



**Richard D. Latham
Cultural District
of Smithville Texas**

2015 Business Plan

Adopted by the Cultural District Steering Committee on September 29, 2015

Adopted by Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance on September 29, 2015

Adopted by Smithville City Council on October 12, 2015

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Richard D. Latham Cultural District Business Plan 2015

The Richard D. Latham Cultural District represents a strong partnership between two main entities:

City of Smithville

317 Main Street
Smithville, TX 78957
512.237.3282
www.ci.smithville.tx.us



Vision: The City of Smithville will maintain a small-town sense of community while encouraging positive growth and continually improved standards of living for the citizens of Smithville, Texas.

Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance

301 Burleson
Smithville, TX 78957
512.360.2822
www.lostpinesartisansalliance.org



Mission: The goal of the Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance is to enrich and unify the arts community in Smithville and Bastrop County and to work to make Smithville known as an "arts destination" bringing increased tourism and commerce to Smithville. The Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance will also work to make the arts more accessible to the citizens of this community. We will work to do this through education, outreach, and the creation of and participation in community events.

The Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit registered in the State of Texas, IRS Effective Date of Exemption: 9/10/2007.

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The Richard D. Latham Cultural District Partners intend to use Arts, History, and Culture for Economic Development purposes to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors. We will do this through programming designed to highlight the Cultural District. The goals of these planning efforts are to:

- 1) Utilize the Arts, Culture, and History of the community to encourage citizen involvement in cultural activities;
- 2) Retain and attract artists and arts entrepreneurs to locate their workspaces and sell their artwork in Smithville, while establishing policies and practices that assist working artists;
- 3) Encourage the eclectic atmosphere that attracts people to our art galleries, live performance venues, and other cultural and historic amenities that make Smithville a unique place to live, work, and visit;
- 4) In partnership with Smithville Independent School District (SISD), extend educational opportunities to explore the arts and learn local history to all our residents through creative programming developed by LPAA, Smithville Heritage Society and other local organizations; and
- 5) Increase public awareness of the culture, history, arts and artists to help make Smithville a renowned Cultural Destination for visitors and a wonderful place to live for residents.

The City of Smithville expects that promoting the Cultural District as part of an economic development strategy will support our goal of improving the quality of life for our citizens.

A Little Bit about Smithville...

Smithville is ideally situated between Houston and Austin along the Highway 71 corridor and within two hours of San Antonio, San Marcos and College Station. This proximity to urban and academic centers coupled with a rural environment has encouraged a number of artists and historians to live in the Smithville area. This has resulted in a synergistic mix of artists and art lovers who celebrate the creative spirit, history and small town charm of the community. Many Smithville organizations host cultural activities and festivals in the downtown area, at recreational facilities and other local venues.

Traditional events like the Smithville Jamboree, which began in 1958, and the Smithville Festival of Lights Celebration, which started in 1987 attract crowds year after year. Newer additions to the annual calendar of events are attracting more attendees each year: the Smithville "Airing of the Quilts," which started in 2009, and the Gingerbread Man 5K/3-mile Fun Run/Walk held in conjunction with the Festival of Lights since 2006 when Smithville's then-Guinness Book of World Records World's Largest Gingerbread Man was installed.

Although Smithville is a small, rural town that is not very affluent, a pervasive spirit of volunteerism and community supports projects that benefit the town and support those in need. The Empty Bowl Project has enjoyed great community support since it began in 2011 benefits the Smithville Food Pantry, the Smithville Community Gardens and other nutrition-related services. The new Veterans Memorial Park, built primarily through community donations of materials, labor, and funds, is a beautiful tribute to veterans connected to Bastrop County. The park was dedicated on Memorial Day, 2013, and features a 15-foot-tall statue of an angel titled "Homeward" sculpted by Bill McGlaun, a local resident and member of LPAA, who died in 2015 after a long struggle with diabetes. The Angel bears the dog tags of the soldiers from Bastrop County who were lost during the Afghanistan/Iraq conflict between 2006 and 2012, and the

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Park bears the names of over 4,000 men and women who have honorably served this country since its founding.



"Airing of the Quilts" takes place annually in November

The use of the Arts, History, and Culture in Economic Development Programming is an increasingly important strategy for rural areas all over the State of Texas. The City of Smithville has a limited amount of funding for economic development, which Smithville City Council uses sparingly and wisely. For example, in fall of 2011 the City Council approved the use of funds to construct the metal building that houses the Omega Bronze Art Foundry. The foundry's owner graduated from Smithville high school and came back to build a strong business and grow jobs in his hometown. Omega Bronze repaid these funds through a five-year lease. They opened their doors on

January 1, 2012 with two full-time and two part-time positions. Within two years, the company grew to include nine positions. The Omega Bronze Art Foundry is an exceptional economic driver for Smithville, attracting sculpture artists from all over the United States, Japan, and other parts of the world. The Angel statue by Bill McGlaun, "Homeward," was not only sculpted in Smithville, she was cast in town at the Omega Bronze foundry.

Many Smithville organizations work together to promote cultural experiences, send out calls for action, and help ideas gain momentum through to fruition. The Cultural District Designation, awarded by the Texas Commission of the Arts (TCA) in 2013, is an important asset in Smithville's toolbox to attract, retain, and assist business owners and artisans who want to improve the quality of life for all residents here in town and for Bastrop County as a whole. In addition, the City of Smithville seeks to leverage its resources to obtain grant funds to augment its efforts in all areas. The Cultural District Designation and the subsequent grant awards through the TCA (for example, one to augment "Enrichment Days," which provide arts curriculum at Brown Primary School through the LPAA and the Smithville Education Foundation, and one to provide signage for the LPAA's move to the "Gallery on Main") illustrate how the City works with limited funds to bring outside resources into Smithville to develop programming that helps improve the quality of life for all residents.

Smithville's leaders also recognize the needs of the workforce. Several recent plans, including the 2012 Smithville Sustainability Plan, Feasibility Study, and Training Plan prepared through a grant from the Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO), are designed to implement programs that will greatly benefit our workforce and create opportunities for economic development and job growth through sustainable industries and opportunities.

"It's Possible in Smithville" is the rallying cry of the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce, largely because dedicated citizens take full advantage of partnerships among local organizations, available programs, and potential sources of outside funding in an effort to maximize our own resources, which include the time and effort many volunteers are willing to contribute to make things happen.



The Richard D. Latham Cultural District

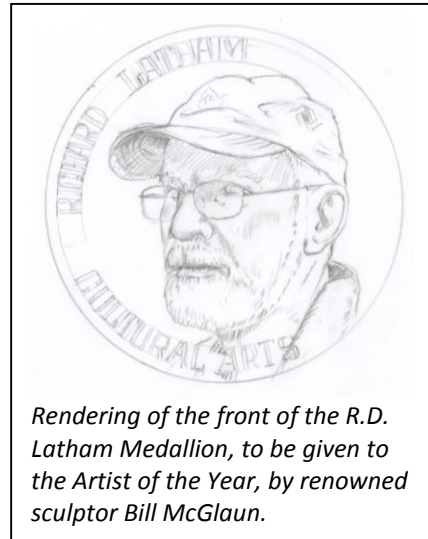
Smithville is a small, rural community in Central Texas. The city limits extend about two miles in diameter (in total, the land area of the City of Smithville is 3.6 square miles according to Census data), making many things possible here that would be difficult to attempt at a larger scale. Smithville's Cultural District boundaries (see Map) encompass roughly half of that land area. The Mary Nichols' Art Center is at the heart of a geography that includes many other cultural, historic and artistic assets like the Veterans Memorial Park, Independence Park, James H. Long Railroad Park and Museum, the historic Central School and Red Brick buildings, Smithville Heritage Museum, Playhouse Smithville, and numerous galleries, artist studios and arts and crafts workspaces and shops.

Each year since 2005, the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) has reviewed Cultural District applications from all kinds of communities all over the state (for more information about this program, see www.arts.texas.gov/initiatives/cultural-districts). On September 5, 2013, the TCA officially designated Smithville among the first 24 Cultural Districts in Texas. This is a tremendous honor and reflects the ethics of hard work and strong collaboration between the artists and performers who are members of the Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance (LPAA), the volunteer historians in the Smithville Heritage Society, several departments in the City of Smithville municipal government, and many other community members and organizations.

The Cultural District Steering Committee includes members of the LPAA, city officials, historians, community leaders, and building owners who are working together to bring new programs to light and enhance currently existing projects to their greatest capacity. The limits of the possibilities are only bounded by our limitless imaginations.

The Smithville Cultural District was formally named after Richard D. Latham, one of this town's most prolific patrons of the arts and a past president of the LPAA, who has championed public arts projects like the Train Sculpture at Riverbend Park (a short documentary is shown at youtu.be/4iwbOX_taRY), the "Art on a Stick" program, the scissor-tail swallow sculpture dedicated to the train explosion of 1911, the murals at the police station and Billy Davis' business, and many other endeavors. A long-time volunteer, Richard was the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year in 2012. Richard coined the phrase "It's Possible in Smithville." He has spent a lifetime volunteering with the Chamber of Commerce, the Boys and Girls Club, and many other organizations. Smithville is grateful for his service and has benefited terrifically from his involvement.

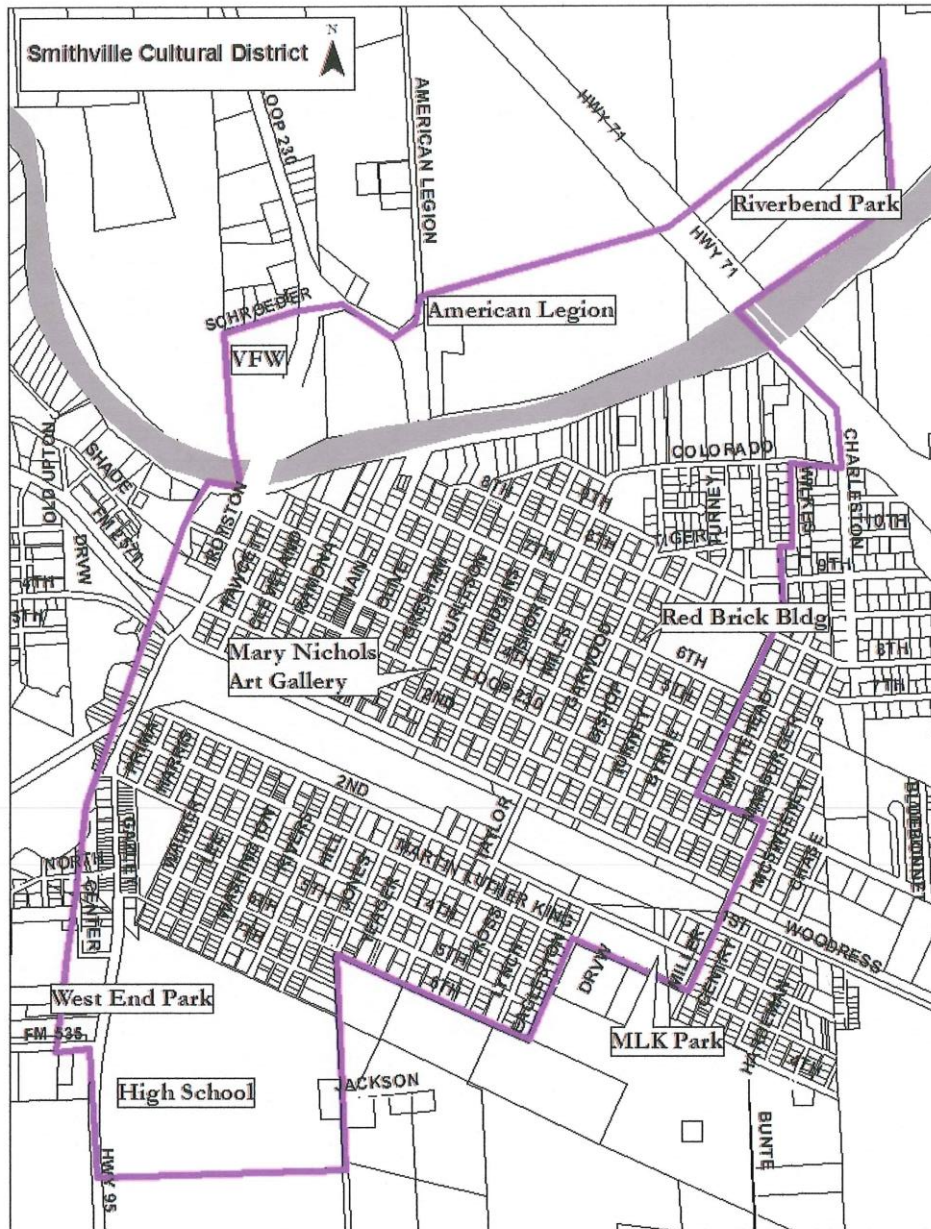
The LPAA intends on being a primary leader in making Cultural District activities work for Smithville, just as it has been leading innovative and exciting projects in the past. It is the business of the LPAA to help artists get to work and enrich the community at large with the arts and art projects. Through strong partnerships and the ability to raise funds, the LPAA will do everything possible to ensure the success of Cultural District programs.



Rendering of the front of the R.D. Latham Medallion, to be given to the Artist of the Year, by renowned sculptor Bill McGlaun.



Map of the R.D. Latham Cultural District Smithville Texas





Cultural District Management ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





The Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance: Lead Partner

The City of Smithville has a strong partnership with the Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance (LPAA), which is responsible to coordinate the Cultural District programs and activities. The LPAA is a nonprofit with more than 150 members, artists and patrons who represent a wide diversity of creative endeavors in visual arts, performing arts, music, video, and various opportunities for arts programming, as well as a broad cross-section of the community. Members of the LPAA and other renowned artists who live in this area include:

- Hannibal Lokumbe, an American jazz trumpeter and composer who lived in New York for a time and has since moved back home to Smithville (www.hanniballokumbe.com/).
- Thomas Colbert Carter, a renowned film director, known also for his role as James Hayward in "The White Shadow" and more recently for directing "Coach Carter" (to open in January, 2015; for more information, see: www.filmjournal.com/filmjournal/eseach/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1000745586).
- John Daniels Jr. (sic), his wife April and their son Matt Torres, owners and creative directors of the thriving community black box theater, Playhouse Smithville (www.playhousesmithville.com).
- Camilla (Cammy) Snyder was the owner of a successful custom order bakery and wedding catering company in the Houston area and a teacher in the culinary arts at the San Jacinto Jr. College culinary department prior to moving to Smithville in 1999. She has coordinated events and taught the basic principles of art to young students for over 10 years.
- Enid Wood, pastel landscape artist (www.enidwood.com/) has won numerous awards in juried shows including the First in Show at the 2015 Austin Pastel Society and the Best in Show at the 30th Annual Pastel Society of the Southwest in 2011.
- Sonny Rhodes, Blues singer and lap steel guitarist (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonny_Rhodes).
- Randy Kerr, photographer and documentary filmmaker (worldphotographic.org/instructor-bios).
- Jewelry designer Russell Smith (a Smithville native) has been recognized as "the best in Bastrop" in 2012 and 2013. He and his wife, Barbara Samuelsson, own "Lark: Scattered Light Jewelry" (scatteredlightjewelry.com/).
- Karl Walborg, jewelry maker and silversmith who creates pieces that sell overseas.
- Potter, leather, fiber artist and teacher Jo Watts (www.jowattsclaysmith.com).
- Omega Bronze Foundry, a locally owned and operated business.
- Painters Wanda Gamble, Glen Whitehead, Dee Childress, and Tina Woodruff, all recognized, exceptional artists who live and work in Smithville.
- Lia Cundi-Blue, exclusive potter for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.
- Sam Blasco, a nationally-renowned furniture designer and artisan, whose work includes a stunning table featured at the Kerrville, TX Furniture Makers Show in 2011 and whose work is dispersed throughout the country (www.samantics2.com).
- Edward "Alex" Alexander, a well-known furniture designer and a poet/short fiction writer was nominated for the Pushcart Prize in 2012 (www.facebook.com/edward.alexander).
- Nationally-recognized fiber artists Patricia Wolf (www.patriciawolf.com) and the Boudoir Queen, Dawn Simorangkir (www.theboudoirqueen.com), who won an award at an Austin Fashion Show (<http://vimeo.com/48345613>) having worked together to create fantastical clothing.
- Tom Tierney (deceased), a renowned paper doll maker (tinyurl.com/ttierney).
- Bill McGlaun (deceased), a prolific sculptor with work in the Vatican, at A&M University, and elsewhere nationwide (www.billsbronze.com/).

Many of these artists recognize and appreciate the supportive atmosphere and the quality of life they have found here. Many chose to live in Smithville because the town offers a unique character and strong sense of community. Artists have commented that there is a growing audience for all types of creative



Mary Nichols' Art Center at 301 Burleson St., Smithville, TX

endeavors, from eager students in the school district to national commissions for local sculptors to audience members in the seats at the local community black-box theater. A welcoming municipal government helps artists feel like valued members of the community and does what it can to help them set up shop.

LPAA is the current resident organization of the Mary Nichols' Art Center, located in the heart of Smithville, which serves as the program office of the Cultural District. This beautiful, historic, city-owned home is dedicated to the public art of Smithville area artists.

The house was built by Robert Lee Nichols (born in Bastrop) and his new wife Mary Virginia Wilkes. They had moved to Smithville in 1884 and lived in the cottage next door to the property, completing their home by the early 1900s. Robert was employed by the Missouri-Kansas and Texas Railroad. He and Mary raised nine children in that house. After Robert Lee and Mary Wilkes Nichols died (1942 and 1947 respectively), they left the home to all of their children. Offspring of those children (numbering 14 at the time) donated the home as a gift to the City of Smithville for the Mary Wilkes Nichols' Art Center in 1992. The Art League of Smithville was the first artists' organization to take residence in this house that year, and in 2008, the Art League graciously handed over the keys to the LPAA.

The LPAA maintains this city-owned property in exchange for use of the building rent-free. LPAA has office space her, and hosts meetings, events, educational workshops and classes here. Classes encompass various painting methods, music, fiber arts, pottery, and other modes of artistic expression. This partnership between the City of Smithville and the LPAA extends the limited resources of LPAA, allowing them to make a greater contribution to the community.

The LPAA Gallery is located on Main Street in space donated by woodworker/ carpenter Sam Blasco. This location has increased visitors to the gallery from the previous location at the Mary Nichols' Art Center, resulting in increased sales and more visibility for its member artists.



LPAA Art Gallery at 206 Main Street, Smithville, TX



Other Partnerships and Cultural District Programs

In addition to the relationship between the City of Smithville and the LPAA, other community organizations partner in a wide variety of cultural activities:

- **Business / Building Owners:** LPAA's "Silhouettes" program is a recent example of partnership. In early 2014, empty storefronts were livened up with silhouette portraits depicting people doing business. LPAA also works with local businesses through the Smithville Mural Program. Weatherworn murals are refurbished and new murals are conceptualized and painted. Interior murals have been painted at the Post Office, at a local bank, and in a church. The newest outdoor murals have been painted at Billy Dee's automotive and on the historic Smithville Police Department.
- **Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce:** The City of Smithville and the LPAA have worked together with the Chamber of Commerce on several programs - the October Texas Photo Festival, the Festival of Lights, "Art on a Stick" and signage. The LPAA provides artists for arts and crafts booths to keep children entertained during local festivals. The City provides space at City Hall and the Recreation Center for many Chamber activities. The Chamber's participation was also key to make the Silhouette program a success.
- **Spoken Word:** The Spoken Word was established in 2009 for local writers to meet monthly to read their poetry and prose to an audience. They have worked with the Smithville Public Library creating special events to raise funds for library programs. Spoken Word hosted a fundraiser called "Day with St. Valentine" in February 2014, and in 2015, they organized "Spoken Word Meets StoryCorps" to show people what happens during an interview to help develop interest in the "StoryCorps @ Your Library" program. They have also held "Writers Talk About Writing" events to encourage novice writers in their efforts to become published.
- **Smithville Education Foundation (SEF):** The local education foundation, SEF has worked with LPAA to bring "Enrichment Days" to the Mary A. Brown Primary School, which serves Pre-K through 2nd grade in Smithville. This program adds an opportunity to learn arts-related skills and competencies to the curriculum. When state testing requirements and constraints on school budgets at the Primary School forced the administration to eliminate their arts program, this program was designed to fill the void. SEF, LPAA, Playhouse Smithville, and Mary A. Brown Primary School now work together to provide the innovative "Brown Primary Enrichment Days" program. Enrichment Days are coordinated to use required SISD administrative workdays to bring in visual and performing artists to teach these creative skills. This program allows SISD to save the funds it would otherwise need to spend on substitute teachers while providing the students with an amazing opportunity for hands-on, creative learning. Through Enrichment Days, kindergarten, first, and second grade students gain exposure to the arts to develop their understanding of color, form, music and spatial relationships. SEF provides the funding for the instructors and the supplies. Brown Primary arranges the schedule to ensure that all students in these three grades have the opportunity to



SEF Enrichment Days program; Brown Primary; Kindergarten through 2nd grade.

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participate. Playhouse Smithville artistic and music directors give students rudimentary and fun lessons in acting, and Music Theater. Students truly love this opportunity to be creative.

- **LPAA Gallery on Main:** The LPAA partnered with Samantics Squared (www.samantics2.com) at 206 Main Street to curate the 1,000 square-foot gallery space to display local artists' work. It had a "soft opening" in September, 2014 with paintings by young local artists and a "Grand Opening" in conjunction with the Chamber's Texas Photo Festival in October, 2014; the show included photographic works by local artists. Over 100 people attended each opening and on average, about 20 people have signed the guest book every day it has been open.
- **Smithville Community Gardens and Smithville Food Pantry:** Since 2011, LPAA has collaborated each spring with these two organizations to bring awareness to our community about issues of hunger and the importance of a healthy diet through the Smithville Empty Bowl Project. Each organization gets 30% of the proceeds, and gifts the remaining 10% to various local organizations that have a child nutrition component, such as the Smithville Independent School District, the Boys and Girls Club, and the local nonprofit, "Angels Unaware," which provides backpacks full of food that school children who face food insecurity take home for the weekend.
- **Smithville Independent School District (SISD):** In addition to the work they do with SEF, SISD is a partner in the Empty Bowl project, working with LPAA artists by donating their Junior and Senior High School art students who build bowls under the supervision of the art teachers and LPAA clay artists. This project is a major fundraiser for the three organizations. Community response has been tremendous and grows every year.



Roger Hewitt surveys the Empty Bowls at the Mary Nichols' Art Center in 2011. www.smithvilleemptybowl.com

- **Playhouse Smithville:** LPAA allows Playhouse Smithville, to utilize the Mary Nichols' Art Center to give music lessons and, when needed, to use the gallery space for overflow rehearsal space.
- **Smithville Noon Lions Club:** The Smithville Noon Lions Club has supported this community for decades through scholarship programs, by recognizing students and teachers, by allocating funds to a number of important community programs such as the Smithville Empty Bowl Project, the Chamber of Commerce events, and the Smithville Community Gardens. Since 2013, this Club has supported the International Lions Club "Peace Poster Contest" for Junior High students (for a list of winners over the years, please see <http://members.lionsclubs.org/EN/serve/contests/peace-poster-contest/ppc-grand-prize-winners.php>). This was an especially important contest the first year because a few months earlier one of the students at the Smithville Junior High committed suicide on school grounds. This poster contest helped the students who participated work through some of the pain and focus on peace. The Junior High Art Teacher and the Parent and Community Liaison at SISD have been instrumental in making this program a success, and it points to another partnership that helps students learn how to express themselves through art. Future plans for the Peace Poster contest are to have banners made with at least the five posters that get the most votes to fly on the proposed "Avenue of the Arts" (see "Proposed Projects" for more information).

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- **City Departments:** City of Smithville Departments often collaborate with community organizations to enhance and create artistic and cultural offerings and programming in Smithville. For example, Smithville Public Library (SPL) partners with Keep Bastrop County Beautiful in their recycled Christmas ornament contest (open to school-aged children, pre-K through 12th grade); SPL encourages people to tell their stories for posterity through the “StoryCorps @ Your Library” program (Smithville was one of 10 libraries to receive this award during the pilot project phase of this national program), and SPL brought the “Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys” literary program to Smithville through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Libraries Association. The Parks and Recreation Department supports art in public places through their burgeoning Parks program, the Recreation Center provides community space including a stage for groups wishing to host culturally relevant events, and development at Riverbend Park (including two stages, a dance floor, booths with electricity, a pavilion, a baseball field, a disc golf course, and various other amenities) has created a terrific venue for music festivals, rodeos, and a wide variety of other events.
- **Other Partnerships:** The City of Smithville and the Lost Pines Artisans’ Alliance partner with many other organizations to enhance services and cultural activities, and are always seeking to develop partnerships when needed and as opportunities arise.



Cultural District Projects (ongoing and proposed)

Many organizations in Smithville foster a wonderful culture of eclectic events and activities. Cultural District Planning participants and Steering Committee Members have additionally made a number of terrific suggestions for other activities that will enhance Smithville's ability to serve our artists and make it easy for visitors and residents to engage in activities that involve art, history, and culture.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY ASSETS (not exclusive)

- Annual Events and Festivals:** A wide variety of annual, nearly annual, or otherwise regular festivals, events, and community fundraisers are very successful and well-attended in Smithville. The Jamboree and Festival of Lights have been annual events for more than twenty-five years. Thunder on the Colorado is a successful biker rally held annually at Riverbend Park and the Airing of the Quilts on Main Street attracts tourists from all over. Community members in Smithville are always ready for a new party and a new challenge, and continually come up with new ideas for something to do. It is a rare weekend in Smithville when there's nothing going on... Most newcomers say they have more options on a weekend than they had in the big city! Examples include but are not limited to:

| Event | Sponsoring Organization | Time of Year | Location |
|--|--|----------------------|--|
| Trades Days | Smithville Businesses | Monthly, Mar-Dec | Main Street |
| Smithville Green EXPO | Smithville Public Library | Spring | Main Street |
| Thunder on the Colorado | Smithville Chamber of Commerce | March | Riverbend Park |
| Smithville Jamboree | Jamboree Committee | Weekend after Easter | Riverbend Park and Main Street |
| Smithville Empty Bowl Project | Smithville Food Pantry, Smithville Community Gardens, and Lost Pines Artisans Alliance | April | LPAA Mary Nichols' Art Center |
| Smithville Fly In | Smithville Chamber of Commerce | May | Smithville Crawford Municipal Airport |
| Summer Reading Program | Smithville Public Library | June-August | Various |
| Casino Night | Smithville Chamber of Commerce | July | Recreation Center |
| SCG Fundraiser Dinner | Smithville Community Gardens (SCG) | September | Recreation Center |
| Smithville Photo Festival | Smithville Chamber of Commerce | October | Main Street |
| Smithville Music Festival | Varies; not every year | Fall | Riverbend Park |
| Ghost Tours / Zombie Walk / Halloween Activities | Smithville Chamber of Commerce, Playhouse Smithville | October | Main Street |
| Airing of the Quilts | Airing of the Quilts Committee LPAA Fiber Arts Show (concurrently) | November | Community Wide Mary Nichols Art Center, LPAA Gallery |
| Festival of Lights | Smithville Chamber of Commerce | December | Main Street |

- Folk Music Festival:** The first annual Folk Music Festival occurred on November 15, 2014. Vendors show their wares, people are invited to have picnics in the Railroad Park, and the Smithville Public Library held a "Game Day" program in the park in conjunction with National Game Day. Local folk music musicians included the Bucksnot Boogie Boys, the Better Halves, the Buffalo Hearts, the Bone Spirit Band, Acoustalyn, and others.

www.facebook.com/SmithvilleFolkMusicFestival

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- **City-wide Outdoor Beautification Projects:** LPAA and the Keep Smithville Beautiful subcommittee of the Chamber of Commerce have participated in a great number of public arts and beautification projects including (not an exhaustive list) the Skate Park, “Art on a Stick,” the Train at Riverbend Park, the tribute to the railroad men who lost their lives in the 1911 boiler explosion, the Veterans Memorial Park angel, the Martin Luther King Jr. relief (on display at the Library, intended to be installed at MLK Park), and the bust of Dr. Thomas J. Gazley in Independence Park.
- **Signage:** The City of Smithville has been working in conjunction with the Chamber, the LPAA, the Heritage Society and other volunteers to develop and maintain proper signage (in particular, “wayfinding” signage) in the area. Some of this has been completed, but is a continuing program. Signs designating businesses included in the Cultural District and identified as “cultural highlights” will be created. This will allow those on a self-guided tour (walking or driving) to more readily identify cultural assets. This tour will be modeled on the existing “Strolling Tour of Main Street” sponsored by the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce.
- **Brochures and guidebook:** The Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce has created a series of brochures (about the Cultural District, what to do in Smithville, a map of locations that were important scenes in various films, and so on) for visitors in the area. The Chamber is also working with the City to prepare an informational guidebook that will assist in attracting new businesses to town and to help established businesses as they grow. The guidebook will include a section about resources that will identify funding sources, such as state and federal tax Incentives that are available to building owners who renovate and restore historic properties and any other relevant federal and state funding available to eligible enterprises.
- **Smithville Music & Film Commission:** The Smithville Music and Film Commission was created in 2008 shortly after filming wrapped for *The Tree of Life*, directed by Terrence Malick. In January 2008, only five days after the introduction of the state program, the Texas Film Commission named Smithville the first “Film Friendly Community” in Texas, and Smithville has been living up to its name ever since. For years to come, the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors’ Center plans to continue welcoming the busloads of tourists that arrive weekly in Smithville eager to see the film locations, and to make it easier for people to find locations, the Chamber created a popular film tour guidebook. In 2012 and 2013, the Chamber hosted two Reel Film Expos which focused on the “behind the scenes” art of film making, highlighting film locations, technical positions and careers in film such as makeup and stunt artists, successfully hosted a film expo that showed multiple films, all of which were shot on location in Smithville, and held a film competition which included multiple submissions and awarded prizes in categories including *Shorts*, *Documentaries* and *Features*.
- **Smithville Heritage Museum:** The Smithville Heritage Society, organized in 1975, is the official keeper of Smithville’s exciting early Texas history. The lovely Heritage House/Museum (built in 1908) is home to historic Smithville and regional artifacts. Archival storage and office space are provided in the metal building located on the museum grounds. Artifacts include farm, ranch and carpentry tools, early 1900s furniture and décor, household sewing and cooking implements and other relics of early life in Smithville. The archives include Smithville’s newspapers, photographs and literature which document Smithville’s history and information on our two unique National Register Historic Districts—Residential and Commercial. Popular research areas include histories of local businesses, homes, family genealogies, schools, churches, clubs and organizations, as well as military and local war hero history.
- **Smithville Historic Preservation and Design Standards Committee:** The Historic Preservation and Design Standards Advisory Committee was established in the 2012 Smithville Comprehensive Plan with its first seven City Council-appointed members to include representatives from LPAA, Keep

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Smithville Beautiful, the Smithville Heritage Society, and the MLK Beautification Committee as well as three standing members. It was tasked with 1) developing a city “historic designation” program 2) reviewing relevant codes and ordinances, developing design standards and examples of preferred designs builders of new structures and property owners wishing to renovate historic buildings should consider, and advising the Planning and Zoning Board, City Council, and property owners on questions and proposals related to the historic district, new development, and design standards. It reports to the Planning and Zoning Board (P&Z). It is designed to reflect community values and it serves in an advisory capacity only; it will in no way serve to restrict property owners in ways they do not voluntarily accept or might otherwise be restricted through existing codes or ordinances.

- **Playhouse Smithville:** An active community theater located on Main Street. Founded in 2009, Playhouse Smithville produces about ten main-stage productions each year and has hosted many community events including the Smithville Music & Film Commission Reel Film Expo and several films in the Texas Independent Film Network Texas Filmmaker series, the “Let’s Talk About It” panel discussion/music event through the Smithville Public Library, and the speakers for the Smithville Green Expo, to name just a few. The Playhouse also enhanced the Smithville Ghost Tour by working in association with the Bastrop County Paranormal Association in September 2012. www.playhousesmithville.com



“Oz, Enchantment of the Sovereign”—the October 2013 Playhouse Smithville Production.
www.playhousesmithville.com

- **StoryCorps @ your library:** In spring 2013, the Smithville Public Library (SPL) was one of ten libraries across the country to be awarded the pilot “StoryCorps @ your library” program, which provided training, equipment, and some funding for promotion and a listening event in this community. Projects that the Library has initiated to best utilize the training and equipment include the “Veterans Stories” project (discussed in more detail in the Veterans Memorial Park section), “Artists Stories” and “Telling Local History through Stories” projects. The Artists Stories seeks to pair local artists with students in Junior High and Senior High art classes and to develop a list of Great Questions (using the StoryCorps model). The History project seeks to bring local historians together through this conversational format to get them to discuss the things they have researched about local history. SPL continuously seeks grant funding for projects that can enhance the StoryCorps programming capabilities.
- **West End Park & the Chittlin’ Trail Circuit:** West End Park is a landmark of local African-American culture and one of the stops on the Chittlin’ Trail Circuit, a string of entertainment venues that stretched from the Cotton Club in New York City to the Victory Grill in Austin. These performance halls provided safe venues for African-Americans to meet when racial segregation was in full swing throughout the eastern and southern U.S. Recently, the Smithville Heritage Society was able to procure signage for this important historic site through the Texas Historic Commission’s “Undertold Stories” program (the marker is at the foundry at the time of this writing and will be installed as soon as possible).
- **Riverbend Park:** Smithville’s largest park encompassing 50 acres of land. It features a large open area, softball field, volleyball courts, a pavilion, a fenced in area for large events which includes

2015 Smithville Cultural District Business Plan



two permanent stages and a dance floor, a disc golf course, a large playground, 19 campsite pads with restrooms and showers along with a dump station and a boat ramp.

- **MLK Park:** Located at the corner of MLK and Marburger adjacent to the Little League Fields, MLK Park features a set of swings, a space arc, basketball goals, picnic tables and BBQ pits and is a frequent host of community events and programs. The Smithville Public Library hosts “Bookworms in the Park” at the MLK and two other locations to bring the library and book exchange opportunities to communities that are often hard-pressed to get to Main Street.
- **Veterans Memorial Park:** The Veterans Memorial Park is designed to pay tribute to our brave men and women in uniform. It honors their sacrifice (the Angel, taking their dog tags “Homeward”), their service (over 4,000 names are on the walls of honor), and the freedom they have fought to preserve (embodied by the children playing in the splashpark). Veterans have important personal stories to tell. The data collected through this program will be included in a searchable database on the internet housed at the Smithville Public Library for those pursuing genealogical information and for those interested in veterans’ lives. The Friends of the Veterans Memorial Park, a completely volunteer group, is working with the community to get living veterans to tell their stories. StoryCorps, a program with the National Library of Congress, came to Bastrop County in the summer of 2010 and gathered 24 stories that are also housed at the Smithville Public Library.
- **Artist of the Year:** Each year, the LPAA requests nominations for the “Artist of the Year” to be recognized during the Chamber of Commerce Banquet each spring. That artist will receive a plaque of recognition, will be featured in the local paper, and will be permanently recorded on the Cultural District website. The artist would subsequently display work at the LPAA Art Center and Gallery Spaces and potentially at a variety of other locations around town including the Smithville Public Library and any relevant Main Street storefronts. The first artist to receive this award, William (Bill) Harvey McGlaun, died shortly before the award could be presented to him in 2015.



Richard D. Latham, with Monty McGlaun, and Billy McGlaun to receive the “Artist of the Year” award for William (Bill) H. McGlaun at the 2015 Chamber of Commerce Banquet. Photo by Fran Hunter.

PROPOSED PROJECTS (so far)

- **Renovate the Mary Nichols’ Art Center:** As one of Smithville’s important historic homes and current center of life for arts classes, workshops, meetings, gallery space, and gift shopping, the Mary Nichols’ Art Center needs to be kept in good shape. Currently, it needs a number of substantial repairs that are not feasible within the confines of the LPAA or City budgets. Specific needs include: foundation repair; upstairs porch renovation; repair to termite damage; build ADA compliant bathroom on first floor; renovations for “Student Artist in Residence” program; as well as a number of other smaller repairs. In 2015, a renovation fund has been established to help LPAA attain the approximately \$280,000 it needs to fix up this old house.
- **Student Residency Program:** The Cultural District, LPAA, and Sam Houston State University are currently working to create a program that will identify students in the Sam Houston Fine Arts Department and who are studying Arts and Rural Economic Development Programs to stay at the Mary Nichols’ House for a semester. The Mary Nichols’ Art Center will provide living space, and

2015 Smithville Cultural District Business Plan



an existing university internship program at Sam Houston would identify potential student candidates. In return for lodging, a modest stipend, and a terrific experience in a small, rural Texas town, students would agree to collaborate on special exhibits of their work and “meet & greet” events, work with the schools through the Enrichment Days program, teach community art classes at the Art Center and the like.

- **Mural at DAEP:** A mural depicting Smithville’s history is proposed for the metal DAEP building, adjacent to the new Independence Park, to celebrate the site of the first Western settler in Smithville, Dr. Thomas Jefferson Gazely and other historic moments in Smithville.
- **Cultural District Small Business Low Interest Loan Program:** The Steering Committee volunteers will work together with the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Smithville to encourage local banks to create a Cultural District Small Business Low Interest Loan Program that will be offered to qualified businesses in the proposed Cultural District. Local banks will be approached to find out the feasibility of creating a direct, low-interest loan program for current owners or new investors of commercial building for purchase/renovation of existing buildings or construction of the new buildings in the Cultural District through the Community Reinvestment Act and/or other economic development programs.
- **Arts Incentive Program:** Members of the Cultural District Steering Committee are examining the possibility of an Arts Incentive Program to be made available to all building owners in the proposed Cultural District and Overlay. This program would help building owners market their empty commercial space to capitalized, working artists at below market rates. In return for the rental assistance from the building owners, renters will agree to accept the space “as is” and agree to improve the space at their own expense. This incentive program will include an application process wherein the potential renter will be asked to present a business plan, provide proof of financial solvency, and meet other requirements as established by the Steering Committee and any participating building owner. Playhouse Smithville is an existing model for the building-owner / artist-renter relationship this program intends to foster. For a below-market rate, Playhouse Smithville has rented and become responsible for enhancing the space through routine maintenance as well as larger-scale improvements like installing central heat and air. Several other building owners of currently empty spaces have also expressed their interest in following the Playhouse Smithville model.
- **Investor Book/Map of Available Vacant Properties:** With an eye toward attracting artists to the Cultural District core, the Cultural District Steering Committee also proposes to follow the lead of the Mississippi Main Street Association by creating an “Investor Book of Available Vacant Properties” and an “Investor Map of Vacant Properties” to communicate to working artists about available space and opportunities in Smithville. The Investor Book will include photos of each property, a written description, a “what I could use this property for” checklist, and room for notes on each page. Smithville has already seen the revitalization of two historic properties on Main Street. One of these properties immediately attracted an artist who now has a thriving dance studio (Smooth Moves Dance Studio) on Smithville’s historic Main Street.
- **Comprehensive Plan Ideas:** The 2011 Smithville Comprehensive Plan outlines several short-term recommendations intended to provide a “jump start” to making a difference, laying a foundation of success for larger, more intensive projects. Some of these include: working with the Hyatt to bring more tours to Smithville; establishing Heritage Tourism in partnership with the Smithville Heritage Society; and carrying out proposed Historic revitalization programs and awards through the efforts of the newly-established Historic Preservation and Design Standards Advisory Committee. Longer-term recommendations reflect the need for greater public and private investment, commitment from the community, and coordination to be successful.

2015 Smithville Cultural District Business Plan



- **Art Space and Co-Op Artisan Malls:** The Steering Committee seeks to find appropriate programs that will assist the “starving artists” in our community to build both their portfolios and their pocketbooks. The Steering Committee commits to examining this issue in more detail to develop a workable solution for struggling artists, whether incoming or currently living here. A key element to future Cultural District programming includes an “Art Space” concept, which would help attract artists to the reasonable, affordable housing and studio space in town to help protect them from the effects of potential gentrification. The Steering Committee will also research the possibility of developing Co-op Artisan Malls in this vein, which would be available to commercially viable artists, musicians, and writers. Several locations in town would be appropriate studio spaces for fine arts and artisans, including several empty storefronts on Main Street.

According to the 2010 Census, 1,807 housing units are habitable in city limits, including 282 with one bedroom, 582 with two bedrooms, and 15 efficiencies. About 41% of the population rents their homes and 625 units are for rent in town. The median monthly rent is \$598 and nearly 20% pay less than \$300 monthly towards rent. Rent is less than 35% of household income for about 56% of the population that rents. Of the 540 homes that have a mortgage, about 41% pay less than \$1,000 a month, median monthly mortgages are \$1,097, and mortgage costs are less than 35% of household income for 75% of the Smithville population.

Collaborative Programs

- **Celebrating Artists Banner Program:** The Cultural District will initially work with the Jr. High and Sr. High art classes and/or with Enrichment Days (SEF and LPAA) to have a contest with students to get their artwork throughout the town’s “Avenue of the Arts” as banners. MLK Park and the Public Library would anchor the “Avenue of the Arts” which would run along MLK Blvd, SH 95, NE 2nd Street, and Main Street. The intention would be, depending on funding, to have one or two banner programs in play each year to be rotated in with other special event banners (such as patriotic banners, general community/civic banners, and seasonal banners) Each rotation would be tied to a Chamber of Commerce “Mixer” at local downtown businesses to give out prizes for top artists and call attention to the program and its participants. Banners would have the artists’ work, appropriate identification (such as the students’ first name and ages), and the Cultural District logo/website info. The Cultural District is applying to the National Endowment for the Arts: Our Town for a grant that would, in part, provide initial funding for this program.
- **Foundation for Accessible Music Education:** Partnership with an existing organization is preferable. The local coordinators would work in partnership with the Smithville Independent School District to collect, refurbish, and distribute musical instruments to school-aged children who need them. It would maintain and update a list of music teachers outside SISD who would be willing to provide lessons for students at reduced rates or for “in-kind” services.
- **Smithville Indoor Farmers’ Market:** Several people have expressed interest in the possibility of bringing an indoor farmers’ market to Smithville to replace the farmers’ market that moved to Elgin in 2013. Some ideas have been to create a kind of incubator space for local farmers, to work with Brookshire Brothers (the local grocery store) to shelve local farmers’ produce, to work with local farmers to create a “Community-Supported Agriculture” program for the Smithville area (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community-supported_agriculture for some information about the logistics and success of this type of program nationally).
- **Movie Theater and Children’s Museum:** An independent investor is working on this project at the Rabb McCollum building on Main Street and Loop 230.

2015 Smithville Cultural District Business Plan



Recognition for Individual Artists

- **Artist in Residence:** LPAA hopes to eventually coordinate housing and seek capitalized, working artists to join our community for a relatively short time. A few events like special exhibits of the artist's work and "meet and greets" as well as collaboration with the schools to bring the artist into art classes and so on will be requested of the artists, but mainly they would get a studio space and living space for a specified length of time.
- **Sculptures on Main Street:** (Inspired by the "Sculpture on Main at Marble Falls, TX" <http://sculptureonmain.com>.) Each year, a juried competition with artists will be held for sculpture to be put on display on Main Street. Artists would pay a relatively nominal entry fee and would be able to sell their work when the display period is over. LPAA would work with the City to create concrete slabs along Main Street where works would be displayed. The fee would go towards the plaques that describe the artwork (artist name, title, price, and Cultural District Logo—possibly also a QR code to link to the program website). Artists would show their work for about six months on the street. Buyers would take the artwork after the six-month show period is over. This program would raise funds for Cultural District programming.
- **Cultural District Yard Art Award:** Yard art would be judged annually and winners would get a sign in their yard designating them as the winner of the Cultural District Yard Art Award. The Smithville Times would be notified and asked to post a photo and story in the paper.
- **Sculpture Trail:** Once the proposed hike/bike trail is complete that joins Independence Park with the Colorado River, artists would be invited to provide sculptures along the path for an "artwalk" experience. Sculpture installation would be invitational, with a \$5K limit per statue.

Additional Suggested Events

- **LPAA Color Run:** In partnership with the Smithville Parks and Recreation Department (which already sponsors a number of fun runs throughout the year), LPAA would model this event on the "Color Run" (see www.thecolorrun.com). It would be a fun way to raise funds for the LPAA and to bring runners who follow this kind of tour to town.
- **Taste of Smithville:** Local and guest chefs would prepare fare for food fans. This would include culinary demonstrations, vendors, food tasting and would feature a contest by taster survey. The event would be ticketed.
- **Art in the Park:** A seasonal event. Artists would be invited to vend wares and provide demonstrations in the Gazebo Park (formerly known as "First Saturday"). There would be no fee to attend.
- **Chalk the Walk:** A springtime event, Chalk the Walk would take place on Main Street. Children would be provided chalk and a square to decorate for \$5 (for a small box of 9) or \$18 (for a large box of 16). Peer judging by age groups.
- **Sand Sculpture Day:** Could be a contest, possibly part of a larger event. Ribbons would be awarded from Novice to Expert level.



Photo of "The Color Run" from:
http://www.sippycupmom.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Chicago_ColorThrow_EDIT.jpg

2015 Smithville Cultural District Business Plan



Financial Plan for Cultural District Programming

Expenses

LPA A FY=July 1 to June 30

| | FY 2014-15 ACTUAL | FY 2015-16 BUDGET | FY 2016-17 PROJECTED |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Staff Expenditures | | | |
| Staff Costs* | \$5,182.56 | \$5,182.56 | \$5,182.56 |
| Director/Manager Salary | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Director/Manager Benefits | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Support Staff Salary | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Travel Expenditures | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Subtotal: Staff Expenditures | \$5,182.56 | \$5,182.56 | \$5,182.56 |

* All labor is volunteer-based with the exception of the City Grants Administrator, who expects to spend roughly 100-150 hours annually on Cultural District activities.

| | FY 2014-15 ACTUAL | FY 2015-16 BUDGET | FY 2016-17 PROJECTED |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Operating Costs | | | |
| Rent: Mary Nichols' Art Center | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Liability Insurance on Art Center | \$425.00 | \$425.00 | \$425.00 |
| Utilities: Mary Nichols' Art Center | \$1,650.00 | \$1,700.00 | \$1,700.00 |
| Rent: Gallery on Main | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Utilities: Gallery on Main** (FY 2013-14 = 9 months) | \$450.00 | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |
| Telephone/Communications | \$366.00 | \$300.00 | \$300.00 |
| Office Supplies | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| Office Equipment | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Postage | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Printing/Photocopying | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Gallery Improvements | \$1,042.13 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 |
| Building Maintenance/Renovation | \$206.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Subtotal: Operating Costs | \$4,239.13 | \$4,375.00 | \$4,375.00 |

* LPA A is housed in a city- owned historic building. At no additional cost, this will be the primary office space for cultural district/art center headquarters. Operating costs will be incurred by LPA A in the Mary Nichols' Art Center (and on Main St. at Samantics Squared, the Cultural District Visitors' Center).

** LPA A is providing a \$50 credit towards utilities to the owner of Samantics Squared each month for purchase of artwork, which will be paid directly to the artist.

2016 Our Town Grant App.

COS FY=Oct 1 to Sept 30

| FY 2016-17 | FY 2017-18 |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| \$24,900.00 * | \$24,900.00 * |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$24,900.00 | \$24,900.00 |

* COS In-Kind Salaries for Grants Administrator, Library Director, and Library Staff

| FY 2016-17 | FY 2017-18 |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$425.00 | \$425.00 |
| \$1,500.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| NA | NA |
| NA | NA |
| \$300.00 | \$300.00 |
| \$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| \$200.00 | \$0.00 |
| see marketing | see marketing |
| see marketing | see marketing |
| NA | NA |
| NA | NA |
| \$2,525.00 | \$2,325.00 |



2015 Smithville Cultural District Business Plan

| | FY 2014-15 ACTUAL | FY 2015-16 BUDGET | FY 2016-17 PROJECTED |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Contract Costs | | | |
| Advertising/Public Relations | \$790.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Professional Service Fees* | \$1,350.00 | \$2,000.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| Our Town Program Coordinator | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Cultural District Action Plan Consultant*** | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$13,000.00 |
| Other | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Subtotal: Contract Costs | \$2,140.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$16,000.00 |

* Includes Artist Design Fees and Consultant Fees.

*** We are seeking funding for this project, but will not include it if we do not get a grant.

| | FY 2014-15 ACTUAL | FY 2015-16 BUDGET | FY 2016-17 PROJECTED |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Program Costs | | | |
| Cultural Resources Committee | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Business Development Committee | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Marketing/Promotion Committee | \$2,423.01 | \$2,500.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| Organization Committee | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Design Committee | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Enrichment Days | \$4,006.98 | \$6,000.00 | \$8,000.00 |
| Student Artist in Residence * | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Other | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Contingency | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Subtotal: Program Costs | \$6,429.99 | \$8,500.00 | \$10,500.00 |

* This figure assumes that the Cultural District is awarded the 2016 NEA Our Town grant. If we do not get the grant, we will not support this line item.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total Anticipated Expenditures | \$17,991.68 | \$21,057.56 | \$36,057.56 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|

| FY 2016-17 | FY 2017-18 |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$20,000.00 ** | \$20,000.00 ** |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$20,000.00 | \$20,000.00 |

** This figure assumes that the Cultural District is awarded the 2016 NEA Our Town grant, which includes an annual salary for a part-time Project Coordinator at \$20K/year for two years. If we do not get the grant, we will not support this line item.

| FY 2016-17 | FY 2017-18 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$750.00 * | \$750.00 * |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$4,000.00 ** | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$4,750.00 | \$750.00 |

* The \$1,500 total includes \$500 match from City

** A one-year pilot program for four months. May occur in either year.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| \$52,175.00 | \$47,975.00 |
|--------------------|--------------------|



2015 Smithville Cultural District Business Plan

Financial Plan for Cultural District Programming

Revenue

| Anticipated Sources of Income | FY 2013-14 ACTUAL | FY 2014-15 BUDGET | FY 2015-16 PROJECTED |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Government (City / County) | \$750.00 | \$1,500.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| City (In-Kind Salary for Grants Administrator) | \$5,182.56 | \$5,182.56 | \$5,182.56 |
| Partnership: Smithville Education Foundation | \$2,000.00 | \$6,000.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| Partnership: Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance | \$6,559.12 | \$4,375.00 | \$4,375.00 |
| Grants | \$3,500.00 | \$4,000.00 | \$15,000.00 |
| Loans | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Donations and Fundraising Efforts | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$8,000.00 |
| Total Income | \$17,991.68 | \$21,057.56 | \$36,057.56 |

| FY 2016-17 | FY 2017-18 |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| \$250.00 | \$250.00 |
| \$24,900.00 * | \$24,900.00 * |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$41,500.00 ** | \$33,500.00 ** |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$66,650.00 | \$58,650.00 |

* COS In-Kind Salaries for Grants Administrator, Library Director, and Library Staff, Our Town Grant
 ** Our Town Grant Total Request: \$75,000

In-Kind

| Anticipated Sources of In-Kind* | FY 2013-14 ACTUAL | FY 2014-15 BUDGET | FY 2015-16 PROJECTED |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Volunteer Docents (50 weeks/yr, 15 hours each week, 1.25 people on average) | \$23,118.75 | \$23,118.75 | \$23,118.75 |
| Enrichment Days Volunteers (6 to 8 sessions/yr, average 12 volunteers @ 8 hrs per session) | \$14,204.16 | \$18,938.88 | \$18,938.88 |
| Cultural District Steering Committee: Quarterly meetings (15 volunteers, 4 meetings, 2 hrs each) | \$2,367.36 | \$2,367.36 | \$2,367.36 |
| Cultural District Fundraising Activities (40 hours on average for 12 volunteers for two events) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$23,673.60 |
| Specific Cultural District Events (30 hours on average for 12 volunteers for one event) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$8,877.60 |
| Market Value of Rent for Gallery Space (\$0.25/sq ft * 1000 sq ft = \$250/month) (FY 2013-14 = 9 months) | \$2,250.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| Market Value of Rent for Mary Nichols Art Center for Office Space and for Studio Apartment in Our Town Grant | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Income | \$18,821.52 | \$24,306.24 | \$56,857.44 |

| FY 2016-17 | FY 2017-18 |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$34,600.00 * | \$34,600.00 * |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$13,800.00 ** | \$13,800.00 ** |
| \$48,400.00 | \$48,400.00 |

* Value of in-kind volunteer hours based on Independent Sector calculations for the State of Texas: \$24.66 (see www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time retrieved on August 15, 2015)

* "One Book, One Community" project
 ** \$450/month office space and \$750/month studio

2015 Smithville Cultural District Business Plan



DEED

OFFICIAL RECORDS

VOL 618 PAGE 570

DEED OF GIFT

7229

Date: November 23, 1991

Grantor: BESS HARRIS JONES, Individually and as Attorney in fact for the remaining heirs of Robert Lee Nichols and Mary W. Nichols, deceased.

Grantor's Mailing Address

3303 Greenlee,
Austin, Travis County, Texas 78703

Grantee: The City of Smithville, Texas

Grantee's Mailing Address:

City of Smithville
P.O. Box 449
Smithville, Bastrop County, Texas 78957

Consideration:

In the interest of the promotion of the corporate purposes of the City of Smithville, Texas; to foster Municipal growth in the City of Smithville, Texas; and to promote the fine arts.

Property (including any improvements):

The property is Lot 7 (FR) and 8, Block 25, Smithville Townsite, Bastrop County, Texas, commonly known as 303 Burleson, Smithville, Texas.

Grantor, for the consideration, GIVES, GRANTS, AND CONVEYS to Grantee the property, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in any wise belonging, to have and hold unto Grantee, Grantee's successors or assigns forever. Grantor binds Grantor and grantor's heirs, executors, administrators, and successors to warrant and forever defend all and singular the property to Grantee and Grantee's successors and assigns against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof; by, through or under us, but not otherwise.

Bess Harris Jones
Bess Harris Jones,
Individually and as Attorney
in fact for the remaining
heirs of Robert Lee Nichols
and Mary W. Nichols, deceased

VOL 618 PAGE 571

STATE OF TEXAS *

Travis

COUNTY OF BASTROP *

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 23rd day of November, 1991, by Bess Harris Jones, individually and in the capacity there in stated.

Patricia Anne Magee
Notary Public, State of Texas,
My Commission Expires Jan. 20, 1992

NOTARY SEAL

AFTER RECORDING RETURN TO:

Karl A. Maley
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1030
Smithville, Tx. 78957-1030

PREPARED IN THE LAW OFFICE OF:

Karl A. Maley
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1030
Smithville, Tx. 78957-1030

FILED DEC 13 1991

11:05 a M

Shirley H. Hadden
COUNTY CLERK
BASTROP COUNTY, TEXAS

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF BASTROP

I hereby certify that this instrument was FILED on the date and time stamped herein by me, and was duly RECORDED in the Public and Official Records of Bastrop County, Texas, as shown by the following:

DEC 19 1991

Shirley H. Hadden
COUNTY CLERK
BASTROP COUNTY, TEXAS

Any Person upon which Record is made, shall be liable for the payment of the Property Tax on the land or other interest therein, and shall be liable for the payment of the Property Tax on the land or other interest therein, and shall be liable for the payment of the Property Tax on the land or other interest therein.



2015 Smithville Cultural District Business Plan

LPAA IRS Determination Letter

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: AUG 06 2008

LOST PINES ARTISANS ALLIANCE
C/O LES WARREN
PO BOX 121
SMITHVILLE, TX 78957

Employer Identification Number:
84-1715122
DLN:
17053085358028
Contact Person:
JACK D NEITZEL ID# 95127
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
June 30
Public Charity Status:
509(a) (2)
Form 990 Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
September 10, 2007
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Advance Ruling Ending Date:
June 30, 2012
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. During your advance ruling period, you will be treated as a public charity. Your advance ruling period begins with the effective date of your exemption and ends with advance ruling ending date shown in the heading of the letter.

Shortly before the end of your advance ruling period, we will send you Form 8734, Support Schedule for Advance Ruling Period. You will have 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period to return the completed form. We will then notify you, in writing, about your public charity status.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Letter 1045 (DO/CG)

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LOST PINES ARTISANS ALLIANCE

We have sent a copy of this letter to your representative as indicated in your power of attorney.

Sincerely,

Robert Choi
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Enclosures: Publication 4221-PC
Statute Extension

Letter 1045 (DO/CG)



Evaluation of Success

The Cultural District Steering Committee understands that program evaluation is necessary and important to ensure that we are able to satisfy our community, our funders, and ourselves. To this effort, LPAA will seek to develop appropriate measures of success for each of the programs we are undertaking. Some of the measures already in use include membership numbers, attendance at each event, funds raised compared to the previous year/years, and anecdotal feedback from participants and members. A guest book at the gallery helps us keep account of the number of people who come to the gallery and where they come from. Their comments help us understand our strengths and what needs to be improved. For example, these are some of the numbers available through the Empty Bowl Project:

| Empty Bowl Evaluation | Apr 2015 | Apr 2014 | Apr 2013 | Apr 2012 | Evaluation Notes |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| Hours of Operation | 11AM-2PM | 11AM-2PM | 11AM-2PM | 11AM-4PM | Reduction in hours has not affected bottom line. |
| Total Empty Bowl Project Expenses | \$1,664.70 | \$1,352.11 | \$1,557.48 | \$2,162.97 | Expenses were up slightly in 2015 |
| Empty Bowl Project Disbursement | \$8,861.74 | \$8,200.59 | \$4,608.05 | \$4,243.67 | LPAA, Food Pantry, and Community Gardens each received 30%; 10% to: the Boys and Girls Club 2013; Angels Unaware in 2014 and 2015 |
| Raffle | \$841 | \$1,000.00 | \$1,050.00 | (NA) | The Raffle was a big success in the years it was used |
| Silent Auction | \$2,140.00 | \$2,427.50 | \$1,920.00 | \$1,421.00 | Silent Auction declined slightly last year |
| Bowls & Other Donations | \$3,313.35 | \$3,835.00 | \$4,016.00 | \$5,137.36 | Donations were down, likely because the event was shorter & sponsors were up. |
| Sponsors | \$4,232.09 | \$3,190.00 | \$1,870.00 | \$1,800.00 | Sponsorships continue to increase. |

Another measure of success is the partnership that has been established with SISD as a result of this program's inception in 2011 and the ability to bring an additional component of art to schools, while simultaneously teaching the value of service to our students. They are told why they are being asked to create this art, and what it means for the community. They willingly give their time and talents to this project, they are learning what it means to be a volunteer, and that anyone, no matter what their circumstances, can be a valuable member of our community.

Although bowl sales and overall donations were down in 2013 and 2014, primarily based on the shorter time frame of the event, it is important to note that the partners raised more funds overall through a terrific increase in sponsorships with less work. The auction and the introduction of the raffle made a big difference in the bottom line.

These measures will be even more important for future programs as we seek foundation and grant funding needed to implement Cultural District programs.



MAJOR PROJECT: Estimated Expenses of the Renovations/Repair of the Mary Nichols' Art Center

Exner Contracting

Keith Exner
1370 PR 3272
Lincoln TX, 78948
(979) 255-8586

DATE

October 27, 2014

NAME: Art Gallery project
CONTACT: Cammy Snyder
ADDRESS: 301 Burleson
Smithville, TX 78957

| | Job | Cost |
|----------------|---|--------------|
| Demo | Demo existing concrete under pinning, adjust framing, and install wall decking with a moisture barrier. | \$ 6,095.00 |
| Stone pinning | Install faux stone pinning. 1400 sq.ft. | \$ 22,900.00 |
| ADA Bathroom | 7X14 Bathroom add on | \$ 24,500.00 |
| ADA ramp | New ADA ramp with 5x7 landing and railings | \$ 2,350.00 |
| Painting | Interior re-paint. Prep, Prime, Top coat, Stain, and Seal. | \$ 17,500.00 |
| | Exterior- Sand, Prep, Prime new material, and Top coat. | \$ 19,500.00 |
| Floor | Sand and re-stain wood floors | \$ 9,640.00 |
| | Replace sheet vinyl in existing kitchen and bathroom | |
| | Tile upstairs bathroom floor | |
| Windows | Replace all 47 windows in house in style to be determined | \$ 28,200.00 |
| | \$600 dollar allowance per window | |
| Window install | \$140 dollars per window | \$ 6,580.00 |
| Window mat | New window trim on exterior and replace stools inside | \$ 9,200.00 |
| Upstairs bath | Install new shower tub combo, vanity and toilet | \$ 4,700.00 |
| | Build half wall next to bath and sheetrock entire bathroom | |
| Kitchen rem. | Does not include pulls for cabinets | |
| Cabinets | 31 linear ft kitchen stain grade with raised panel door. | \$ 6,975.00 |

2015 Smithville Cultural District Business Plan



| | Job | Cost |
|---|---|----------------------|
| Countertops | 17 linear ft-Formica | \$ 1,530.00 |
| Sheetrock | Sheetrock ceilings in all areas containing ceiling tile and patch throughout. | \$ 12,000.00 |
| House level | Estimating 50 new piers | \$ 36,000.00 |
| Trim | Base trim, window stools, and shoe mould. Labor and material | \$ 2,050.00 |
| Front Porch | Material for rebuild on front Roof material and Labor. | \$ 7,400.00 |
| | Demo and rebuild to match existing style | |
| Framing | Frame out petition wall upstairs. Labor and material | \$ 360.00 |
| Demo | Interior demo of ceiling tile, drop in ceiling, and all trim for sheetrock. | \$ 500.00 |
| Frame kitchen | Frame out kitchen ceiling to install sheetrock.:. Material and labor | \$ 340.00 |
| Roof | Replace metal roof labor and material. 26 ga. Metal | \$ 11,500.00 |
| Roof deck | Replace roof deck. Labor and material. | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Interior Electric | Install new lighting in gallery area and new lights in upstairs classrooms. | |
| | Material and labor excluding light fixtures. | \$ 6,500.00 |
| Hvac | 3 ton 16seer electric heat pump (upstairs) | \$ 11,500.00 |
| Down Hvac | Allowance | \$ 11,500.00 |
| Insulation | Blow loose fill insulation in exterior walls. Labor and material | \$ 8,200.00 |
| Rental | Rental fees. | \$ 4,500.00 |
| Repair sunroom | Repair damaged areas around windows. Labor and material | \$ 4,500.00 |
| Dump fee. | 30 yd dumpster for removal of all debris. | \$ 3,500.00 |
| | | |
| | TOTAL ESTIMATE | \$ 275,320.00 |
| | | |
| ALL ESTIMATES ARE MADE THRU A NON INVASIVE VISUAL INSPECTION | | |
| BID SUBJECT TO CHANGE UPON DISCOVERY OF UNSEEN PROBLEMS | | |
| THANKS FOR LETTING EXNER CONTRACTING BID YOUR WORK | | |

2015 Smithville Cultural District Business Plan



CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
12/13/2013

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| PRODUCER Siegeler Insurance Agency 172 West Austin Street Giddings TX 78942-3294 | | CONTACT NAME: Jennifer Smith PHONE (A/C No. Ext.): (979) 542-3449 FAX (A/C No.): (979) 542-0469 E-MAIL: jsmith@siegins.com ADDRESS: | |
| INSURED Keith Exner, DBA: Exner Contracting 1370 PR 3272 Lincoln TX 78948 | | INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE INSURER A: Essex Insurance Company INSURER B: INSURER C: INSURER D: INSURER E: INSURER F: | |

COVERAGES **CERTIFICATE NUMBER:**13-14 **REVISION NUMBER:**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

| INSR LTR | TYPE OF INSURANCE | ADDL INSR | SUBR WVD | POLICY NUMBER | POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY) | POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY) | LIMITS |
|----------|---|--|----------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| A | GENERAL LIABILITY | | | 3DN7814 | 5/6/2013 | 5/6/2014 | EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 1,000,000 |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY | | | | | | DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) \$ 100,000 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR | | | | | | MED EXP (Any one person) \$ 5,000 |
| | | | | | | | PERSONAL & ADV INJURY \$ 1,000,000 |
| | | | | | | | GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ 2,000,000 |
| | GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: | | | | | | PRODUCTS - COMPIOP AGG \$ 2,000,000 |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLICY <input type="checkbox"/> PRO-JECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC | | | | | | \$ |
| | AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY | | | | | | COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) \$ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO | | | | | | BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> ALL OWNED AUTOS | <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS | | | | | BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS | <input type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS | | | | | PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) \$ |
| | UMBRELLA LIAB | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUR | | | | | \$ |
| | EXCESS LIAB | <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE | | | | | EACH OCCURRENCE \$ |
| | DED <input type="checkbox"/> RETENTION \$ | | | | | | AGGREGATE \$ |
| | WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY | | | | | | \$ |
| | ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? (Mandatory in NH) | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N | N/A | | | | WC STATU-TORY LIMITS <input type="checkbox"/> OTH-ER \$ |
| | If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below | | | | | | E.L. EACH ACCIDENT \$ |
| | | | | | | | E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE \$ |
| | | | | | | | E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT \$ |

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (Attach ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, if more space is required)

| | |
|---|--|
| CERTIFICATE HOLDER jonathon_snyder@live.com Jonathon Snyder 1050 HWY 95 South Smithville, TX 78957 | CANCELLATION SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE M T. Siegeler/JS |
|---|--|