

The Arts and Culture Working Group met at the Clifton Recreation Center on May 13, 2010. The discussion ranged from what counts as art to the economic impacts of artistic and cultural activity on the city. Three themes developed during the discussion. First, the Working Group made several comments about how to nurture artists and foster cultural event planning. Participants discussed how part of having a good arts scene is making opportunities available for artists to grow individually and providing space for a community of artists to develop. The second theme deals with the economic development benefits that come from a city's vibrant arts and culture scene. Many of the comments also called for information about this particular topic. Third, the Working Group seemed to agree that planning has a real and lasting effect on the arts and culture environment in Cincinnati.

One of the main concerns for the group was the availability of housing for artists. Artists often have special requirements for housing options - affordable housing, live/work space, or community living with other artists. This theme presents a possible collaborative meeting with the Housing and Neighborhood Development Working Group.

In addition to housing options, the Working Group mentioned educational opportunities and art-friendly policies (such as zoning and permitting of public art). Working Group members made several comments about increasing funding for nurturing artists. They expressed an interest in investigating the fiscal impact of land uses associated with arts and culture, such as museums, galleries, live/work space, and art-educational institutions. This issue presents an opportunity for meeting with the Fiscal Impact Working Group. Art education also fosters a thriving arts community and the Working Group feels that education is an essential part of this element.

There are positive economic benefits in having a vibrant arts scene and a strong cultural identity. Art provides opportunities for jobs in branding, and graphic design, education, culinary, and entertainment industries. These creative workers support large corporations. A strong cultural identity also affects economic development because it supports local producers and draws tourism to the region. These aspects of the Arts

and Culture element are important because they make Cincinnati more attractive for young, creative people to relocate here. They offer an opportunity for a collaborative meeting with the Economic Development and Business Retention Working Group.

The final theme for this Working Group discussion was that planning is a major factor in the development and promotion of an arts and culture scene. This could be the basis for the creation of a City Arts Council. The City Arts Council could develop guidelines for the inclusion of art in new developments, inform urban design practices, and advise the City on policies that would provide some leniency towards artists. The Working Group cited several cities as models and suggested more research on best practices from these cities.