

Craig, Sondra

From: Kelly <kellysueleibold@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 8:55 AM
To: Washington-Spivey, Shaundel; ZZ Council Members
Subject: Park Closures and Arts Board Funding

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Good afternoon Mayor Washington-Spivey and Council members! Two thoughts on my mind I wanted to email about, thanks in advance for your consideration and response.

One of my fellow County Board Supervisors said it well: "I believe a strong arts culture is vital to the success of our community now and especially in the future." While reviewing the 2026 Operating Budget I urge you to consider leaving arts board funding intact. I would hate to see grants for public art projects and other programs go away, especially in a community as vibrant as ours.

Tangentially related, I personally vended some of my artwork at the Farmers Market in Burns Park half a dozen times earlier this summer. I really enjoyed the atmosphere, I never felt threatened by others in the area. Following the closures I've now heard feedback that certain areas downtown such as behind the Children's Museum and in the Heritage Center have seen an uptick in (sometimes unwelcome) foot traffic, unsheltered folks swinging through because they have no other place to gather.

I believe Sadee on behalf of the Farmers Market Association was also prepared to offer up use of Habitat for Humanity's Neighbors Day tools for use with cleanup. Was this ever pursued? Do you have an estimated timeline?

I deeply appreciate your service and commitment to civic engagement. Have a lovely rest of your weekend!! I look forward to your reply.

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