiences generate an extra \$15 million in secondary spending for a total economic impact of almost \$19 million.</p> <p>In addition, non-profit arts volunteers donated over 95,000 hours valued at more than \$2 million.</p> | <p>Education: The arts provoke thought and provide opportunities for lifelong learning and personal growth. National studies show: Arts education programs help reduce dropout rates, increase retention and engagement rates of students, and raise educational attainment levels. Students who take four years of arts and music average almost 100 points higher on their SAT scores than students who take only one-half year or less. Students with high arts participation and low socioeconomic status have a 4 percent dropout rate – five times lower than their peers with little to no arts participation. Low income students who are highly engaged in the arts are twice as likely to graduate college as their peers with no arts education. Participation in arts programs decreases young people’s involvement in delinquent behavior, increases academic outcomes for both adjudicated and disadvantaged youth, and improves attitudes about themselves and their future.</p> <p>Community Health & Wellness: The arts have a positive impact on health and wellness. Both</p> | | <p>It also provides decision-makers with an arts and culture roadmap of where the County is, where the County wants to go, and how to get there.</p> |
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| | | | <p>traditional and non-traditional medical fields use visual art, music, dance, poetry and drama to treat patients and people with disabilities with a variety of therapeutic needs. The arts are used to strengthen speech patterns, self-image, and socialization skills; they help participants overcome or reduce physical dysfunction; and music therapy, in particular, has been very successful in treating seniors with Alzheimer’s Disease.</p> <p>The healing benefits of the arts result in shorter hospital stays, better pain management, and less medication. The arts not only help patients, addicts, veterans, seniors, and youth at risk cope with loss, isolation, depression, and the effects of mental and physical illnesses, but help family members cope as well.</p> <p>Military service members and Veterans rank art therapies in the top 4 (out of 40) interventions and treatments.</p> | | |
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