

June 9, 2022

Stacie Short, Chair
Mayor's Advisory Commission on the Arts

Mayor Rory Rowland
111 E. Maple Ave
Independence MO, 64058

Dear Mayor Rowland,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Mayor's Advisory Commission on the Arts. The Commission has been discussing strategies on how best to promote and encourage performing, visual, cinematic and literary arts within the City of Independence and what role the Commission can play in this endeavor.

The Mayor's Advisory Commission on the Arts was established by Resolution No. 5916, passed on May 19, 2014. The role of the Commission was expanded with the adoption of Resolution 6218 on June 5, 2017, which created the "One Percent For The Arts" Program. To date this program has only generated \$578.02, with a current balance of \$0.00 in the fund.

The Commission is very interested in exploring opportunities for increased funding for the arts and recognizes that City funds are very limited. Commission members have researched other communities to see what opportunities there may be for funding the arts. The Commission has concluded that the best solution would be to transition the Commission into a 501(c)(3) non-profit Arts Council which would partner with the City for promotion of the arts. This solution would provide for a separate art organization which could apply for grants and endowment funding opportunities, but also provide the donors the ability to receive tax deductions for their contributions.

We as a Commission do not in any way want to overstep our bounds, but we also feel that now is the best time to make a transition for an organization like an Independence Arts Council. We would like the opportunity to discuss this request in greater detail, either with yourself, the City Manager, or other city staff, however you may see fit.

Sincerely,

Stacie Short