



FAYETTE ALLIANCE

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Susan B. Speckert, J.D.

August 14, 2018

Dear Vice Mayor Kay and Councilmembers,

Please accept this letter on behalf of Fayette Alliance with respect to the resolution to dedicate funding for public art projects.

Founded in 2006, Fayette Alliance is a coalition of citizens dedicated to achieving sustainable growth in Lexington-Fayette County through land use advocacy, education, and promotion. Fayette Alliance believes that preserving our unique and productive Bluegrass farmland, advancing innovative development, and improving our infrastructure are essential to our collective success in Lexington.

In furtherance of this mission, Fayette Alliance supports dedicated funding for public art.

Public art adds economic, social, and cultural value to cities. Increasingly, businesses and workers cite quality of life as a key factor in determining where to locate and live.¹ An active cultural scene and dynamic public spaces bolster the vibrancy and attractiveness of a city. Like our unique Bluegrass landscape, public art projects can help distinguish our community from other cities. As cities increasingly look more and more alike, having a unique identity that sets us apart is critical to our continued economic development and growth.

Public art can also help activate public spaces and humanize the built environment. From playgrounds to bus stops, public art can be a catalyst for community building and social connections.

Like trees, green space, and architecture, public art helps create a community's identity and quality of life. Our community already values the public art projects that have been undertaken in the past and those that currently exist. However, a dedicated source of funds can be used to leverage additional private and public funds to ensure public art is used throughout the city to benefit our whole community. While we understand budgetary constraints,

¹ According to a survey of corporate executives, "quality of life" ranks third behind "availability of skilled labor" and "highway accessibility" when determining where to locate a business. Area Development Magazine, Q1, 2016.



public art projects can help stimulate economic development and increased prosperity if done thoughtfully and strategically.

In addition to the funding, we also support re-activation of the Arts Commission and creation of a Master Plan with public involvement to ensure the dedicated funds are maximized and benefit our entire community.

Lexington is currently experiencing incredible momentum as evidenced by the fact that we are appearing on more and more "top ranked cities" lists. Increasing and formalizing our commitment to public art is a logical and important step in keeping our city moving in the right direction.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to our community.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan B. Speckert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Susan B. Speckert, J.D.
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor
Sally Hamilton, LFUCG Chief Administrative Officer
Bill O'Mara, LFUCG Commissioner of Finance & Administration
Jenifer Wuorenmaa, LFUCG Senior Administrative Officer
Nan Plummer, President & CEO, LexArts