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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 17th, 2019
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
CC: Darin Atteberry, City Manager;
Jeff Mihelich, Deputy City Manager;
Jacqueline Kozak-Thiel, Chief Sustainability Officer
Josh Birks, Economic Health and Redevelopment Director
Jim McDonald, Cultural Services Director
FROM: Denichiro “Denny” Otsuga, Chair – Economic Advisory Commission;
Connor Barry, Vice-Chair – Economic Advisory Commission; and
Members, Economic Advisory Commission for 2019
RE: ARTS AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the City Council of the Economic Advisory Commission’s (EAC) recommendation made during the April 17 meeting regarding the Arts and Culture Master plan.

Position:

The Fort Collins Economic Advisory Commission members received a presentation on the FoCo Creates Arts and Culture Master Plan by Jim McDonald, at our March 20th, 2019 meeting, which focused on creative partnerships, creative economy, and economic health.

The members of the EAC, based on a motion passed 5-0-1 (for, against, abstain) to **recommend the adoption of the FoCo Creates Arts and Culture plan with a few notable suggestions from some of the EAC members as listed below but not as a part of the motion or recommendation:**

1. The plan mentions “housing and work spaces for creatives” in Strategy 2.2a. Availability of attainable and affordable housing is a community need that is broader than for “creatives”. **When addressing housing affordability issues, goals and strategy should be in coordination with other departments impacting the issue and inclusive of all community members.**
2. **Strategy 2.1b and Strategy 3.3 should be prioritized** regarding promoting educational opportunities through partnerships with the education system and promoting life-long learning, which would drive cultural integration
3. Strategy 4.1 mentions funding mechanisms and potential sources of additional revenue. It is not clear **how much funding the city needs to make up** in order to achieve most of these goals. We recommend the document outline strategies around the amount of money that is needed to achieve these goals so that staff can focus research on achievable funding mechanisms.
4. The EAC recommends **a broader definition of Creative Industry** which may create opportunity for Arts and Culture and Economic Health **to collaborate, particularly in startup venture as industry cluster plan is being reevaluated.**