

The following is the transcript of an input session held via Zoom on February 9, 2021.

Welcome & Introduction section (Susan Alexander)

Welcome, I'm Susan Alexander, Manager of Downtown Initiatives and Creative Placemaking for the Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance. I am so excited to see you all here!

As we develop the public arts & culture scene in Kokomo what's next? What assets do you currently use in your art practice? What assets do you wish we possessed? Today we will brainstorm input on an Arts & Culture Roadmap as well as a proposed Art Festival in September. This input will help us attain the Culture District designation from the Indiana Arts Commission as well as help us develop the Arts & Culture transformational community & economic development strategy.

Today we will be splitting up into groups to share our ideas more easily. Then reconvene to hear some highlights from each group. When you send your name and email to salexander@greaterkokomo.com I will share the results of today's conversation. In addition, you will receive an arts & culture survey and when you complete that survey you will be entered to win 1 of 10 \$25 gift certificates.

Thank you for taking time to be here tonight. We are going to arrive at better solutions and impactful and inclusive ideas together on our journey to make Kokomo great!

Group Break Out Discussions:

Caele Pemberton Facilitated Group:

Participants:

Marsha Santen, Kokomo Howard County Public Library
Cathy Valcke, Indiana University Kokomo
Keith Whitford, Kokomo Park Band
Lori Warren, PF Hendricks & Co.
Rebecca Rayls, Artist
Mayor Tyler Moore, City of Kokomo

Goals for future arts and culture roadmap:

Keith: important to bring arts back to the center of community. That we develop a feeling in Kokomo that arts are part of the culture, integrated fully into the community and how we live and what we do and part of our identity.

Lori: I think it would be kind of cool to focus on engaging the community through interactive arts and the more interested the community is to participate the more support the city's going to have.

What are some of the resources you have accessed to pursue and share your art and your own goals with the community:

Keith – we've found that the press can be interested in what we're doing if we pitch it the right way and social media has been a big help. The library has been very helpful in posting information and cooperating in any way they can.

Marsha: personal ambassador. I tell friends and family all the time all the cool things the city is doing, all the cool art we have downtown. I like to share with anyone I talk to in general.

Lori. Social media is huge huge huge. Have had a couple of little events that a couple of my companies have sponsored with give aways. Choco bracelets I planted ten of them around the downtown area strategically around the alleys and what not. People were stalking me. Get people out to explore the downtown area.

Rebecca: project every Black Friday, fill the streets with art. Free make whatever type of art or craft I would assume and set it around on the streets. Have it labeled that it's free and there is actually a site that you can go to online and they post it. Oddly enough. Just recently someone found a piece of art susan had done. The thing had been out there for several months and it was just found. Fun to see where someone had posted it. Say I found this in downtown kokomo. Doing that for about three years. Also I think the maker space and the library has been a really good avenue for me as well. Kathy: I'd like to see us include cooking for the kids so they learn to eat better.

Lori: absolutely, culinary skills.

Kathy: First Friday you could have a demo where kids sign up and do a demo. I'd like to see that included. Interactive art.

What do you value the most about the arts in general and what do you value about the arts and culture that we have here in Kokomo?

Kathy: I think they're great for the community. We can always improve them. I think we have to be more adaptive to our people in the town, which I think has already been stated by Keith. We need to be more inclusive.

Lori: an overarching statement or idea about what art is, I think it's great the creative outlet that these artists pursue and you can see the final product that they make or create then also for those, it gives everyone joy to see that piece of art and the interpretation is completely different for everyone. Very individualized. Art is a good thing, definitely. The sculptures are I think, I see people walking around taking pictures. I see people take selfies with the one that's outside my shop. My customers are really digging the alleys and people are just walking around and checking them out. The trails, I think we're doing good things here definitely. I'm seeing people come here from out of town to check out the downtown area and the city in general and even during this covid I've had a few people over the last few weeks come to visit kokomo and stay in novel places, cabins out... they're like oh wow what a cool place this is.

Keith: I like to see art in such a way, of course being a performing musician, it's difficult... doing art in such a way that it's actually interacting with the community, not just being something that's decorative. If there's artwork, there should be artists around. Every time you get two forms of art in the same place, reacting or interacting with one another, it makes things more vibrant and shows something more about the community.

Rebecca: I had some friends come in from Indianapolis, I didn't know they were coming but they came to see the banners that were placed on the parking garage. They were fiber artists. They were very excited and impressed with what Kokomo had.

Tyler: like to hear that. And as diverse as the selections of those banners have been, I think if we continue to find ways to seek out the diversity within our community, culture wise, just with the different cultures of people and different ages and stuff... cooking as an art. When we talk about downtown being a cultural and art district, embracing it all.... The summer concert series, the Riverwalk concerts that the coterie started. Find ways to tie it all in. if we find folks, ways to bring, road art shows or something. Start featuring that as well in the downtown area. Just continuing to find ways to continue to bring attention to that... to make it as diverse as those banners are.

Kathy: that's a great idea. Like the idea of art festivals. Road ones. We love going to those. Lori: even a mixture of art and culinary...

Do you think that the arts contribute to your business or your organization. Really think about how the arts affect you and your business.

Kathy: I feel like music is the art. It really helps people keep their head straight. I'm all for the music part.

Lori: I'd like to see more live music downtown, definitely. For me, art, the arts don't really affect my business. What does affect it is if the arts and festivals that we are talking about developing will create tourism, then definitely yeah.

Kathy: we were going to do it anyway, but we're going to try to do mini concerts for the first responders. Could we come up with a bigger plan and do something bigger for the first responders in the community. We've been waiting for the volume to go down. We're in good shape right now so we'll probably go forward with that shortly.

Tyler: I love the idea when the park band did a road tour, what about little pocket concerts at each of the fire stations strategically around town.

Keith: we've found through this covid thing we were forced to break into smaller groups. We reached audiences that had never heard us before.

Cathy: we were nervous so we didn't do that, but I was glad you guys did it. We made barriers, can lend them to anybody. To put in between performers.

Marsha: I think that literature goes very well with art. Anything art related downtown is very exciting for us. The library for several years has had a very valuable Hoosier art collection which is rotated so it's not in the light being ruined. A lot of people don't know that. Kathy: do you have reading hours with kids?

Marsha: no in house programming right now, virtual programs and there are youtube videos families can watch while they do kits they pick up at the library.

Are there any barriers that prevent your organization from developing or supporting the arts?

Keith: finances are a big. It costs us several, many thousands of dollars to do one concert. It's not just a bunch of local people that have instruments in their closets. We have professional musicians who make a living... the art association, there are professional artist in that group. They expect to get something, to

be able to make a living at least partially from their work. Being able to pay for things I hear all the time, why don't you go play here and do this, pretty soon we're out of money. We can't... we wanted to pay people to go downtown and play during the summer but we can't afford it so we had to back off on that.

Marsha: we had a harpist play. I think it was a first Friday, that was beautiful. It was amazing.

Lori: just kind of thinking in the big cities there are buskers and street musicians that have their guitar cases open. I'm not sure how that would go here but...

Kathy: we would pay them the minimum to get them there and they would get whatever they got in their case but we couldn't afford the initial.

Other thoughts:

Marsha; impressed with all the work susan's done over the past few years. I've lived in kokomo a long time and it's exciting to see artist alleys and the sculptures and the banners and there's so much going on. I know there's always room for more to do, but I've been really excited by all of that.

Keith: I don't know if this effort right now is concentrating on downtown. Downtown initiatives are important, but as people come into our city from whatever direction, and for people that don't live in the central part of town. There should be some representation in other areas as well.

Lori: I agree, definitely.

Keith: south 931 is a gateway to our community and it doesn't look very good.

Lori: we're just starting this initiative so downtown's kind of a nice little place to start, preface and then roll other pieces out. I guess. I don't know.

Kathy: in Minnesota, Rochester, they have a traveling truck that has all kind of arts in it and they go to communities that don't necessarily get art. They open up, work with the neighborhood. Activities. Really impressed that they're reaching out to everybody. Go to every neighborhood. They don't pick. It's just random or however they do it. To help the kids too with activities and just getting together and having a good time. Through the arts.

Rebecca: not originally from kokomo, the city I lived in before they had something similar to that. They used the parks as their stopping area and the children came and I love to work with children so that really speaks to my heart. Really they had someone facilitated a little bit and they had projects and the kids just took off. A lot of times the children don't have a lot to do in the summer time. That was a good thing for them to come to. The biggest expense is the truck. Sometimes all you need is paint. It has to keep going. You can't just do crayons and paint but you can do other stuff as well.

Keith: I think another challenge that we have for the performing arts is there really isn't a good performance venue downtown except for the outdoor stage in foster park or the small stage along the river walk, but actually having, it's too bad that the plans for the convention center couldn't be expanded to include something like that. Probably impossible to do that, but we're pretty much stuck using either kokomo high school or havens auditorium when available and even perhaps, if that's the case maybe we could have, maybe public transportation to those evening events when they're considered community events so that people who don't have the means can actually get there. Know

there are restrictions on the trolley and small buses, there are stipulations. .. if those services could be extended for when there's concerts. I think that would really be a plus for us.

Tyler: I agree and you hit it right on the head with the restrictions on the funding. Something we continue to look at and try to work around. As you mentioned on Wednesday evenings. As for the hotel/convention center, looking at the plans for that, the convention aspect of it. Would have to look at how... that area if it's, if there's an area that has amphitheater type seating, not sure what the plans for that could be but if there's availability to place seating in there and have that be a venue, I would assume when it gets designed it's going to be done acoustically pleasing for performances and such so it can be used for that, so fingers crossed that once those plans come together that might be an option for additional performances. Once we build it, we want people to come so any opportunity we can get to get people in there... I look at the businesses that benefit from the long center in Lafayette for example.

Kathy: conferences are going to look for entertainment, so we should put together

Arts festival:

Keith: I think you can use models from other cities like taste of Lafayette, that's an arts festival and whether the arts themselves bring people, I think maybe the food and other things bring people in and they become engaged with the arts. A lot of people who don't think they're fans of the arts that just don't get exposed to it.

Kathy: open up some of the historical homes. Stagger the art based on price, which is really interesting. If you're on this street, going to cost roughly this much, this street is a lot... I

Lori: I lived in Chicago for years and years they have a lot of little arts festivals. All kind of focused on one type of art. I think what we're talking about here it would be great to have many different types of art, dance culinary literary, story telling. All in one place. The taste of Lafayette. I've been there before. If we could come up with some kind of all inclusive, all the arts together somehow organized or scheduled out. Something for everyone. Most people see things every day but don't realize that it's art.

Kathy: they have food interlaced with art. Sculptures, glass. I agree with you that would be the perfect way to do it.

Lori: would opalescent glass be interested in this at all? Do they participate in local community events or fundraising?

Kathy: the students at Indiana arts center down in broadripple might do something with us as well. The students are always looking to display their art and get money out of it.

Marsha: kokomo community concerts, performers play for school children the day before the concert. Is there a way some of the performers could go into the schools?

Lori: central international art school. They have dance troops. Not sure if that's doable but they're very creative. That's a really good school.

Any specific things you'd like to see as part of an arts festival?

Rebecca: mime? Magic shows?

Lori: what about those people who are painted silver and they just stand still.

Rebecca: Puppets, which would be awesome with music too. The puppets act out. Or even poems or things like that could be read while the puppets are dancing about.

Lori: costumes, people on stilts. Clothing, sewing, making costumes is an art as well.

Rebecca: key that we find our niche in Kokomo. It's like, you go to other communities where they have a festival and they play up a strength or something in their community and I've found since I've lived here, I know we have the factories here but it's the other things that I've had difficulty finding. Now that we have a venue where people can play music and we can go to and listen to music, that's been fabulous. I think the one festival that we've always had is downtown and it just seems like it's not as warm and comfortable, I don't know maybe it's because it's all the asphalt... you go to other festivals and there's a lot more green space, I guess that's what I want to say. We just don't have that it seems like.

Lori: I'm all for more green space.

Kathy: would there be an advantage to use the stadium because there's more space.

Mayor Moore: that would be a perfect venue. The jackrabbits are very excited about having the community or being a part of the community, accommodating. We saw that this last summer when they didn't have a season, allowed other organizations to use it. So yeah we're very much interested in working with the jackrabbits. Either fortunately or unfortunately, they have management of the stadium from April up through August. So but regardless of that, they're very much interested in continuing to be a part of the community and even more so after the last couple of years.

Rebecca: I'm curious about the park that's across the creek, I don't know the name of it. I've been on the trails so I know it exists, it's close to where Kokomo's cemetery...

Mayor Moore: Future park although nothing is there.

Rebecca: I would like to see that utilized. I don't think a lot of people know it exists. It's a lot of green space. And the ball field is right there as well.

What other places in Kokomo should be utilized?

Marsha: the south branch of the library should be utilized. Keith: I wish there were a way to safely connect highland to foster park. It's a little bit more intimate. We find it's especially for the older people that come to our events, it's more comfortable for them to get in and out at that venue.

Kathy: how do we reach out to our community to get talent. How do we get them excited and I don't know the answer. It's just a dilemma. Would like to see maybe a facebook or a website that's strictly for the arts and we all can participate in it. I'm not thinking thoroughly. That's off the top of my head.

Keith: we did have that through the arts league for a while. People stopped showing up for meetings.

Kathy: I'd like to see it go through the city because it'd be consistent, have structure around it that would be more inclusive. Keith: the city had a representative that was facilitating things.

Kathy: I think you'd have more consistency and inclusiveness if the city runs it. Have the artists, the photographers, the cooking... all of it would be in one place.

Amy Conrad Facilitated Group:

Public Arts & Culture Development 2/9/2021 Notes

In my breakout room:

Jennifer Jordan – City of Kokomo Development Department

Cheryl Sullivan – Arts Assoc.

Amanda Lewton – Sun King Brewing of Kokomo

Gregory Steel – IUK New Media, Art & Technology

Jon Russell – Russell Design & Restorations (County Historian)

April Wines– Photographer/Videographer

Aaron Pickens – IUK New Media, Art & Technology

Tom Tolen – City of Kokomo Development Dept

Discussion:

What should our goals be for the overall arts & culture roadmap?

Gregory felt it important to have an artist community, a place where artists can gather in a large space to help inspire and stimulate ideas and make everyone feel like they are a true part of the community. This would be a great way for artists to learn about other local artists as well

Amanda chimed in and felt there should be an arts congress to get artists together to meet and attempt to pull everyone together. This could be also be a group that could possible put together a studio crawl, like a pub crawl, but a way to see different spaces where artists work.

Cheryl mentioned that the Artwork Gallery does have 5 studios with about 12-14 artists in the gallery – it's somewhat of an incubator for artists. (On a personal note, I feel that this space is too small for what Gregory had in mind when he spoke about a place that could be a designated spot for an artist community)

April mentioned repurposing old buildings – maybe as an idea to create a space – mentioned the Riverwalk and how much repurposing old buildings really adds culture to the community all in itself

Community resources that have been accessed

Gregory was the only one with feedback on this question, he mentioned that he has used space at Artworks Gallery – mentioned again he would like a bigger space

Discussion Continued:

What do you value about the arts?

April mentioned the arts is more than beauty, it draws people in and adds value to the community, economy and local businesses

Cheryl said that she is able to have a lot of conversation with people who visit the gallery and has spoken to people who have moved to Kokomo specifically because of the arts culture

Amanda feels that supporting arts in the community shows that the community and people care, she has seen a lot of the downtown blossom because of the arts – it shows strength of community and a sense of pride

Gregory said that art reveals humanity and has deep humanistic roots – especially in old art and restoration; you can really see the beauty and emotion in the fine details

Are there barriers that prevent your organization from developing or supporting projects in the arts?

Both Gregory and Aaron mentioned the unfortunate proximity to the Downtown, and really the city and IUK.

Gregory feels that IUK is on an island. It's time consuming to get to the Downtown for a quick lunch, shopping, etc. on a lunch break.

Aaron mentioned that he would like the students to see the energy and specialties of the local businesses and meet local business owners.

To Aaron's note, Amanda told him to reach out to her. She would love to provide a location for the students to gather – the taproom could be used, etc. They are to follow up with each other

Community Concerns:

Gregory said one word – ALL

April mentioned mental health especially during the pandemic and the effect on small businesses

If you could bring any arts & culture – what would it be?

Gregory would like to see more sculptures, it's something very tangible that people can see when they drive through town and it shows the community supports the arts.

Jon mentioned a Street Fare in Ann Arbor; the general public is unaware of how many local artists we have, he would like to see a marketing strategy to bring people in and highlight our local artists

Other experiences that could work in Kokomo

Cheryl mentioned the Planaire festival and what a huge event that is in such a little town and feels this most definitely something that could be successful in Kokomo.

Aaron mentioned an exhibition he was working on for the downtown IUK gallery but it was canceled due to the pandemic, hoping to do that in 2021.

Gregory mentioned a festival in Providence along their river, it was a ton of local artists that set up tents along the river every weekend

Jon added to all of that saying that there are so many local people he runs into and talks to as the County Historian that don't consider themselves to be artists and has seen really good work that should be featured.

April mentioned there is a growing surge of skateboarders and interest in skateboarding with the addition of the new skate parks – perhaps there is a way to include this form of art and get that genre/age (younger) of people interested in overall arts

What are the locations in the community that should be included for the proposed Festival

Jon thought Foster Park would be a great area for tents with all of the open area, maybe the Si

Cheryl mentioned Highland Park to which Greg mentioned this would be a great space to incorporate Planaire art (sp?)

Gregory mentioned the Courthouse square would be a great spot

How do you get you information about local arts events & activities

Amanda mentioned the Downtown/Chamber social media & emails

Jon – every once in a while the paper

Susan Alexander facilitated group:

List of Attendees:

AnnaMaria Shrock, Kokomo Symphonic Society

Steve Geiselman, City of Kokomo Development Department

Robin Williams, Fleur de Lygon

Tony Budenz, Kokomo Family YMCA, Studio 1144

Stephen Hughes, Kokomo Civic Theatre

Braxton Utsler, SHAK Makerspace

What should our goals be for the overall arts & culture roadmap? What goals should we have for our community? What are some of the resources you've accessed

Robin commented we needed more multi-disciplinary collaborations across the organization – more multicultural and cross-cultural arts collaboration and experiences would be beneficial to this community at this time.

AnnaMaria: Agrees. Feels like it's one dimensional at this time – same age, same color, same background. Would love to have much more average that reflects the community and have ability to be inclusive no just a certain subset of people.

Robin: Was a Director of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra – had a concert called Symphonic Praise down in Indianapolis and it was Black History Month and had over 200 people on the stage from various churches across Indianapolis. Was very widely attended and much more supported. Maybe that is something we could do. Would love to see things like that happen.

Steve asked, What is the biggest barrier or the key to get a more diverse audience?

AnnaMaria: Feels like it has to do with the program. A lot of what we have is Beethoven or Bach – things not everyone likes grew up listening to it or appreciates it. Not exposed to it. Part of it is promotion and on the other hand it's getting people in to listening to music they listen to. Two-way street – get what they want and promote it.

Susan: Kokomo Symphony did a good job at First Fridays in different areas downtown. Couple of people improv – and conducted the symphony. How do we reach more and diverse audience.

Robin: Have great musicians in town and would be great to have more collaboration.

Steve H: Choice of plays or musicals make a difference. Would like to see a greater diversity in our audience and cast. Education plays a part. If people don't grow up going to plays or seeing symphony. Maybe they want to hear a band play but not a symphony. Maybe reach out to schools.

Robin: Arts Festival maybe able to provide.

Susan: Early and more exposure to the arts by families is what I'm hearing.

Braxton: On the board at SHAK. Laser engraving, masks, coasters, resin tables, etc... What goals should our arts and culture have?

AnnaMaria: walk a lot – the park has done a heck of a job of making a real neat space. Festival like Penrod could be done there easily - right along the Riverwalk. Jazz Music, Symphony Music, Curtain Call, ...schedule when everything was happening. Busking license for people who want to busk.

Robin: Free festival, money made by artisans and bars, everyone benefited from it.

AnnaMaria: Would like for people to stumble on. Have a place for people to sit and are exposed to it. When advertised needs to be advertised a wide variety of media outlets. Not everyone is on the radio, or internet or TV. Would show the city we really have a lot to offer.

Susan: Remind Howard County Kokomoans how rich we are with talent and creativity. Don't need to leave the county to access it but make it easier.

Susan: What would you like to see more of:

AnnaMaria: Mixture of more art pieces, music, and exposure for people who teach music and teach dance. Sculptures. Have classes.

Robin: Make it and Take it type of stuff

AnnaMaria: ceramics, painting classes,

This isn't about people setting up craft booths, but groups of people who have established with True artistic stuff. Promoting cultured art.

Robin: Fine line between Crafter Artisan and

AnnaMaria: Hate to see it turn into a flea market type thing. True Craft people.

Susan: Literary art: Spoken word, playwriting, etc...and even the applied art.

Robin: part of the branding mix – makers and artisans.

Rebranding of Kokomo is taking serious **the Artisans**.

Tony: Perception of getting over we're not a big city. Imposter syndrome. Promotion side – if you don't want it to be a flea market or be taken a certain way, then you have to get a little bold how you message the event. Get the artists involved. Promotions be cutting edge and a little out there.

AnnaMaria: Has to be for Kokomo, different but another step up.

Susan: Need it to be theme: Can't just say it's an Arts Festival. "Make it Kokomo for..."

Steve: Suggested calling it an "Art Crawl" might be a better word than "Festival".

Robin agreed. Wanna take it all slowly and not run through it fast.

Robin calls it the Mo better Mo

Steve: Is part of the re-development of Kokomo. Arts are pivotal for Kokomo.

Susan state we need to let people know how cool we are and how we gel all together. An artist from the East Coast came here for our art.

Tony: Goal: Successful event – find ways to capture data. Get some sort of list to notify them.

Tony - Facebook is such a powerful tool to use. That's definitely number 1 in getting people involved. Facebook has shareability.

Robin questioned whether it was more powerful than Instagram.

AnnaMaria – to promote will have to radio, print, Facebook, Instagram,

Steve: Our audience is composed of 3 distinct audience across Kokomo. They are more likely to be on Facebook

Susan – phone app through the visitors' bureau – can capture data through that. We need to capture those people. – drawings or whatever – to get their data

Any experiences you've had in other cities you think would work in Kokomo?

Steve H – Might be able to use the Emergency broadcast System to reach everyone! 📡

AnnaMaria- Lafayette and Indianapolis do have similar things to this and is very popular. Penrod and

Robin: Garfield Park – had the entire park to utilize (gardens, Amphitheatre, etc.) partnered with latinos, and all of the citizens there,) Easier to do a lot. But Downtown has the park, river, the square, be able to really spread out. the alleys, encompass the whole downtown area.

Susan: Not just the downtown... they eat, they drink, they shop, they visit and go home. Very celebratory thing to have in the Fall. Weather should be good. September is pretty good weather. We've only been rained out 1 time for in September First Friday because of a hurricane.

Susan: What are some community concerns that should be the focus of innovative arts and cultural initiatives in Kokomo? Because arts can be impactful when applied in an unusual way. Should we try to

address poverty, racism, homelessness, poor health, low educational attainment, workforce development?

Everyone agreed that all of them should be addressed.

Robin: social justice, substance abuse, look at crime prevention through the arts especially for our young people.

Susan: More exposure to the arts

AnnaMaria: And exposure to things they could get involved with.

Robin: Saturday Music school, arts program, After school Music school,

Give them opportunities over a sustained period of time to become a part of the arts community.

AnnaMaria: That cuts across everything...Racial inequality, poverty education deficits, crime prevention...

Would like to see a City wide initiative.

Tony: The Y would provide some space.

Would be really dynamic and address some issues.

Susan mentioned when you apply art to these it becomes not political. It becomes accessible to everyone.

What do you think the arts contribute to our community? What are they important?

Steve H: Art provokes human emotion: Whatever is going on we can respond to it with art. Art is healing. September Kokomo Civic Theatre: is doing a two-person show about 911.

Annamarie: There's a dollar value to it too. People are used to a certain amount of culture and want that. They could take their paycheck elsewhere.

Want to keep their money here and not take it some place else.

Looking at the non-monetary side, it challenges us. Need exposure to other thoughts. Helps in everything. Think creatively. Creative people fix things.

Whole Group reconvenes together to give summary of group discussions.

Amy Conrad's Group Summary:

One of the biggest things that stuck out, on the question about what should the goals be for the overall arts and culture road map: to have a place for the local artists to gather with a lot of space to help stimulate different ideas. And so just really having a place to pull everyone together.

One thing that was mentioned too was to have like a studio crawl, instead of a pub crawl. Have groups that go check out other spaces.

What do you value about the arts and having a robust arts and culture scene in kokomo? With that it was that it's more than just beauty. It's something that draws people to the community. It also shows that the community cares; it's something that they invest in. a lot of people have seen the downtown area blossom because of all the arts downtown. It shows a sense of community and pride. One thing, let's see here.

On the barriers that prevent your organization from developing or supporting the arts: the proximity of IUK to the downtown area, they would love to see that be a little bit easier for students to get downtown or try to get those two areas... they're just far away from each other.

Different ways to bring the arts in. great ideas if we end up having an event in September. Using Foster Park, Seiberling Mansion, Courthouse...

Caele Pemberton Group Summary:

Have a lot of great art feature. Room to improve in general. More dedicated easy access spaces. Focusing on more of the community not just downtown. 931 is the entry point. Should draw arts that way so when they come into town they'll see it. Challenges...finances. What people would like to see? Different kinds of arts. Not just traditional. Food, culinary arts, costume design, performances, magic shows, miming. Finding our niche find what's best for KoKomo...our identity in our cultural art district.

Susan Alexander Group Summary:

Creating a new goal for more disciplinary and inclusive arts. Inclusive audience...take the arts to everybody. Barrier: Young art consumer group. Not used to consuming arts. Early and more exposure to art by families and kids. Integrate the arts for a lifetime in schools. Festival: creating bold messaging. Art Crawl...not have it be an arts and craft festival. Multidisciplinary and really market the event. Phone apps, social media and continue to talk to them even after the festival. Art is important to our community, healing, uplifts, responds to the human experience, reflects us, challenges us to grow. Creative in our lives to come up with solutions to fix things. Apply art to everything in our community.

Guide the community within the art culture.

Susan Alexander continued:

Thank you for your input on Kokomo's Arts & Culture Road map! We appreciate your time and will send you a summary of the results and the Arts & Culture survey when you send your email and name to salexander@greaterkokomo.com. Remember, when you complete the survey you will be entered to win one of the 10 \$25 Gift Certificates.

Thank you for your time and insightful input!

Stay safe and have a good night.

Some Follow up info from the conversations on Feb 9th 2021

Rebecca Rayls: Susan i woke this morning and began thinking of the small beginnings of the Talbots art fair with 15 artist.

I think of art as intimate , fun ,playful ,serious, inspiring, and moving event.

Some how Kokomo has always focused (since Iâ€™ve lived here) on having all events evolved around cement or pavement and greasy smells.

I think of art fairs and festivals as a strolling, a lazy casual kind of event where the rushing of the day melts away.

Leaving other creatives or makers, visitors young and old with inspiration and excitement. The festival becomes a place for newbies in the fine arts or high end crafts, a push towards ...making and realizing anything is possible.

These are a bit of my revelations after sleeping on the Zoom meeting.

I want to thank you for inviting me to this group of mindful thinkers, shakers and movers of our community.

I needed to share these thoughts with you other wise they will fade into the abyss. ðŸ™,

Lori Warren: Big idea - Cows: years ago in a land far away (Chicago)... several fiberglass big cows were painted and placed around the city. HUGE HIT!

Small idea - bring back Kind Rocks. Paint rocks and place around the city. This was a huge hit a few years ago

Keith Whitford: Thanks for doing this.

April Wines: Susan,

Thank you so much for inviting me to the meeting this evening! It was an amazing opportunity to hear so many talented people from diverse backgrounds speak! I feel blessed to have been part of it! April

Marsha Santen KHCPL: Susan, Great job on an inspiring and informational meeting! Looking forward to working with you on Arts & Culture in Kokomo! Thank you, Marsha