City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: **City Manager's Office**

CM/DCM/ACM: **Cassey Ogden**

DATE: **December 1, 2026**

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the creation of a Citizens' Committee of Art and Culture.

BACKGROUND

On July 21, 2026, City Council directed the development of an Informal Staff Report based on Mayor Watts' two-minute pitch to consider the creation of a Citizens' Committee of Art and Culture.

The ISR described Denton's current arts structure:

- **Public Art Committee:** nine members (seven Council-appointed, two nominated by the Greater Denton Arts Council), meeting bi-monthly. The committee is currently transitioning to the Greater Denton Arts Council (GDAC) as part of the boards and commissions streamlining efforts.
- **Hotel occupancy tax (HOT) public art funds** currently flow to GDAC through the Community Partnership Committee allocation process.
- **2023 Bond funds** support public art on new City buildings.

The ISR also outlined considerations for a new committee: a time-bound charge of one to two years, after which the committee would dissolve, and several possible administrative approaches. These included administration by GDAC, joint administration by the City and GDAC, consultant facilitation, and minimal City staff support.

Denton has a rich arts ecosystem: the Public Art Committee, GDAC, the Downtown Cultural District and its organizations and festivals, and the art programs at Denton ISD, UNT, TWU, and NCTC. Each plays a defined role. No group is currently charged with the larger questions of Denton's cultural identity, where the community wants to go, and where the gaps are.

DISCUSSION

Staff is seeking direction from Council on creating a Citizens' Committee of Arts and Culture. If Council moves forward with creating a committee, Council would set the chart and expectations, and the committee could carry out the work and bring recommendations back to Council.

The committee could provide recommendations to Council on three foundational questions:

1. **Who are we?** Define Denton's cultural identity: the traditions, places, people, and creative energy that make Denton, Denton.

2. **What are the gaps?** Identify what is missing in access, space, funding, geography, and representation.
3. **Where do we want to go?** Recommend a shared vision and priorities for arts and culture in Denton.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests Council direction on creating the committee, its charge, membership, and roles and support. If Council directs the creation of a committee, staff will bring forward an item formalizing the committee based on Council's direction.

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Informal Staff Report
3. Presentation

Respectfully submitted:
Kristi Fogle
Chief of Staff