

July 15, 2016

Dear Mayor Amyx and Lawrence City Commissioners,

As an East Lawrence resident and artist, who's studio has been on East 9th St. for eighteen years, I support a compromise for the East 9th St. project that limits it to general street and sidewalk repair from New Hampshire to Pennsylvania, and the continued engagement of ArtPlace funded artists in a way that acknowledges and adapts to the reduced scope of the project. This compromise will address not only budgetary issues, but also real concerns about the negative impacts rapid development can have in our neighborhood.

Before we consider any future "placemaking" type projects, the City should support and follow through on the creation of a Conservation Overlay District for the area in and around East 9th St. This will put in place a process for evaluating future development proposals that respects economic and social equity, history, and culture, and helps to conserve and sustain this beloved part of our City's original town site.

Moving forward with the implementation of the City's first Cultural Plan, as I believe we should, we will need a Director of Arts and Culture. Many of the issues we face in our arts and cultural community, including equitable funding allocation across the whole of Lawrence, are addressed in the plan, but it will take experienced leadership to move those recommendations into policy. I encourage you to continue to support this position.

Sincerely,  
Dave Loewenstein