



# **Kearns Arts Town Hall**

## **Meeting Report**

**June 2021**

## In Summary

**Introduction:** On May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the first Kearns Arts Town Hall was held. This event was hosted in partnership with Kearns Metro Township, Greater Salt Lake MSD, and Utah Division of Arts & Museums (UDAM). The Town Hall was facilitated over Zoom and took place from approximately 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this event was to begin gaging residents' interest in arts and culture programming in Kearns. Staff and partners wanted to understand what arts and culture amenities already exist in the community and what additional programs, amenities, or services were needed to support residents. In addition, this event served as a first step in understanding whether a Local Arts Agency (LAA) would be of interest to the Kearns community.

**Attendees:** The Arts Town Hall was well-attended for a virtual event, with eleven members of the public, two regional partners, two facilitators, and seven additional staff members. Overall, attendees represented a diverse segment of Kearns' population, including youth, artists, community leaders, and elected officials.

**Key Takeaways:** Several overarching themes emerged from this event.

- Participants showed strong interest in advancing arts, culture, and history in Kearns. They recognized the potential of the arts to activate spaces, provide recreational and educational value, and contribute to the identify of Kearns.
- Several important community partners participated in the event and expressed their support for these efforts. Present partners included: the Kearns Library, Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts & Parks (ZAP), and Salt Lake County Arts & Culture.
- Kearns and nearby municipalities do have assets that we can leverage to advance this work, including the Element Event Center (Kearns), Kearns Library, local parks, and the Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center (Taylorsville).
- Despite the aforementioned, participants felt there were few venues available for visual arts in Salt Lake Valley.
- Although existing programming in Kearns is limited, local artists seemed to know each other – indicating the presence of an organic community that could be utilized to help expand these efforts.
- Participants were extremely interested in preserving, showcasing, and engaging with Kearns' history through the arts.
- Several participants indicated that they wanted to see arts and culture programming used to engage diverse and underserved residents in planning and decision-making. The group discussed the importance of the arts for welcoming and including people of various backgrounds and identities.

Participant responses to the questions asked during the Arts Town Hall are recorded on the next few pages. **You may also listen to the [full event recording here](#).**

## **Town Hall Questions and Results**

### ***Where Do You Go to Attend Events, and What Kind of Events?***

- School system: plays, choir/band concerts
- Downtown SLC: Eccles
- Sandy: Hale
- Downtown Gallery Stroll
- Community theaters in Murray and Taylorsville
- Taylorsville Arts Center
- Magna: Empress
- USANA Amphitheater – concerts
- “Plein Air Painting Events” – Downtown Holladay
- Living Traditions Festival
- Park City
- Midway (Swiss Days)
- Spring City
- SLC: Urban Lounge, the Union, the Complex
- Tuacahn Theater
- Trade shows and fairs
- Sundance Film Festival
- Pioneer Memorial Theater
- Sandy Amphitheater
- Draper Amphitheater

### ***What Arts/Culture Related Events or Programs are Participants Looking Forward to this Summer?***

- Greek Festival
- Shakespeare Festival
- Pow-wows / Cultural Events
- Maroon 5 Concert (USANA?)
- Pride Festival
- Twilight Concert Series
- Plein Air Painters of Utah



### ***What Assets Do We Currently Have in Kearns?***

- Kearns Library: 3 murals (painted by Matt Monson – local, and including one on Kearns' past), small art display panels for art shows, auditorium w/ stage, getting a piano, have outdoor speakers, sound recording studio, maker space
- Tom Howard – artist and teacher
- Senior Center arts and crafts programs
- Marla Duggins – artist
- KOPFC and Oval Event Center
- Latinos in Action – Kearns High School
- Linear Park on 5400 S could be used for art shows or public installations
- Town Historian (Pam Todd)
- SLCo ZAP is a resource
- Roger Whiting of *Community Arts of Utah*– works with teens in the arts
- Kearns unique history
- Used to have Taste of Kearns Event that could potentially come back

### ***What Do You Want in a Cultural Community for Kearns?***

- Bring back Taste of Kearns Event
- Camp Kearns mural or history museum
- Plein Air Event (non-competitive)
- Peace gardens (similar to International in WVC)
- Programming for linear parks
- Murals
- Concerts, theater, community theater
- Partner w/ Fire, Water, Ice Festival
- Local art placed around the community
- Culturally-diverse food festival
- Arts in park
- Art classes and cooking classes, demonstrations at library
- Library plans to bring someone in to teach music classes
- Local farmer's market w/ arts and crafts component
- Partnerships between schools and w/ community partners
- Children's choir and theater, summer camps – things for elementary age students – allow them to perform
- Community garden
- Sequential arts programs, especially for aging
- Art therapy – ending in a show
- Something community engaging and participatory
- Linear park ways
- Engage Latinx Community and be welcoming to various languages

- Storytelling festival
- Neighborhood block parties
- Incorporate public art in H.S. area by train tracks

### ***What Spaces Could be Activated by Arts + Culture?***

- 5400 S by the 7-11
- Empty elementary school by the Library
- Community excited about interpretive panels – maybe in Oquirrh Park (underutilized walkways)
- Linear parks in Kearns
- Community Garden at Kearns H.S. (by the railroad tracks)
- Lack of art studio venues; artists have been kicked out by apartments (how do we create artist live/work spaces that are successful?)
- Combined dance / art / studio / shared space.
- Oquirrh Park Lawn Space

### ***What are the Perceived Benefits of Forming a Local Arts Agency (LAA)?***

- Advocacy and coordination of ideas
- Create identity
- Additional events, lift spirits
- Community beautification
- Community pride
- Overcome bad reputation
- Representation through art (diversity)
- Get connected to funding and other support resources

**What Are Our Next Steps?** On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Kayla Mauldin (MSD Long Range Planner) will present the results of the Town Hall to the Kearns Council. The presentation will cover key takeaways as well as possible next steps for the community. Staff plans to continue engaging with residents over the summer, starting with the Night Out Against Crime Event on June 18<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in staying engaged with these efforts or possibly joining a working group dedicated to Arts, Culture, & History in Kearns, please contact Kayla ([KMauldin@msd.utah.gov](mailto:KMauldin@msd.utah.gov)).

**To learn more about planning efforts in Kearns, please visit <https://bit.ly/lrp-kearns>.**

**Interested in learning more about Local Arts Agencies (LAA)? [See the Utah Division of Arts & Museums Website.](#)**