



Arts Longview
P.O. Box 1952
Longview, TX 75606

April 30, 2019

Dear Arts Longview,

I developed a love for the arts at a young age growing up in Houston. There were many opportunities for my parents to expose me to a variety of experiences within the arts, teaching me to love and appreciate all art forms. As an adult my love for the arts has grown as I have watched my children find their places and thrive within our arts community in their own ways.

My husband and I decided that we would call Longview home and raise a family here after spending our undergraduate years at LeTourneau University. One of the things I have always loved about Longview is the diversity of the city, the people and culture. I love how our city has a passion for all of the arts in so many different forms and a Cultural Arts District designation will help ensure that amazing arts opportunities continue to be available to children and adults alike well into our city's future.

My own involvement with Longview Ballet Theatre has helped me to find my own voice in supporting the arts, initially as the parent of a dancer and currently as the Executive Director. I am excited about the future of the arts in our city. Whether it's the symphony, children's theatre, ballet, or a museum, there are always opportunities to help educate, preserve and promote the arts. Not only will a Cultural Arts District designation help expand our arts, but it will help provide opportunities and experiences for future generations.

Sincerely,

Courtney Armstrong
Executive Director
Longview Ballet Theatre

Courtney Armstrong
Executive Director

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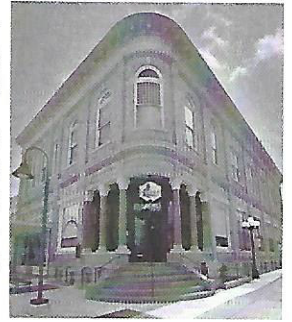
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Richard Manley
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Karen Williams
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pat george mitchell
founder/artistic director

P.O. Box 2602 • Longview, Texas 75606

GREGG COUNTY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM

P.O. Box 3342
Longview, Texas 75606
903-753-5840
Fax: 903-753-5854
www.gregghistorical.org



April 30, 2019

Arts Longview
PO Box 1952
Longview, TX 75606

Arts Longview,

The Gregg County Historical Museum is proud to support Arts Longview's grant application to the Texas Commission on the Arts for a Cultural District designation for Longview, Texas. The benefits of an Arts District would be so beneficial for Longview's cultural and arts organizations, and help our city increase tourism and economic development. This Cultural Arts designation will open up so many opportunities for the Gregg County Historical Museum and our fellow arts groups.

The Gregg County Historical Museum has been part of the Longview community since 1964 and would be proud to have Longview be a cultural arts destination for East Texas. From ballet, to symphony, to a wonderful children's science museum, Longview offers so much for a community of our size. A Cultural Arts District would only make our city better and offer even more opportunities for cultural growth.

Thank you,

Lindsay Loy
Executive Director
Gregg County Historical Museum.

Connecting our past with the future



East Texas Symphonic Band

P.O. BOX 251 • LONGVIEW, TEXAS 75606
www.etsymphonicband.org

April 19, 2019

Mr. Jim Bob McMillan, Deputy Director
Texas Commission on the Arts
Post Office Box 13406
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. McMillan,

The East Texas Symphonic Band Board of Directors wishes to enthusiastically support the efforts of Arts!Longview to secure from the Texas Commission on the Arts a Cultural Arts District designation for the City of Longview. We appreciate the diligent efforts that the task force has been making toward this worthy goal. We know that the Cultural Arts District proposed within Longview's downtown and including the Belcher Center at LeTourneau University could spur economic development there and in other parts of the city, benefiting all arts groups, including the ETSB.

The East Texas Symphonic Band was formed in 1988 to offer non-professional adult and student musicians a way to continue sharing their love of music performance with the city and East Texas area. We are extremely thankful to receive hotel/motel tax funding from the city, as it allows us to perform at the Belcher Center, and with the yearly amount available dependent upon tourism, we welcome the potential of a Cultural Arts District designation to spur increased arts tourism to Longview. We are looking forward to continuing our collaboration with the other arts groups, large and small, to draw visitors to our wonderful city.

We are happy to assist Arts!Longview in any way to bring this effort to fruition for Longview, and we hope that the Commission will grant our city this honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Karen Maines'.

Karen Maines, President
East Texas Symphonic Band



**313 West Tyler
Longview, Texas 75601**

Arts!Longview

P. O. Box 1952

Longview, TX 75606

April 30, 2019

Dear Arts!Longview,

The arts have been alive in Longview since its founding and continue to thrive today. Longview is exploding not only with great arts activities, but also with unique cuisine, history at every turn, and exquisite cultural activities for young and old alike. Our downtown area finds its residents and tourists flocking to eateries, partaking in festivals, and enjoying the visual and performing arts, while the Belcher Center hosts world renown performances by international performers, as well as our fabulous home grown arts groups, like the Symphony and Ballet.

ArtsView Children's Theatre is both excited and honored to be a part of the future cultural district, and we support the mission and vision of Arts!Longview. We believe the Texas Commission on the Arts' gift of bestowing the title of Cultural District upon this section of the city would allow Longview to become the regional hub of arts, culture, and history, potentially spurring cultural growth in surrounding cities. It is our hope that this district comes to fruition and our arts programming continues to grow by leaps and bounds.

With utmost regards,

Michelle L. Norris

General Manager & Artistic Director

903.236.7535

mnorris@artsviiewact.com



Arts! Longview
P.O. Box 1952
Longview, TX 75606

May 2, 2019

Dear Arts!Longview,

Longview Museum of Fine Arts is thrilled the time has finally come to pursue the Texas Commission on the Arts Cultural District Designation!

The LMFA Board of Directors and staff believe Longview is uniquely situated and positioned to become the next Cultural Arts District in Northeast Texas. Community leaders and arts lovers are working together and are of like-mind to make Longview’s arts district a reality. The energy and synergy between the city and the various arts groups is palatable.

LMFA is invested in downtown and committed to being one of the cultural cornerstones of the district. To that end, LMFA is focused on bringing world-class art exhibitions to Longview that will enrich lives and ignite a passion for the arts. We believe with the construction of new downtown living opportunities and the excitement between the arts groups and the city that downtown will continue to grow and be a vibrant part of the Longview’s identity and the heart of our community.

Thank you Arts!Longview for all you are doing to make this dream a reality.

Artfully Yours,

Tiffany Nolan Jehorek
Executive Director & Curator of Exhibitions

- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / CURATOR
Tiffany Nolan Jehorek
- ARTWORKS DIRECTOR
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April 30, 2019

Arts Longview
PO Box 1952
Longview, TX 75606

Dear Arts Longview,

The Longview Symphony is proud to support Arts Longview's grant application to the Texas Commission on the Arts for a Cultural district for our city. We are excited to see the changes that will come with this designation-- to bring more arts appreciation and awareness throughout the city of Longview and surrounding areas.

The Longview Symphony has been a part of Longview for 50 years and firmly believes this Cultural arts designation will help as we reach more people with beautiful music in Longview.

Thank you for your work and the Longview Symphony is excited for the future of the arts in Longview.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Tooley". The signature is written in a fluid, cursive style.

Erin Tooley
Executive Director, Longview Symphony



Theatre Longview

April 27, 2019

Arts Longview
PO Box 1952
Longview, TX 75606

Dear Arts Longview:

Theatre Longview is happy to support Arts Longview's grant application to the Texas Commission of the Arts for a Cultural District designation for our city. Our community has a number of arts programs that enhance the quality of life in this community. The arts give way to creative outlets for our citizens and create an atmosphere of love, togetherness, and value.

Your work in this endeavor will create benefits to Longview for many years, including economic growth through increased tourism, jobs, and business development. This area is quickly becoming one well known for their arts and the many arts opportunities. By strengthening the cultural and educational activities for our community, Longview will become a more successful and desirable district.

As a non-profit community theatre, we could not survive without the support of our community. Our district loves the arts and wants to see cultural and art communities thrive and succeed. Theatre Longview is still in its infancy and is flourishing. The people of our community love that they have the opportunity to locally be apart of theatre whether through stage productions or other educational outlets. We believe in Longview and its potential to become a cultural arts designation for East Texas. There is no better place for it than right here. We attract visitors from across the country to our events. A Cultural District designation would help our community to build on their success exponentially.

Thank you for all that you do for our community. We fully stand by and support your efforts.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L Stout

Jennifer L Stout
TL Board President

PO BOX 5165, LONGVIEW TX 75608
(903) 431-0224
theatre@theatrelongview.com

Follow us on Facebook: [Theatre Longview](#)

Website: www.theatrelongview.com



April 28, 2019

Arts Longview
P.O. Box 1952
Longview, TX 75606

Dear Arts Longview,

Longview World of Wonders, a.k.a. LongviewWOW, wholeheartedly supports Longview's application to receive a Cultural District designation through the Texas Commission on the Arts. As a recipient of Cultural Activities Advisory Commission grant dollars for the past several years, we can attest that such a designation would enhance Longview's goals of being recognized for our flourishing creative activities, a bustling downtown sector, and new and growing opportunities for education and cultural awareness.

LongviewWOW has been joining with several other cultural arts entities in trying to establish Longview as destination for tourism in East Texas. We know we are succeeding because we have visitors from across the country. Longview's designation as a Cultural District will enrich our city for many years in various ways, including business and economic growth, establishing further tourism destinations, increased job opportunities, and advancing local cultural and educational development through the arts.

LongviewWOW sincerely appreciates the time, effort, and thought put into consideration. We will always be a part of our ever-growing cultural community.

Many Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stacey Thompson
Executive Director, Longview World of Wonders



April 30, 2019

Jim Bob McMillan, Deputy Director
Texas Commission on the Arts
Post Office Box 13406
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Jim Bob,

I am writing to express my strong support for designating Longview, Texas as a Cultural Arts District. As Director of Development for the Longview Symphony, and Fundraising Chair for the Longview Arboretum and Nature Center, I know how productive cooperation and communication among the arts groups can be. Longview is a cultural hub for this rural section of East Texas, and our arts groups have broad support from numerous communities around us. I believe that by designating a Cultural Arts District, our efforts to provide entertainment, dining, and cultural events will be strengthened and multiplied. The Arboretum, while on the fringe of the Cultural Arts District map, will benefit through enhanced communication and collaboration with the other arts groups. This five million dollar park is opening in the fall of 2019, and we are already planning events in conjunction with the Longview Symphony and various artists in the community. Pulling all of our arts groups together under one umbrella will increase tourism to the benefit of all.

I have found, through twenty years of volunteering with the arts groups, that the more we have to offer, the more we offerings we get. Statistics support the fact that the Arboretum is going to be a big tourist attraction, and the ability to direct our visitors to the heart of town for other cultural and dining experiences will enrich both them and our arts groups.

As a real estate broker for over twenty-five years, I have been on the front line of recruiting businesses and professionals to Longview. Questions about what we have to offer culturally are always at the top of the list. Receiving the Arts District designation will confirm what many of us already know: Longview, Texas is a great place to live, work, and *be entertained!*

Thank you for your assistance as we have worked through this process. We hope our application will be favorably received, and we can continue to build on the legacy our cultural arts groups have built.

Best Regards,

Suzanne Cook

TEJAS HYDRAULICS INC

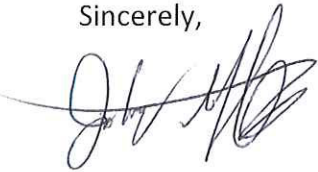
April 30, 2019

To the members of the Cultural Arts District Task Force,

I'd like to take a moment to thank you for the initiative and the efforts undertaken for the Cultural District designation application process. As a resident of Longview, a long-time supporter of the arts, and a member of the Cultural Activities Advisory Commission I am excited for the potential benefits this designation could bring which will directly, and indirectly, support our stellar arts organizations. Not only will a Cultural District designation shine an even brighter light on the artists and cultural institutions of our city, the further establishment of Longview's Cultural District as a tourism destination will bring with it more "heads in beds" in our local hotels. In addition to the economic boost for local businesses, this will also help increase funding awarded in the form of grants from the City Council to arts and cultural organizations in Longview.

Longview has a rich history of excellence in the arts and a Cultural District designation is a natural step forward for our community. Thank you, again, for the work, the vision, and the persistence to take it from dream to realization. The Cultural Activities Advisory Commission is proud to support Arts Longview and looks forward to your success in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Johnny Griffith
Cultural Arts Activities Commission



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LONGVIEW
A BEACON OF HOPE FOR ALL

Jim Bob McMillan, Deputy Director
Texas Commission on the Arts
PO Box 13406
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Mr. McMillan,

On behalf of the Music and Fine Arts Council of First United Methodist Church (Longview), I am writing to fully support Arts Longview's grant application for the creation of a Cultural Arts District designation in our city.

Situated in the heart of downtown, First United Methodist Church has a long association with this area of Longview, and for many years our fine arts program has worked hard to support the Arts with the underwriting of many public events held at our church, including a community-wide Messiah Sing, the Vienna Boys Choir and Ballet Magnificat.

The creation of the proposed Cultural District would reflect the deep commitment and focus of all arts groups in the area as, together, we strive to promote the continued growth of arts and culture in our fine city. Furthermore, the bestowing of this important designation would help attract even more visitors to Longview, giving a major boost to new business moving into this area, and enriching the lives of many.

We strongly support Arts!Longview with their exciting proposal for our city, and we hope the Commission will agree to the establishment of a Cultural District designation in downtown Longview.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this grant application.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Roberts
Director Music & Fine Arts
First United Methodist Church Longview