



City Council

Artspace Update

Agenda Date: 2/10/2015
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Type: work session **Version:** 1 **Status:** Study Session

Title

Artspace Update

Recommended Action

City Manager Recommendation:

Receive and discuss information.

Report Issue:

As the next step in their progress toward development of affordable artist live/work housing in Olympia, The Olympia Artspace Alliance has contracted with Artspace, a national organization, to advise on site selection, community leadership, project concept and financial feasibility. Wendy Holmes and Teri Deaver from Artspace will be in Olympia February 10- 12, 2015 as part of that work, and will provide to Council an update on these considerations, including national perspectives on similar projects elsewhere and analysis of benefits, challenges, and financial models.

Staff Contact:

Stephanie Johnson, Arts Program Manager, Parks, Arts & Recreation, 360.709.2678

Presenter(s):

Ron Hinton, Chair, Olympia Artspace Alliance
Wendy Holmes, Senior Vice President, Consulting & Strategic Partnerships, Artspace
Teri Deaver, Vice President, Consulting and Strategic Partnerships, Artspace
Kris Tucker, Vice-Chair, Olympia Artspace Alliance

Background and Analysis:

Olympia Artspace Alliance is a local nonprofit organization established to create affordable live and work space for artists and creative organizations in the Olympia area. The Olympia Artspace Alliance (OAA) is an all-volunteer organization of local residents who care deeply about the future of our community.

In 2013, the OAA was commissioned to conduct a market survey. The City provided \$10,000 to support this survey; \$32,500 in other funding and support was provided by numerous local contributors including three foundations, 55 individuals, and nine local businesses including: the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound, Thurston County Chamber, Economic Development Council of Thurston County, Olympia Downtown Association, the Freas Foundation, Nisqually Indian

Tribe and the Washington State Arts Commission. Findings from that report were presented to Council on April 22, 2014.

Since that time, OAA has secured a \$50,000 grant from JP Morgan Chase for the first stage of pre-development work for the project, including site suitability and financial modelling. Over the course of the next two days, the representatives from Artspace will be assessing possible locations in downtown Olympia and meeting with key community members to determine possible future development partnerships.

Attachment #1 is a briefing overview from the Olympia Artspace Alliance.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

603 individual artists responded to the 2013 Market Rate Survey; 83% of those surveyed currently live in Olympia. Response was positive and revealed a need for up to 52 units of affordable artist live/work housing.

Options:

Receive and discuss information.

Financial Impact:

No financial impact or obligation at this time.