



February 11, 2021

Members of the Upper Arlington City Council:

The Upper Arlington Cultural Arts Commission would like to voice their support for the findings of the Community Center Feasibility Task Force.

The members of the Cultural Arts Commission are appointed by Council for the purpose of encouraging engaging experiences throughout the city through art placement, preservation and programming. We feel that the construction of a community center, consistent with the recommendations of the Task Force, has the potential to be an integral part of achieving this mission.

We are pleased to see that the concept submitted by the Task Force includes several multi-functional spaces that will support art programming and allow the City to expand its current programming offerings in areas such as ceramics, painting, and cultural events. The concept offers a variety of flexible spaces for both visual and performing arts. The lobby and lounge areas have the potential to display artwork and encourage the community to engage in conversations about art. Other spaces within the facility could allow for public art, sculpture or programming that is consistent with the recommendations of the Arts and Culture Master Plan.

The Task Force did an excellent job of leading a transparent and open process that allowed residents to stay informed throughout the process. If the community should support moving forward during the May ballot, we would encourage Council to lead a similarly open design process that will allow for the Cultural Arts Commission, and the community as a whole, to participate and stay informed.

The construction of a community center at Kingsdale would be a great way to activate a vacant space that is central to our community. We are excited at the potential of arts and culture being an integral part of such a facility.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Yesso".

John Yesso (Feb 26, 2021 18:47 EST)

Judy Yesso, Chair
Cultural Arts Commission