



Arts Bridging Community (ABC) 2.0

Ideas for Public Art Sponsored by a Grant from the St. David's Foundation

Report 1, May 8, 2023

During the months of February, March, and April 2023, Andy Esquivel (Community Engagement Coordinator for the City of Smithville), arranged with six different community members to host "Kitchen Table Talks" (KTT). Community members host a KTT at their home or a public space, inviting from six up to about 12 of their friends, neighbors, coworkers, family members, and others they may know to discuss the topic at hand. These are small focus group sessions where the host, a "trusted voice" from the community, allows a City employee to discuss a topic and get feedback and input directly from community members. These meetings took place at various locations around the community and involved representatives from various sectors of our population. These conversations generated more than 60 ideas about potential projects to be installed in over 10 suggested locations (when specified).

During the Cultural District meeting on May 1, these ideas were presented to more than 30 people in an effort to cull all the ideas down to a so-called "top ten list" that could be presented to the general public on a survey. Participants wrote down the ideas they liked the best on a sticky note, which they posted on large paper affixed to the walls that arranged each idea by category, and then were given 10 dots to post to the ideas around the room that they thought would work the best.

All of the ideas that were posted to sticky notes (a "top 18") have been included in a survey that will run from 5/8 to 5/26 to give the broader Smithville community an opportunity to rank them and to post additional ideas and feedback. After that, the Cultural District Liaisons will meet with the Library Director to discuss feasibility and logistics of the top selected projects, and work with interested community members to establish a budget and examine details needed to ensure project success (see the Appendix for all ideas, and related voting tabulation).

Please help us decide! Take the **ABC 2.0 Survey** to rank the ideas that bubbled up during the meeting:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HX2P95M>.

The ideas that rose to the top of the KTT lists are as follows (in no particular order).

- Art festival of performance art, dance, film music, poetry, art & light installations
- Art for the Elderly
- Beautification of SH 95 @ bridge
- Cinco de Mayo Parade
- "Chitlin Circuit" Artwork @ Entry way at SH95 near HS
- "Future of Smithville" Artwork @ SH95/Hwy 71 Entrance
- Guided Art Walks/Studio tours
- Live Music Events / Music Festival
- Local Film Festival
- Local Writers Contest short stories, plays children's stories
- Makers' Fair

- Movies at Overlook Park
- Photo Festival with Film and Radio
- River activity (Movies, Concert)
- Smithsonian on Smithville
- Sponsor/promote bird parade
- Troll under the bridge
- Various Mural Projects (discussion on specifics and details TBD)

Criteria for selection:

- Must be able to find an artist who can provide a proposal and facilitate the creation of the artwork
- Must involve a “community creation” component that allows for Smithville community members to participate in the creation of the art project
- Must be able to install the artwork within the timeframe
- Must fit within the allocated budget

Timeline for ABC 2.0 Project

Date	Milestone
2/20/2023	Setting ABC Goals
4/5-4/21/2023	KTT Idea Meetings
5/1/2023	Top 10 Decision Meeting 6PM-7:30PM
5/8-5/26/23	Survey to Community
5/29/2023	Cultural District Directors’ Meeting: Feasibility of Top Choices
5/30-6/8/2023	Call to Artists
6/12/2023	City Council Approval
6/13-6/26/23	Select Artist(s) and Sign Contract(s)
6/29-8/26/23	Execute Plan: Implementation of Art Project(s)
5/29-8/26/23	Monitor Needs of Artist(s) and Project (s) (Quality Control, Volunteer Shifts)
8/26/2023	ABC complete: Party!
9/15/2023	Report for SDF

The intention of this project is and has always been to create community cohesiveness and sense of unity – that “there is no them – there is only us” using the words of Richard D. Latham, the namesake for our Cultural District. It is to make sure that all facets of our community are heard and feel heard, and that investment in public art reaches all corners of the municipality. It is to provide another means of engagement between the citizenry and the City, and to ensure that everyone has a positive interaction with the City to help them feel comfortable in participating in governance at the local level in other capacities as well.

We thank all the participants in this process, and we are grateful to St. David’s Foundation for their interest, assistance, and investment in Smithville.

Appendix: All Ideas and Voting Information

Rank	Ideas	Locations	# of Stickies	Vote Total
1	Various Mural Projects: Unity Mural: unity with diversity with different hands holding each other / Sponsor 5 murals to be placed on Smithville Buildings with clear sides or areas / Mariachi Mural or Statue: give people a place to go celebrate their birthdays / Baseball Mural / Guided mural walk	At city limits so people can see this is a city of unity / MLK or Riverbend	7	21
2	Live Music Events / Music Festival: 2 or 3 bands, DJ Screw memorial / Street dances and with mariachi	Main Street, MLK Park	5	18
3	Makers' Fair	Riverbend	5	13
4	Beautification of SH 95 @ bridge (for example, Banners, Yarn Bombing, other)	Bridge on 95	3	12
5	"Future of Smithville" Artwork at City Entrance	Loop 230/71 Entrance to City	3	9
6	Local Film Festival: All-day event showcasing movies, music videos, commercials, streaming programs, etc. that have been filmed in Smithville; guided tours of film locations; drive-inn style showcase at Riverbend Park	Riverbend Park	3	8
7	Local Writers Contest short stories, plays children's stories		1	7
8	1-day guided art walks/Studio tours: create maps, qr codes, permanent placards with QR code linking to artists sites	City-wide	2	6
9	Sponsor/promote bird parade	Main Street	1	5
10	Art for the Elderly (for example, "radio shows" at Towers; mural at towers for people to take photos -- if Towers would agree, art classes or other opportunities for creativity for the aged 70+ residents)		1	4
10	Photo Festival with Film and Radio		1	4
10	River activity (Movies, river paddling, concert)	Colorado river	2	4
10	Yarn bomb the bridge	Bridge on 95	1	3
11	Art festival of performance art, dance, film music, poetry, art & light installations	city-wide	2	3
11	Troll under the bridge	Boat Ramp under the SH 95 Bridge	1	3
12	Entry way at SH95 near HS commemorating chitlin circuit	West End Park	1	1
12	Smithsonian on Smithville		1	1
12	Cinco de Mayo Parade	Main Street	1	1
12	Movies at Overlook Park	Overlook Park	1	1
Build into ALL projects				
	QR codes and permanent placards	city-wide	1	2
	Celebrate all the different kinds of artists in Smithville		1	2
No Stickies				
	3 entries/3stories: train town	Loop 230		
	Art on the river			
	Art on the tracks			
	Entry at Loop230 from 71 - help with signage			
	Geocache yarn bomb project	city-wide		
	Mural to honor elders			

Rank	Ideas	Locations	# of Stickies	Vote Total
	Park River at end of Main Park; Art project at entrance on Olive St.; add to Damian's art	Overlook Park		
	umbrellas as canopies over street	Main Street		
	Yarn art at parks	Parks		
	Yarn bombing poles along Colorado bridge	Bridge on 95		
	Mosaic	Bridge on 95		
	"Art on the Rocks" Festival with musicians and makers			
	Christmas Armadillo Art Bazaar			
	Maker space/artist market	Main St; MLK Park		
	Pop up painters' market	Main Street		
	Baking/cooking class			
	Food Pantry recipe/cooking classes	Food Pantry		
	Historic District painting contest (home/house)	Historical District		
	Learner's Festival	Riverbend		
	Concerts on the Porch	city-wide		
	Music and other performance art: street dances	Main Street; parks		
	Tree City USA			
	A square or plaza style location			
	Park for Kids; sculptural benches			
	MLK Mosaic is nice but a mural or statue to take pictures			
	Quarterly Print publication with open calls to community members.			
	South by Smithville			
Ineligible for ABC Funding -- not a "program" (we cannot construct anything) or not related to Arts/History/Culture per definition of intention of funding (no "community creation" component), or outside of the control of the City/something that couldn't be accomplished before Sept 1, 2023				
*	Arts Center			33
**	Bring Hispanic band to jamboree next year	Riverbend		10
***	Art Show on Main St. -- Showcase local artists in store front windows	Main Street		6
	Add a walking trail around Riverbend for mental health	Riverbend		19
	A water park or pool	add to splash pad		13
	Form a soccer league	Riverbend/other park		11
	Reconnecting Footbridge over tracks - south side to north side			7
	Planters (trees)	Main Street		5
	Plants and flowers project to beautify downtown	Main Street		4
*	The Mary Nichols Art Center and the Smithville Community Gardens currently serve as two Arts Centers -- both would love to have more involvement from everyone in the community			
**	The Cultural District may be able to offer some funds to the Jamboree Committee in 2024 for this proposal			
***	This is not appropriate for the SDF funds, but could potentially work with Cultural District funds			