

Dear City Commission, Manager and Staff Members,

July 17, 2016

I am writing to express my concerns with the proposed East 9th St Arts Corridor plan and ask that the city withhold support of the plan as presently described.

As a long time city resident and a working artist, I firmly believe that the major support for all the arts does and should continue to come from our local community and not outside interests or businesses. I think there are already a lot of quiet artists working in Lawrence and that is what makes this a city of the arts. Many of these artists have gathered in East Lawrence because it is an affordable, livable community. It is obvious to many of us that the proposed corridor is nothing more than a slick attempt to create a safe and inviting entertainment corridor from downtown business to new business interests in the eastern neighborhood. So called 'gathering places' and other artistic points along the street, in no way serve to make a good neighborhood any better.

If we want to improve the community that lives east of Mass. St, then we should create a street program that is available to all the community and that includes safe sidewalks and crossings and bike lanes. After we have done this, then maybe it will be time to have a conversation about the "arts".

Thank you,

Sue Ashline