



Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy (ACHS) Youth Engagement Meeting MEETING NOTES

July 20, 2020 • 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Held Remotely Online via Zoom

www.ci.Wilsonville.or.us/ArtsCultureStrategy

1. Welcome and Introductions

City staff member and ACHS project manager Mark Ottenad provided a summary of Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy as a City Council priority, and the City's desire to reach-out to youth members of the community to hear their thoughts and feedback on series of questions.

ACHS Task Force Members and Guests:

Jasleen Bhushan
John Dillin
Angennette Escobar
Eleanor Gale Karrick
Sydney Leveque
Ainsley Mayes

Isela Morales
Edwardo Navarro-Santana
Christopher Shotola-Hardt
Staff: Mark Ottenad, Zoe Monahan
Consultant: Bill Flood
Public: Corey Buchanan

Online Zoom screen-shots of Youth Engagement Meeting appear on pages 4-5 of the Meeting Notes.

2. Youth Conversation

Consultant Bill Flood outlined that the meeting would explore youth's thoughts and feedback on a set of questions. ACHS Task Force members Angennette Escobar and Christopher Shotola-Hardt helped to draw-out the youth attendees with supplemental questions and ideas.

Bill Flood outlined that the meeting would explore youth's thoughts and feedback on these questions:

- What is your vision for a vibrant and diverse cultural scene in Wilsonville? What comes to mind? What do you envision?
- What are the Wilsonville-area's cultural strengths/assets? What comes to mind? What makes Wilsonville Wilsonville?
- What are the challenges/barriers to you or others participating in local culture?

Regarding a vibrant cultural scene in Wilsonville, youth feedback included:

- Youth see arts in schools but not so much in the community; lots of great art and cultural activities are happening in the schools, but that level of activity is not occurring in the larger community.
- The Wilsonville Festival of the Arts is highly regarded.

- Not enough events of interest to youth occur in Wilsonville — Would like to see more art events and more events in general that have activities or programs of interest to youth. The farmers market is nice but so small and feels like you need to spend money to be there.
- One suggestion was to join charities to sell art that benefits people in need.
- Murals and public art would improve Wilsonville, with more diversity in the styles of art. Landmark pieces of art in the community would distinguish areas of town.
- More food and entertainment opportunities and increased diversity of food offerings would be good.
- Art about history and cultures could help bring about better understanding of heritage and the diversity of cultures in Wilsonville, including the history of the people who live here or have lived here.

Regarding Wilsonville-area cultural assets or strengths, youth feedback included:

- Student committees and clubs – MEChA club (for students who identify as Latinx), drama clubs, performing arts, band, choir.
- School events that celebrate cultures – events should go outside of the schools and connect with the community at large.
- Have the cultural school events at a larger venue that can accommodate community participation.
- Food shows culture and brings people together.
- Wilsonville is a safe environment to express oneself; there is community acceptance of individuals without judgmentalism.

Regarding challenges to participating in local culture, youth feedback included:

- Participation in most events costs money. Would like to see more free events like the Festival of the Arts and the Day of the Dead event held in the schools; would also like to see a gallery walk, performing arts, theatre show options that are limited.
- A way to overcome challenges could be to hold celebrations for each major ethnic group in the Wilsonville area — celebrating Latinx, Asian, Indian, Black ethnic traditions.
- Lack of downtown town-center focus area.
- Most community event activities are geared towards adult and children audiences, and not to youth; would be ideal if activities could be geared to a wider age-range.
- Wilsonville Festival of the Arts is good with the art tent gallery, window shopping, and kids arts – but would be better to have interactive activities for teens and youth.
- Fun in the Park would be better if it had youth activity booths as well as kids activity booths.
- Transportation can be an issue; experiencing arts and culture means going to Portland, but that can be difficult given limited hours of SMART transit. If more arts and cultural activities for youth occurred in Wilsonville, then there would be less need to go to Portland.
- No community performing arts space; the new high school performing arts center offers potential.
- Money — want more opportunities to participate in community events without cash resources.