Citizens' Committee of Arts and Culture



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Background

- On July 21, 2026, City Council directed the development of an Informal Staff Report based on Mayor Watts' two-minute pitch to consider establishing a Citizens' Committee of Art and Culture
- The ISR was published in the Friday Report on August 21, 2026.

Current City Structure

- Public Art Committee: 9 members (7 Council-appointed, 2 GDAC-nominated), meets bi-monthly
- HOT public art funds flow to GDAC
- 2023 Bond funds public art on new City buildings

ISR Considerations

- Possible approaches identified:
  - Administered by GDAC
  - Administered by City and GDAC
  - Consultant-facilitated
- Minimal staff support
- Time-bound charge of one to two years, then dissolve

Current State

Public Art Committee

Council-appointed, nine members (two represent the Greater Denton Arts Council). Oversees the Public Art program with Parks & Recreation support. Currently transitioning to GDAC

Greater Denton Arts Council

Long-standing City partner through annual hotel occupancy tax agreements and community art grants.

Universities & Schools

Denton ISD, UNT, TWU, NCTC all contribute to the culture of the community with their own art programs.

Arts Organizations & Festivals

The City's Downtown Cultural District anchors many organizations and festivals.

What's missing: a shared, community-wide answer to who we are, where we're going, and where the gaps are.

Why a community-led approach

Led by those who know the work

Denton's arts organizations already have the relationships, networks, and expertise.

Community ownership

The answer to "who are we?" carries more weight coming from the community than from City Hall.

No new City board

Consistent with Council's ongoing work to streamline boards and commissions.

Council still sets the direction

Council defines the charge, sets expectations, and receives the recommendations.

Council Direction

Staff is seeking Council direction on giving Denton's arts community a charge to bring recommendations back to Council.

Creation of a Citizens' Committee of Arts and Culture

1

The charge

What questions should the community answer?

2

Membership

What is the makeup of the committee?

3

Roles & support

What the City provides, what it expects, and when?

Charge Considerations

01

Who are we?

Define Denton's cultural identity: the traditions, places, people, and creative energy that make Denton, Denton.

02

What are the gaps?

Identify what's missing in access, space, funding, geography, and who is represented.

03

Where do we want to go?

Recommend a shared vision and priorities for arts and culture in Denton.

Roles and Expectations

The City

- Council sets the charge, timeframe, and names key parameters and reporting expectations
- Receives the report at a Work Session

The Committee

- Hold regular meetings and public listening sessions
- Provide regular updates at the Council's direction
- Deliver a final report by Work Session Presentation and written report

Possible Timeline



Council direction

Charge and direction

Charge adopted

Membership outreach

Launch

Committee assembled

Listen & learn

Community input, asset inventory, gap analysis

Interim update

Early themes shared with Council

Final report

Presented at a Council Work Session

Dates are placeholders pending Council direction

QUESTIONS?