

Arts and Culture

Goal and Work Plan Priorities

Goal Statement

Become a thriving and culturally relevant arts community which will support arts-related development projects, increasing awareness, participation, and expression in the arts, hosting annual events, and fostering and supporting a network of local artists by investing in existing spaces and growing partnerships with arts-based organizations.

Work Plan Priorities

General Arts and Culture Priorities

Utilize existing digital signage and marques to share information with the public about upcoming events

Duncan has many festivals and events that take place, but each year citizens express that they “did not know anything about this event.” This indicates that the means in which festivals and events are shared with the public is missing a substantial demographic within the community. Unless someone subscribes to a specific news outlet or has liked a social media account, there is a missed opportunity to connect. To help address this, and to share upcoming events throughout the community, organizations should partner with businesses and Duncan Public Schools to share public events on their digital signage and marques. This information that is shared should be for events and festivals and not for off-premises advertising that would potentially conflict with ODOT and City of Duncan guidelines for advertisement.



Develop mobile art exhibits that can be shared with schools, senior centers, and nursing homes

Mobile art exhibits, or a touring exhibition, is an exhibition that is presented at more than one venue and is a way of introducing art and culture to a demographic that might otherwise miss out on the experience. This type of program not only introduces the art by reaching new audiences, but it also aids in cultural exchange and diplomacy and inspires cultural curiosity and enhances education. Though many think of a mobile art exhibit as being of famous and expensive pieces, the local program can also be much simpler in that local artist to the region can contribute pieces that are introduced to schools, senior centers, and nursing homes for enjoyment and discussion.



Attract weekly events and performances to the Simmons Center

The Simon's Center is a wonderful amenity to the City of Duncan in that many communities with populations less than 25,000 do not have a performance stage, convention center, and workout facility that the public can utilize. What has been noted by citizens regarding the facility is the lack of events that utilize the performance stage. Historically the stage has been used by Duncan Little Theater for local performances and by the Chisholm Trail Arts Council as they bring musical performers to the community leaving ample opportunity to fill



the calendar with musicians, comedians, and lecturers. Consideration should be given to hiring a talent buyer that will assist in identifying appropriate artists for Duncan.

Public Art Priorities

Revisit the Leadership Duncan Class Project that was working to develop multiple murals downtown

Leadership Duncan Class 23 had selected as their class project coordinating with local downtown business owners and local artists to begin painting several murals around the district. Work in coordinating with local businesses was underway, and then the community was impacted by Covid-19 which delayed action for this proposal. Several business owners and local artists have since indicated that they would like to see this project move forward once again and several non-profit organizations, such as CTAC and Main Street, have been working on a plan of action to make this project a reality. Once murals are established, the community should market them to attract new tourism opportunities to the community.



Establish a plan for more public art throughout the community

Public art can play an important role in creating or enhancing the sense of place within a community. Studies have demonstrated that public art can help improve mental and physical wellbeing, decrease stress, foster a more livable community, and help to engage the public with a more inclusive government. There are also economic development impacts of public art in that tourists and new customers can be drawn to the community, festivals and events can grow from efforts of local artists and assists in placemaking practices that help develop the community's identity. Recently Duncan has seen several public art pieces be installed – Bronze Statue of the Old County Courthouse on Main Street and the Metal Buffalo donated by the Weedn family on North 10th Street in the downtown district. Citizens have expressed that they enjoy these works and would like to see more public art added throughout the downtown district as well as citywide.



Allow local artists the ability to show their art in public buildings and spaces

Citizens involved with this planning process have indicated that they would like to see more opportunities for local and regional artists to be able to display their work in public buildings and spaces. This would help to promote our local artists and allow for greater exposure, improve the aesthetics within public buildings and spaces, and provide additional accessibility for those that may not have the means to travel to galleries or museums. By partnering with the Chisholm Trail Arts Council, local artists and their work can be selected for appropriateness and acceptance and displays can be rotated out periodically to provide fresh experiences for those visiting public buildings.



Map all public art and market the ability to visit and view unique pieces throughout the community

There are several murals and sculptures that already exist throughout the City of Duncan, and these points of interest should be cataloged using mapping software and made public so that residents and visitors can tour the community and learn about the rich history of Duncan. As new pieces are painted, constructed, or displayed then the map should be updated to reflect the new pieces. Doing so will help encourage new works to be added, new local artists to be discovered, and new opportunities for socialization and art/cultural appreciation.

Art and Education Priorities

Continue to promote and grow youth in art programs

Studies have shown that youth that are involved with the arts have improved academic performance, develop higher levels of self-esteem and greater protection against mental illness, grow to be more civic-minded, and have an enhanced cognitive development. These reasons alone should persuade citizens of Duncan to build a future that includes access to the arts for the future generations and to not only encourage, but support, children as they explore the arts. The Chisholm Trail Arts Council and Duncan Public Schools have developed a strong relationship in working together to enhance access to art education and appreciation and these programs need to be supported by the community.



Include Art in STEM education – STEM to STEAM

Duncan Public Schools have adopted a wonderful STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program for students, but Arts should be added to the curriculum to create STEAM. Art is an important component for students that might be interested in the fields of architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, graphic designer, fashion designer, photographer, video game designer, web designer, and advertising/marketing manager to name just a few growing professions. The “A” in STEAM bolsters the rest of the STEM program while adding an element of creativity and problem solving.



Cultural Connection Priorities

Expand and promote exhibits and resources offered by the museums located in the community

Duncan, Oklahoma is lucky to have several museums – Stephens County Historical Museum, Rock Island 905 Railroad Museum, and the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center & Garis Gallery of the American West. Each of these museums serves as a gateway to the rich history of Duncan and its people that helps us better understand our place in the future. Most of these museums have begun to reinvent themselves and what they offer back to the community through new experiences, developing a sense of community, and making a positive social impact that is showcasing different cultures and ethnicities and their contributions to society.



Develop a local festival that celebrates the rich Chickasaw Nation Culture in the community

The Chickasaw Nation, one of the Five Civilized Tribes and the 12th largest Indigenous nation in the United States, has a rich cultural history that needs to be celebrated by Duncan. Local leaders need to work with the Chickasaw Nation to establish a local festival that tells their people's story, help celebrate and preserve their rich culture, and allows the community to enjoy entertainment, fellowship and learning more about the Chickasaw heritage and customs.



Develop and grow cultural events and festivals throughout the community

Looking at the demographics of Duncan, per the US Census data, the community has a mix of races and ethnicities that should be celebrated. By celebrating and embracing the heritage and traditions of those from different backgrounds, the community can better learn and understand about cultures, foster understanding and respect, and embrace diversity – all of which are important if the community has a desire of continuing to be involved in the global market with oil and gas, agriculture, aeronautics, and health industries.

Work Plan Priorities Matrixes

General Arts and Culture Priorities	Start	Timeframe	Key Stakeholders
Utilize existing digital signage and marques to share information with the public about upcoming events	2025	Short-Range	Local Business, CTAC, Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Community Development
Develop mobile art exhibits that can be shared with schools, senior centers, and nursing homes	2025	Mid-Range	CTAC, Museums, Duncan Public Schools, Duncan Senior Center, Douglass Community Center, Nursing Homes
Attract weekly events and performances to the Simmons Center	2025	Long-Range	Simmons Center, Convention and Visitors Bureau, CTAC

Public Art Priorities	Start	Timeframe	Key Stakeholders
Revisit the Leadership Duncan Class Project that was working to develop multiple murals downtown	Ongoing	Ongoing	Main Street Duncan, CTAC, Leadership Duncan, Community Development
Establish a plan for more public art throughout the community	2025	Mid-Range	Main Street Duncan, CTAC, Community Development, City Council
Allow local artists the ability to show their art in public buildings and spaces	2025	Mid-Range	CTAC, Community Development, City Council
Map all public art and market the ability to visit and view unique pieces throughout the community	2025	Long-Range	CTAC, Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Community Development

Art and Education Priorities	Start	Timeframe	Key Stakeholders
Continue to promote and grow youth in art programs	Ongoing	Ongoing	CTACT, Duncan Public Schools
Include Art in STEM – STEM to STEAM	2025	Long-Range	CTAC, Duncan Public Schools, Community Development

Cultural Connection Priorities	Start	Timeframe	Key Stakeholders
Expand and promote exhibits and resources offered by the museums located in the community	Ongoing	Ongoing	Museums, Convention and Visitor's Bureau
Develop a local festival that celebrates the rich Chickasaw Nation Culture in the community	2025	Mid-Range	Chickasaw Nation, Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Community Development
Develop and grow cultural events and festivals throughout the community	2025	Long-Range	Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Community Development

