

CITY OF COLUMBIA



ARTS DISTRICT

## **Goals and Objectives**

***Recommended by the Columbia Arts Council on  
January 19, 2016***

**Purpose:** Establishment of a successful Arts and Cultural District adjacent and connected to the City of Columbia's Historic Downtown Commercial District and the residential Athenaeum Historic District.

The City's overall goal is to create a successful Arts District that serves as a cultural focal point not only Columbia but for the entire County by linking the three (3) dominant cultural anchors, the Maury County Library, the Polk Ancestral Home and Museum, and historic Union Depot train station.

The proposal to form an Arts District follows from the establishment of the Columbia Arts Council (2014), its mission to promote the arts and encourage the growth and development of artistic and creative activities including education, business development, and festivals and events. In 2015, the City Council identified formation of an Arts District as a key planning objective.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Goal 1: The Arts District will increasingly provide a range of artistic and cultural experiences designed to capitalize on and augment existing, planned and future cultural facilities in the area.

Objective 1-1: The Arts District will include public spaces and facilities to accommodate indoor and outdoor artistic and cultural activities for both daytime and evening hours.

Objective 1-2: The Arts District will include a broad range of indoor and outdoor artistic and cultural activities programmed to appeal to a wide spectrum of socioeconomic groups.

Objective 1-3: The Arts District will allow for indoor spaces and facilities (such as galleries, studios, performance and practice spaces) and cultural and educational facilities that enhance the unique character of the Arts District.

Objective 1-4: The Arts District will create opportunities for partnerships or cooperative programs between the City and the private sector to implement the goals and objectives of the Arts District.

Goal 2: The Arts District will have a distinct image and character reflecting its unique role as the cultural and artistic heart of the City.

Objective 2-1: High quality urban design (architecture, landscape architecture, planning, and engineering) will be utilized to create a unique character for the area that is beautiful and stimulating while being safe and economically viable.

Objective 2-2: Infrastructure elements will be designed to intrude as little as possible on the aesthetic enjoyment of the Arts District's environment.

Objective 2-3: The City will develop infrastructure elements within the Arts District to enhance the attractiveness and economic viability of the district.

Goal 3: The Arts District will have as a basic framework, a safe pedestrian-oriented environment.

Objective 3-1: The Arts District will include a safe pedestrian circulation system with walkways that separate, as much as possible, vehicular and pedestrian activities while incorporating opportunities for bicycle travel where feasible.

Objective 3-2: The current level of private vehicular access will be maintained and opportunities for public transportation services will be enhanced as the district .

Objective 3-3: Local street access will be limited based on both the Willo and Roosevelt Special Planning District Plans.

Objective-3-4: Underground parking will be emphasized to serve all facilities in the Arts District. When surface parking is the only viable alternative, the visual impact of surface parking, as viewed from adjacent areas, will be mitigated by landscaping or appropriate screening techniques.

Objective 3-5: Whenever possible the sharing of Arts District facilities and amenities by tenants, especially parking, should be encouraged.

Goal 4: Neighborhoods will be preserved and enhanced.

Objective 4-1: The existing housing stock will be preserved and protected.

Objective 4-2: The Art Walk Area will include opportunities for mixed use developments, emphasizing retail uses, to serve both the Arts District and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Objective 4-3: Local streets will be protected from non-residential traffic by providing street closures where necessary.

Goal 5: The Arts District will be created and implemented by the community.

Objective 5-1: The Arts District concept will be prepared as a community-based plan.

Objective 5-2: The management structure for the Arts District will provide opportunities for volunteer participation in organizing and conducting events and activities.