

AGENDA ITEM



September 28, 2016

To: City Council
From: Planning & Zoning Manager, Jason Knudsen
Subject: Arts Center Feasibility Study Update

STUDY ELEMENTS

Council approved the formation of a committee to conduct a feasibility study for an arts center at the historic Simpsonville elementary school. The goal of the study is to determine whether an arts center is an appropriate use, how it may be managed, costs of renovation & upfit, and cost to operate. The study consists of four main components: market analysis, organizational analysis, building and equipment analysis, and financial analysis.

COMMITTEE'S PROGRESS

The Committee has established a bi-weekly Thursday night meeting schedule with their next meeting being October 6th. Thus far, the group has completed the market analysis by identifying and researching 11 arts centers/groups within the areas of Greenville, Greer, Mauldin, and Fountain Inn. Each member was tasked with researching one or more entity with the purpose of gaining an understanding of their programming, organizational structure, available venue space(s), and associated costs. With an overall consensus that there is a market for an arts center in Simpsonville, the committee has moved on to the next components of the study. This information will be made available in the final report.

CURRENT STATUS

Having completed the market analysis, the committee has begun organizing how to accomplish the organizational analysis and building & equipment analysis simultaneously. The group as a whole have been identifying and discussing various options for the legal organization of the center. It has also been determined that smaller groups will conduct the building and equipment analysis based on individual areas of expertise. Upon completion, the committee will be able to make a recommendation on the best form of organization as well as needed renovations and equipment, including their costs.