



Cultural Arts Master Plan Ad Hoc Working Group

Implementation Recommendations

Background:

In September of 2019, the Bastrop City Council accepted the Cultural Arts Master Plan (CAMP) as presented by Bastrop Art in Public Places Board Chair Ed Skarnulis. The Cultural Arts Master Plan Ad Hoc Working Group was created by Council in February of 2020 and assigned with the task of making recommendations to the City Council regarding the approach to implementation of the plan.

CAMP Ad Hoc Working Group's activities:

The CAMP Working Group has met four times, roughly every two weeks, to discuss the CAMP, go through brainstorming exercises, and consider implementation next-steps. While the plan was made for Bastrop, it was understood that it would take "custom fitting" the plan to our community. In these discussions, consensus was reached on the following theme, values, and priorities: Diversity & Inclusivity; Partnerships and Collaboration; Political, Social, and Economic Stability of the Arts; Accountability and Transparency; Effective Management of the CAMP; Promotion of Bastrop as an Arts Destination/Arts & Culture Related Tourism.

It is the CAMP Working Group's intention that these major themes be the foundational values that inform all the decisions made in the implementation process.

THEMES, VALUES, & PRIORITIES:

- Diversity & Inclusivity: Founded on principle of diverse and inclusive community engagement.

- Recruit people of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities to participate in the arts.
- Weave local histories and neighborhood narratives into arts programming.
- Actively involve all the arts.
- Be culturally relevant and appropriate.
- Take advantage of history and heritage.

- Partnerships and Collaboration: Foster and promote partnerships and collaboration.

- Develop strategic, cross-sector relationships and partnerships.
- Encourage buy-in from the community.
- Connect with schools, all arts organizations, individual artists, businesses.
- Build and maintain a network.

- Political, Social, and Economic Stability of the Arts:

- Unify local resources.
- Define and perhaps create income-driven events that bring current resources together.

- Structure in such a way that will be resilient and that will foster continuity over time.
- Utilize City staff support.
- Define expectations for three transition phases: initial phase of creation, second phase of growth, and third phase of Cultural Arts Commission finding stability through grants and other funding sources.
- Find secure and sustainable funding.
- Elicit financial support.
- Create an agile environment, versus a bureaucratic structure.
- Explore “percent for art” funding which dedicated a percentage of capital improvement projects to funding arts and culture projects and programming.

- Accountability and Transparency:

- Provide evidence of growth, success.
- Report to Council quarterly about progress and direction.
- Define metrics for measurement and charting success.

-Effective Management of the CAMP:

- Create a Bastrop-centric process for implementation.
- Define the goals of the commission.
- Oversee the Cultural Arts Master Plan and use it as a road map.
- Define roles for all groups involved.
- Recruit volunteers.

- Promotion of Bastrop as an Arts Destination/Arts & Culture Related Tourism:

- Create marketing for art destination travelers.
- Build/Create bridges to Visit Bastrop and other boards, commissions, and organizations.
- Bring back Main Street Festivals.
- Sponsor annual art focused projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Create a Cultural Arts Commission
2. Adopt the Themes, Values, and Priorities as the foundational charge to the Cultural Arts Commission.
3. Create the commission’s bylaws which include accountability measures that require an annual presentation by the Commission to City Council.
4. Define a Bastrop Art in Public Places transition process that captures and documents the work of BAIPP while decommissioning BAIPP as a board and recommending that the Cultural Arts Commission establish an Art in Public Places committee.

Cultural Arts Commission – Shall consist of 7 members composed of representatives from Arts and Culture assets across the city, including, but not limited to, the Bastrop County Historical Society Museum and Visitor Center, the Bastrop Opera House, the Lost Pines Art Center, Bastrop Independent School District, arts and culture business representatives, and others. This commission manages the Cultural Arts Master Plan and will have the continued implementation of the CAMP as its charge. The Commission will create committees as appropriate.

Bylaws – The development of a set of bylaws for the Cultural Arts Commission will ensure that the management of the Cultural Arts Master Plan is carried out in a way that is both accountable and sustainable.

BAIPP Transition

The Cultural Arts Commission is a broader umbrella than BAIPP. The City’s development of this broader structure to support the arts does not preclude the efforts or programming of BAIPP. The public art locations should continue to be filled through public calls and the council still needs an advisory body in the subject of public art to consider public art projects, mural approvals, art acquisitions, etc.