

Vision 2020
Quality of Life – Arts and Culture Committee

The first meeting of the Quality of Life - Arts and Culture Committee was held on Wednesday, June 6, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. at the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce. Present were: Gay Billingsley, Lisa Haglund, Jonathan Gerland, J.P. McDonald, Tracy Pinkerton, Rick Schiller, Alisha Burrow, Sally Alvis, Denise Davis, Susie Cardwell and presiding was Mark Hicks.

Introductions of all in attendance were made and then Mark Hicks reviewed the Strategies for the Arts and Culture Committee. Mark asked for suggestions on what they would like to see happen, what needs to be done, and what is missing from our quality of life in our community.

The following are ideas that resulted from the meeting:

1. Better marketing/promotion and coordination of what we already have.

This could be brochures, website, calendars, magazine ads, etc. promoting Lufkin and our things to see and do. Note: The Chamber of Commerce is already attempting to do this through their new website.)

Coordination of these events so that they benefit from each other at times like holidays and special occasions. For example, at Christmas, the Museum of East Texas stays open until 8:00 p.m. during their exhibit of Christmas trees. There could be a string of events (lighting of the courthouse, Main Street events, Christmas parade, lighting of a tree, or Rudy, carolers, Genie Flournoy's Christmas Festival, etc.) so that people go from place to place and make busses available to shuttle them from one place to the other. It was suggested that more places stay open late during the holiday season to bring people out for festivities.

2. Restoration of Downtown

Some suggestions were projects that would need to be coordinated with "Main Street" such as:

- a. **Restoration of Pines Theater** - a great locations and facility to have downtown functions, entertainment, plays, concerts, film festivals, etc.
- b. **Restoration of Facades on buildings** – This would be to promote the sale or lease of the buildings. A historical study was done in the 1980's of the buildings and it was suggested that Kurth Memorial Library might have this or a copy of it.
- c. **Coordinate with brokers to focus on downtown real estate.**
- d. **Assist with grants when needed** – such as with the Community Playhouse to get their new façade, but cannot afford it. .

- e. **Provide a business plan and guidelines for purchasing and restorations downtown.**
- f. **Create a plan for the archiving of original documents and plans of original buildings and facilities.**
- g. **Create a “dream team”** and hold a symposium downtown on what we would like to see done and how to do it. Maybe have a “community build” Day, where we create a project in a very short period of time by doing it with a group of people—hands on.
- h. **Create a bus system or route to take people downtown and to all the Lufkin sight seeing stops.**

3. **Enrichment of People’s Lives** (as well as tourists)

What do we need to enrich our lives in this community?

- Share jointly the events and sights that already exist
- Take the events to people who cannot come to them.
- Reach out to the youth and the seniors

Ideas for enriching our lives:

- Choral festivals
- Sing-along Messiah
- Harmony sweeps and vocal competitions
- Artists market – monthly show of different kinds of art
- Film festival
- Coffee house – bands can play there of all kinds—Christian, jazz, etc.
- Patriotic art show
- Art auction
- More public art
- Creative writing art book
- Art outreach program
- More multi-cultural, multi-generational activities

Other Business

The committee will do research in some of the areas and invite other people that might need to be involved to the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on **July 11th at 4:00 p.m.** at the Chamber Community Room.

