



Creative Vision

A Cultural Plan for the City of Takoma Park

Celebrating the Creative Spirit of Our Community

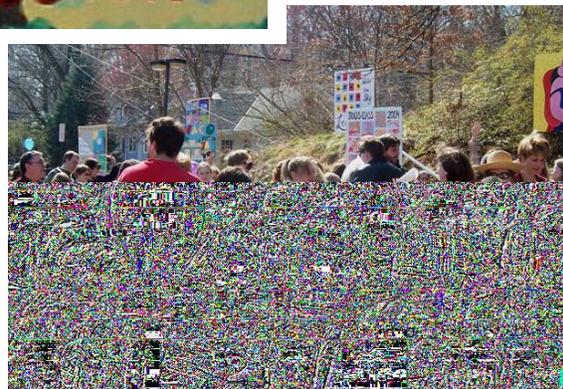
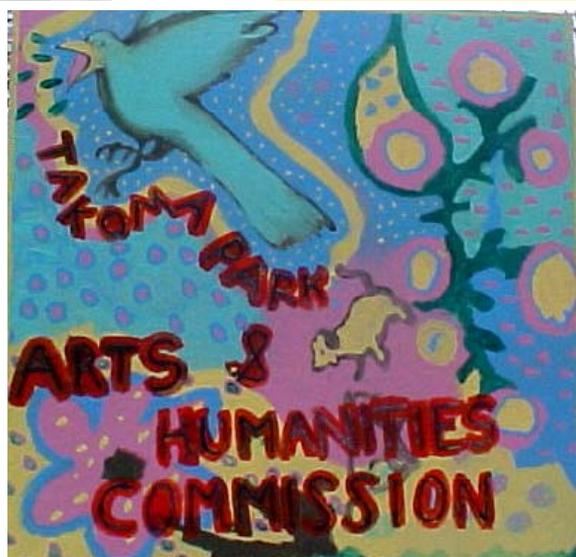


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Executive Summary

The arts and humanities make Takoma Park a dynamic, exciting, and livable city. **Creative Vision: A Cultural Plan for Takoma Park** reflects findings and strategies gathered and analyzed over nine months of planning and assessment involving hundreds of cultural advocates, community leaders, and citizens. It is presented as a living document—a framework for future cultural development—to be owned and adopted by the community.

Cultural Planning Process

As part of the enabling legislation, the Arts and Humanities Commission was tasked with developing a master plan for the cultural development of Takoma Park, Maryland. In May 2004, the Commission created the Cultural Planning Committee, and identified a four-component approach to assessing the issues, needs, strengths, opportunities, and challenges facing the arts and humanities in Takoma Park. This cultural needs assessment included a public survey, a community public forum, and interviews with community leaders, local cultural organizations, and individual artists and humanists. The resulting community input and background materials have been synthesized into the current document.

Findings and Recommendations

The cultural planning process revealed three overarching cultural values: to strengthen Takoma Park's identity as a creative community, to support and promote Takoma Park's arts and humanities professionals, and to enrich and unify communities within Takoma Park. Cultural issues and aspirations are defined within five primary goals, and include:

- 1. Outreach:** Increase audience numbers and opportunities to publicize cultural events and programs; expand awareness of events; facilitate networking opportunities between the cultural community and the public; promote cross-discipline communication.
- 2. Cultural Education and Programs:** Foster an atmosphere/environment for children and adults to experience the arts and humanities; encourage public education and lifelong learning in and through the arts and humanities through partnerships; promote a community of culturally aware residents.
- 3. Public Art:** Facilitate opportunities for public art in Takoma Park; enhance landscape of Takoma Park; create opportunities for local artists and humanists; create a sense of place for residents and visitors.
- 4. Facilities and Venues:** Create cultural infrastructure and identify focal points within community; enable match between performance/exhibition spaces and cultural needs; maximize cultural use of community center, a center of opportunity for viewing, participating, and displaying art that catalyze unity and interest in the arts and humanities.

5. Funding: Enrich art production and outreach; enable funding for arts and humanities organizations, programs, and projects; improve access to information about fundraising workshops.

A Vision of Arts and Humanities

It is hoped that the collaborative efforts of all involved in creating this Cultural Plan marks a new era in cultural development, a **Creative Vision** for Takoma Park. The Arts and Humanities Commission will play an important role as the a city-wide service organization dedicated to promoting, coordinating and strengthening public programs to further cultural development of Takoma Park.

Implementation

The Arts and Humanities Commission will initiate the implementation of the Cultural Plan in the coming year, serving as a facilitator in raising awareness about the vision and goals defined in the Plan. This is the Community's Cultural Plan; goals and priorities stated within the Plan may be adopted by many community initiatives. The Plan should serve as a reference point and guide for direct action, encouraging the development of policies, partnerships, and services to reach cultural goals, and to create a coordinated cultural effort and establish partnerships among City groups and organizations.

Introduction

The City of Takoma Park, Maryland has an abundance of creatively gifted individuals and groups that weave the arts and humanities into the fabric of community life. Through partnerships with local businesses, City departments, neighborhood associations, and each other, this creative community has established the familiar sights and sounds that define the landscape of Takoma Park. The arts and humanities are an important aspect of the City's identity and a significant source of community pride. Creative opportunities contribute to economic development, provide personal fulfillment, and encourage community participation and multi-cultural understanding.

Takoma Park is home to over 77 arts- or humanities-related organizations and a vibrant community of resident artists and humanists including painters, sculptors, ceramicists, musicians, poets, writers, and historians, among many others. Nationally recognized, locally-based and emerging cultural organizations celebrate their craft through festivals, house concerts, exhibitions, and open-mike nights organized by the individual organizations, as well as the City and residents. The audience for these events extends far beyond the residents of Takoma Park into the greater Washington area. Its close proximity to the Capital Beltway and its expansive public transportation system, including a county-wide bus system and centrally located Metro station, make Takoma Park a highly accessible community.

Recognizing the breadth of cultural resources and opportunities within the Takoma Park community, City Council established the Arts and Humanities Commission in 2003 as an advisory board intended to increase the appreciation of, and participation in, the arts and humanities among Takoma Park residents. In addition to advising and assisting City Council with respect to developing, coordinating, and promoting the arts and humanities in Takoma Park, the Commission was tasked with developing a long-range master plan for the development of a thriving arts community in Takoma Park—a Cultural Plan. Establishing a Cultural Plan will validate that arts and humanities are important to this community, making the commitment real through efforts that will increase the vitality and health of the community as a whole.



Community Mural Project

Benefits of a Cultural Plan

Takoma Park celebrates its rich mix of cultural expression through visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, history, and heritage, and the humanities. The mission of the Takoma Park Cultural Plan is to be a catalyst in developing a cultural roadmap for the community. The strategies and goals identified through the cultural planning process will further the cultural development of the City.

Cultural planning has been a successful strategic tool for countless cities across the country, increasing economic development and improving quality of life. Cultural Plans serve as a roadmap to guide the cultural development to meet particular community needs and values. **Creative Vision: A Cultural Plan for the City of Takoma Park** will seek to nurture collaborative efforts and encourage the development of a thriving creative community. This Plan is a reference point and guide for direct action that will allow for programs and partnerships to become increasingly strategic to meet community needs.

Cultural planning is an effective tool for focusing and channeling the power of the arts and humanities to build a more livable community.

—Craig Dreeszen, Ph.D.
Community Arts Consultant

Cultural Needs Assessment

Overview of Takoma Park

The City of Takoma Park, Maryland is a thriving community that maintains the quality of a small town within the midst of a metropolitan area. Founded in 1883, Takoma Park has always promoted healthy living, political activism, and civic involvement. The City features numerous community resources, including quaint boutiques and antique stores, cafes and restaurants, hiker-biker trails, community parks, a weekly Farmers' Market, extensive recycling program, tool library, and several educational institutions. A large historic district encompasses one-third of the city with several properties on the National Register of Historic Places and a rich stock of Victorian buildings, craftsman bungalows, and apartment houses nestled among several commercial districts.

Takoma Park is located within emerging and well-established cultural communities: Montgomery County and Prince George's County in Maryland and Washington, D.C. Both Montgomery County and Prince George's County are in a stage of cultural renaissance. Over the past few years, Montgomery County has experienced significant growth, completing a county-wide Cultural Plan that has established it as a place to experience the arts and humanities. Examples of organizational growth include the new state-of-the-art Strathmore Hall, Children's Theater and Center for Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts, the expansion of Olney Theatre, and Black Rock Center for the Arts. The strategic initiatives designed to enhance Takoma Park's neighboring community of Silver Spring also present many opportunities for collaborative projects.

Prince George's County is home to over 40 cultural-related organizations, many of which are community-based. The most recognized of these organizations is the Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts Center, a premier showcase for university, local, regional, national, and international art, theater, music, and dance. In addition, Prince George's County also oversees a solid program dedicated to integrating art into highly accessible public settings—the Art in Public Places Program. Since the program's inception in 1988, it has facilitated eight installations across Prince

Takoma Park is one of the top five "Best Neighborhoods in Maryland."

—Maryland Commission on Neighborhoods

George's County with the most recent project located in Oxon Hill Branch Library, scheduled to be completed in Fall 2005.

To the south, the District of Columbia is not only a center of federal business, but also a hub of arts and entertainment. The District offers a diverse array of opportunities for the arts and humanities to be seen, made and celebrated. It is home to countless theaters, museums, galleries, orchestral and musical groups, that offer world-renowned performances and collections. However, it is the northern edge of D.C. that borders Takoma Park that presents the most influence on the Takoma Park community at large. Takoma D.C., with a vibrant community all its own, offers numerous opportunities for collaborative efforts that will enrich the surrounding community.

Takoma Park, Maryland is an economically, ethnically and politically diverse community. According to U.S. Census reports for 2000, the average age of Takoma Park residents is 36 years, with 20-percent of the population under the age of 19. At that time, nearly 40 percent of the children in Takoma Park were elementary school age, and almost 3 percent of the adults had graduate or professional degrees.

Takoma Park consists of both home-owner and renting residents; 55 percent of the housing units are rentals. The median income is \$48,490, with a median income of \$33,810 in rental units and a median income of \$85,680 in owner-occupied homes.

Takoma Park is home to many immigrant families from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, as well as some European countries. Nearly 32-percent of the population speaks a language other than English at home including 14.2 percent that primarily speak Spanish.

The Cultural Planning Process

Creative Vision: A Cultural Plan for Takoma Park, initiated by the Arts and Humanities Commission, is the community's cultural plan. The cultural planning process brought together all segments of the community influenced by the arts and humanities to define goals for increased success of Takoma Park cultural organizations, individual artists and humanists and enhanced opportunities for the

Takoma Park Quick Facts:

- 17,299 Residents
- Housing units – 7187
 - 45% Owner-occupied Units
 - 55% Rental Units
- Ethnic Diversity
 - 49% White
 - 34% African-American
 - 4% Asian
 - 14% Latino
 - 29% Foreign-born head of households
- Economic Diversity
 - \$48,490 – Median Income
 - \$33,810 – Rental Unit Median Income
 - \$85,680 – Owner-occupied Median Income

–2000 U.S. Census Data

public to participate. The Plan incorporates input from nearly 400 residents, business leaders, community leaders, cultural organizations, artists, and humanists, and provides strategic goals to guide cultural development with opportunities and roles for many groups.

Within the process and throughout the plan, the scope of the term “artist” is defined to represent the visual and performing arts as well as musicians and the term “humanists” to represent the literary arts and historians. The term “cultural” reflects all disciplines of the arts and humanities present within the Takoma Park community.

Cultural planning is first and foremost a public process; key stakeholders were identified as Takoma Park residents, resident artists and humanists, cultural organizations in Takoma Park, and community leaders. In order to ensure that the planning process was inclusive of all stakeholders, we further identified four components of the community assessment: a public survey available in both English and Spanish, a community public forum, and interviews with community leaders and with local cultural organizations.

Throughout the community assessment process, every effort was made to ensure that we were promoting inclusiveness within the planning process. Residents, businesses, cultural organizations, and civic leaders were heard, reporting on the successes, needs, and aspirations for the cultural development of the City. Takoma Park features a rich cultural community with many resources and opportunities.

Community Surveys

An on-line questionnaire surveyed the public on their participation trends, local funding interests (specifically culturally related activities), where they receive information about cultural events and programs and asked them to recommend priorities for the Commission to consider over the next three to five years. Postcards were mailed to 7,000 households in Takoma Park informing them of the survey and its web address on the City’s website. Paper versions of the survey were also made available at the Municipal Building and Public Library. Intercept interviews based on a

Survey responses emphasized the arts and humanities as very important to Takoma Park’s vitality and livability.

75% indicated that the arts and humanities are “very important” to Takoma Park’s quality of life.

91% stated that the city’s financial support for arts and culture as either “very important or important.”

84 % stated that it is “very important” that children get arts, culture, and humanities in their K-12 education.

shorter version of the public survey were conducted at the local Farmers' Market, Folk Festival, and Street Festival.

Community Public Forum

The community meeting provided residents an open forum to share their ideas and concerns about cultural programming in Takoma Park. The participants were primarily artists, some professional, and many worked for cultural organizations or were teachers in a culture-related field. Two children also attended. Participants provided information about their attendance trends, effective means for advertising events or programs, and cultural programs they would like to see in Takoma Park. In addition, participants identified challenges to connecting culture to the community and recommended ways to involve children in the arts and humanities. Most importantly, the forum provided the participants the opportunity to articulate their vision of future cultural development.

Cultural Organization Interviews

A cultural inventory was compiled with information on nearly 100 organizations and individuals representing the creative community in Takoma Park. A cross-section of disciplines from cultural organizations and individual artists and humanists, representing the visual and performing arts and the humanities were interviewed. Interviews with these crucial stakeholders provided them with the opportunity to articulate the challenges they face and their concerns for the future, as well as how the Commission might better support their efforts within the Takoma Park community.

Stakeholder Interviews

Community leaders were interviewed in order to provide them with the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas for the cultural development of Takoma Park, to articulate the role of the Arts and Humanities Commission and to identify specific areas of need.

The most enjoyable qualities of Takoma Park cultural activities include:

- Bringing the community together
- Variety of people in attendance
- Family-oriented programs
- Quality of presentations

–Focus group participants

Challenges facing cultural organizations, artists, and humanists include:

- Facility space to work and present
- Funding to support existing programs and to implement new projects
- Networking and collaboration among groups
- Marketing and raising awareness
- Expand volunteer participation
- Organizational support

–Interviews with cultural organizations, artists, and humanists

Community Responses

Business and civic leaders want . . .

- Enhanced activity level in commercial areas through increased arts and cultural presence.
- Improved quality of life amenities to attract and retain businesses, residents, and visitors.
- A well-operated cultural sector that addresses the interests of residents and visitors.

Residents want . . .

- Better information about current activities Takoma Park, so that they know about all available offerings.
- Parents: more emphasis on cultural education activities in schools and through extra-curricular activities.
- Educators: better communication and coordination with cultural organizations to make better use of scarce resources.
- Youth: more opportunities and facilities to explore their own creativity.
- Families: greater access to a broad range of arts, cultural and entertainment activities.
- Everyone: increased emphasis on diversity—in cultural programming, organizational governance and audience building.

Cultural organizations, artists and humanists want . . .

- Opportunities to collaborate with other organizations, commercial businesses, and with each other.
- New ways to build organizational capacity through training and technical assistance.
- Effective techniques to increase earned and contributed income.

Takoma Park has a solid reputation as an artists' enclave.

-Cultural organizations' interview

Folks enjoy attending Takoma Park events because of the community feel and the variety of events.

-Community Public Forum



The Ian Dylan Quartet

Cultural organizations have solid programs, but need help in audience development.

-Cultural organizations' interview

The Commission should serve as a crossroads for synthesizing an artistic community.

-Community leaders' interviews

Challenges and Opportunities

Opportunities for Cultural Development in Takoma Park:

- A thriving resident artist community;
- Cultural, economic and ethnic diversity;
- A City Council committed to supporting the arts and humanities;
- An accessible location using personal or public transportation;
- Surrounded by communities with well-established or emerging cultural programs—Washington, D.C., Montgomery County and Prince George’s County; and
- A new Community Center with spaces for the arts and humanities to be presented and celebrated.

Takoma Park’s Cultural Infrastructure:

- **Artist Community**
- **Diversity**
- **Creative Identity**
- **Accessibility**

Challenges for Cultural Development in Takoma Park:

- Artists and humanists work independently and compete for resources;
- Lack of a central location for accessing information on cultural programs and/or events;
- Limited facilities and venues for cultural activities and performances;
- The community is culturally and ethnically diverse with little cross-communication;
- Takoma Park is nestled within a “hot spot” of cultural offerings—Washington, D.C., Montgomery County and Prince George’s County; and
- Takoma Park competes with its neighbors for resources, such as funding and audiences.

Community Cultural Values

The cultural assessment revealed three core values defined by the community that create a vision for the cultural development of Takoma Park. These overarching values are:

1. Takoma Park will be recognized as a highly desirable city for individuals, families, businesses, artists, and humanists due to its outstanding cultural offerings.

The Cultural Plan will strengthen Takoma Park's identity as a creative community and destination; foster a sense of place among artists, humanities and residents; enhance the built environment and landscape; establish and market Takoma Park as a cultural and entertainment destination; and increase the impact of cultural programming.

2. Takoma Park will have a flourishing cultural community where artists are valued and community efforts are offered to enable their success.

The cultural plan will encourage support and promotion of Takoma Park's creative community of nationally-recognized, locally-based and emerging cultural organizations and develop opportunities for organizations and individuals to actively participate in and contribute to community activities and to work and earn a living wage.

3. Takoma Park arts and humanities will serve to enrich and unify residents through community participation and cross-cultural understanding in order to create an inclusive community.

The cultural plan will be applied to create an atmosphere of inclusiveness among our many neighborhoods through community-wide participation and expanded diversity in cultural offerings.

The cultural community is a significant business sector contributing to the local economy. Takoma Park's many cultural assets are key components to foster economic development throughout the city.

Takoma Park's cultural community enhances the quality of living for all residents—encouraging creativity, building self-confidence, enhancing the landscape, motivating the mind, and lifting the spirit.

Cultural activities can be critical in building bridges among diverse ethnic, political, and economic groups, and cross-cultural understanding will serve to enrich and unify diverse communities within Takoma Park.

Cultural Plan Strategic Goals

Five primary goals for the cultural development of Takoma Park emerged from the community assessment process. The community may adopt these goals to address the cultural needs of the community and to realize the vision for the coordinated and strategic cultural development of Takoma Park. The success of these strategies will be measured on an on-going basis as appropriate.

1. Outreach—Expand Awareness and Develop Audiences

- Strengthen the organizational structure and build the capacity of Takoma Park’s cultural organizations, events, festivals, artists, and humanists.
- Build audiences by increasing participation of existing audience members and bringing new attendees to activities.
- Increase awareness of cultural events and programs.
- Facilitate networking opportunities between the cultural community and the public.
- Promote cross-discipline communication.

All stakeholders indicated a need for an organized outreach effort in order to increase awareness and build audiences. According to those cultural organizations in Takoma Park that were interviewed, resources commonly used to advertise their services and programs include websites, the Takoma Voice, neighborhood list-serves, postcard/flyer mailings, and word-of-mouth. Of the 316 community surveys received, a majority suggested “increasing awareness of arts and humanities events” as a primary objective for the Commission to tackle in the coming years. An organized listserv emerged from the public forum as an effective means for distributing information on cultural events and programs.



**Community Mural Project
Participant**

2. Cultural Education and Programs—Improve access to cultural opportunities for people of all ages and in all walks of life.

- Encourage numerous, affordable and coordinated formal and informal opportunities for youth and adults to learn and practice the arts and humanities in Takoma Park.
- Foster an atmosphere and encourage lifelong learning for children and adults to experience the arts and humanities.
- Promote a community of culturally aware residents using the arts and humanities as a way to increase understanding and communication among people of diverse backgrounds.

All stakeholders identified a clear desire for increased opportunities for youth to experience the arts and humanities. Suggestions that emerged from the focus group are: creating a public space for children to decorate, workshops, after-school programs, trips for children to other cultural communities, theater for kids by kids, and a children’s museum. Two children at the focus group also suggested that arts events for kids be run by kids. In the Commission’s efforts to make this plan inclusive, we have broadened the concept to include education and programming for all—youth and adults.

National studies have shown that arts programs enhance a child’s development, encourage conflict resolution, build tolerance and self-respect, provide safe havens for youth, reduce criminal activity, teach job skills, improve attitudes, behavior and academic performance.

3. Public Art—Foster a Sense of Place

- Enhance the Takoma Park landscape and create focal points within the community.
- Facilitate opportunities for public art in Takoma Park.
- Create opportunities for artists.

Public art can be a source of community pride for residents and an attraction for visitors.

Community leaders emphasized their desire to enhance the landscape of Takoma Park with public art. Collectively they felt that public art installations will serve as important landmarks for Takoma Park and enhance public spaces, as well as promote a “sense of place” feeling among residents and visitors.

4. Cultural Facilities and Venues—Places to Work & Present

- Create cultural infrastructure and identify focal points within community.
- Enable match between performance/exhibition spaces and cultural needs.
- Maximize cultural use of community center opportunity for viewing, participating and displaying art.

Enhanced availability of places for cultural activities to be made, presented and experienced will enable local artists and humanists to live and work in Takoma Park, as well as have a positive impact on the community.

All stakeholders raised their concern for the need of a versatile, accessible, and affordable venue to present and to experience the arts and humanities. Individuals and presenting cultural organizations identified an overall lack of performance and/or exhibition space in Takoma Park. The goal is to provide a space for the local cultural organizations to make art and perform/display their art in Takoma Park.

5. Funding— Maximize the availability of funds and leverage resources for cultural programs and initiatives

- Enable support for cultural education, programs, and projects.
- Enrich art production, outreach, and visibility.
- Improve access to information about fundraising.

In order for Takoma Park's cultural community to continue to flourish, funding opportunities must be maximized by leveraging resources.

Funding strategies were discussed with all stakeholders, with a great variation in approaches. The overall desire for increased or enhanced funding opportunities for cultural programs emerged from the community surveys as a top priority. It was also identified as a prospective activity by the public forum, and cultural organizations agreed that enhanced funding resources would be beneficial.

Creative Vision in a Regional Context

The Takoma Park Cultural Plan identifies issues that fit within a larger regional context. Specifically, the vision and goals identified in this plan cross-reference the Montgomery County Arts and Humanities Council's Cultural Plan in regard to facilities, cultural education, networking and visibility, diversity and support for organizations, artists, and scholars. The Cultural Plan also echoes themes outlined in the County's Master Plan for Takoma Park, including enriching community character, facilitating commercial revitalization and supporting community facilities.

The Arts and Humanities Commission

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission was established as a service organization, not a programming organization, with the primary responsibility to serve in an official advisory role to City Council on all matters related to the arts and humanities, promoting, coordinating and strengthening public programs to further cultural development of the City. Broadly speaking, its role and duties should encompass:

- Serve as a facilitator for the cultural community.
- Serve as a clearinghouse of information on arts and humanities organizations, opportunities, etc.
- Invite residents to plan, gather, and participate in cultural events (and bring people together).
- Marshall other citizen's groups (neighborhood associations, houses of worship, schools, non-profits, community membership organizations) to work on projects.
- Commissioners serve as a liaison with other cultural organizations, such as the Folk Festival.
- Coordinate with the larger community, including Takoma D.C., Silver Spring, and Langley Park.

Established in 2003, the Arts and Humanities Commission's first project was the community mural project that surrounds the Municipal Building. Once the community's Cultural Plan has been approved and disseminated, the Commission will begin developing a strategic plan.

Implementing the Cultural Plan

The Cultural Plan addresses the overarching values identified in the planning process: to strengthen Takoma Park's identity as a creative community, to support and promote Takoma Park's artist and humanities professionals, and enrich and unify communities within Takoma Park.

This is the community's Cultural Plan and goals and priorities may be adopted by many community initiatives. It can work as a reference point and guide for direct action, encouraging the development of policies, partnerships, and services to reach cultural goals, and create a coordinated cultural effort and establish partnerships among City groups and organizations.

The Arts and Humanities Commission will initiate the implementation of Cultural Plan in the coming year, serving as facilitator in raising awareness about the vision and goals defined in the Plan. Key activities include:

- Distributing the Cultural Plan to the public with a hardcopy version of the Executive Summary available to the public, the full version will available on-line;
- Presenting the Cultural Plan to local organizations, associations and clubs;
- Partnering with cultural organizations in Takoma Park to facilitate recommended strategies; and
- Monitoring and evaluating success of the Cultural Plan, update at least every two years according to ordinance.

This is the community's cultural plan with roles and opportunities for many to adopt and implement.

The defining vision and the strategic goals provide a structure for guiding the cultural development of Takoma Park.

A Vision for the Arts and Humanities

Priorities established by cultural planning activities over the past nine months will serve as directional markers for activity in the next three to five years on behalf of the arts and humanities in Takoma Park. This Cultural Plan is a “work in progress.” It will be revisited and expanded as resources are further developed and in-depth feedback from the community is collected, and will be used to inform the development of the Commission’s strategic plan.

It is hoped that the collaborative efforts of all involved in creating this Cultural Plan mark a new era in cultural development, a **Creative Vision** for Takoma Park.

Takoma Park in 2010:

Vibrant, colorful place full of music which tickles your ears with wonder.

City center which announces itself through murals, sculptures, banners.

A gathering place for people who represent many cultures.

And finally a community which cares about each other through open and embracing thoughts and support.

*Written by a participant at the
Cultural Plan Public Forum*

Appendix A.

Recommended Strategies and Actions

Creative Vision: A Cultural Plan for the City of Takoma Park serves a reference point and guide for direct action, encouraging the development of policies, partnerships, and services to reach cultural goals. Presented below are recommended strategies for meeting community cultural goals with actions to be implemented through community and organizational partnerships.

Outcomes	Actions	Timeframe	Proposed Partners
<p>Outreach—Expand awareness and develop audiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strengthen Takoma Park’s cultural organizations. ➤ Build audiences. ➤ Increase awareness. ➤ Facilitate networking opportunities. ➤ Promote cross-discipline communication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a central kiosk to advertise cultural events/programs. • Establish an on-line calendar of cultural events/programs. • Establish a community bulletin board (on-line and physical bulletin board). • Establish on-line artist and humanist directory. • Establish on-line cultural resource directory (information and expertise). • Facilitate open house/receptions for artists and humanists in Takoma Park. • Coordinate opportunities for interaction between artists and humanists and the public. 	<p>Short term (1-3 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council • City commissions and committees • Local newspapers and media • County and state arts and humanities councils • Local cultural organizations • Community groups

Outcomes	Actions	Timeframe	Proposed Partners
<p>Education/Programs— Improve access to cultural opportunities for people of all ages and in all walks of life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Foster and encourage lifelong learning for children and adults to experience the arts and humanities. ➤ Promote a community of culturally aware residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and assess existing arts and humanities educational opportunities and programs; identify gaps in programming. • Advocate for increased access to arts and humanities education. • Support arts education through collaborative planning, professional development, and region-wide communication about arts and humanities, educational activities, and opportunities. 	<p>Short term (1-3 years)</p> <p>Long term (3-5 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council • City commissions and committees • Local cultural and community organizations • Area schools • Community leaders
<p>Public Art—Create a “sense of place” for the community and visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhance the landscape and create focal points within the community. ➤ Facilitate opportunities for public art in Takoma Park. ➤ Create opportunities for artists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create process plan for managing public art projects. • Inventory existing public art installations • Identify candidates and establish Pubic Art Trust Committee. • Identify experts to consult on public art installation and maintenance. • Identify funding sources. 	<p>Short term (1-3 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council • City commissions and committees • Businesses and associations • Resident committees • Local artists • County and state arts and humanities councils

Appendix B.

Arts and Humanities Commission Strategic Plan, 2005-2008

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission will work to foster and guide the implementation of the strategies and actions recommended within the Cultural Plan and will serve to inform the future cultural development of the community. The AHC Strategic Plan will concentrate on stewardship of the Cultural Plan, engaging the community, and increasing visibility and awareness. Specific areas of focus and sample projects for the next three to five years include:

Stewardship of the Cultural Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with other community organizations about the plan and how they can participate. • Work for greater integration of the arts and humanities into existing city services and the Community Center.
Outreach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a directory of artists, arts organizations, and those working in the humanities • Facilitate the development of a sustainable cultural calendar
Cultural Education & Programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop cultural programs, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Takoma Park Poet Laureate ○ Open Studio/Gallery Walk
Public Art.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create process plan for managing public art projects. • Provide assistance with the public art elements of City projects, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carroll Avenue Streetscape ○ Way-finding Signage System
Facilities/Venues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey the universe of spaces available and publish list on-line.
Funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore potential funding sources for arts and humanities programs.

Appendix C: Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission

Randy Cohen, Chairman

Stephanie A. Jennings, 1st Vice Chairman

Tom Block, 2nd Vice Chairman

Diana Kohn, Secretary

Emily Shillingburg, Cultural Planning Committee Chair

Sandra V. Grady

Eric Kilbride

Welmoed Laanstra

Bodil P. Meleney

Cynthia Mills

Jonathan Morris

Alice Davidson Sims

As of April 2005

Appendix D: Cultural Planning Participants

Hundreds of citizens, artists, humanists, cultural organizations, and cultural advocates participated in the development of the Cultural Plan, including:

Mayor Kathy Porter
Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane, Ward 1
Councilmember Doug Barry, Ward 6
Councilmember Marc Elrich, Ward 5
Councilmember Heather Mizeur, Ward 2
Councilmember Terry Seamens, Ward 4
Councilmember Bruce Williams, Ward 3
City Manager Barbara Mathews

Karen Burke, past AHC Commissioner
Kim Brown Henderson, past AHC Commissioner
Dave Lorentz, past AHC Commissioner
Kristin Randall, past AHC Commissioner
Anisa Haidary, AHC Intern
Philipia Hillman, AHC Facilitator

Karen Abromaitis
Mara Berman, Takoma Artists Guild
Alisa Carr, Community Music, Inc.
Jaime Downs
David Eisner, House of Musical Traditions
Nina Falk
Finewares
Friends of Takoma Park Library
Joanne Hill
Brad Hills, Washington Storytellers
Historic Takoma, Inc.
House of Jam II
Francine Jamin
Fran Jordan
Vivian Kao, Decoglass
Bobbi Kittner, Kittner Design
Anna Larson, Theater and Song, Inc.
Terry Leon, Longtail Records
Myra Maslowsky, Takoma Artists Guild

John McLaughlin
Michele Morgan
Jene Morst
Bruce Moyer
Eric Picard
David Pittman
S&A Bead Store
Riki Schneger
Jan Schwartz
Anne Sergeant
Ann Slayton
Takoma Foundation
Takoma Langley Crossroads
Lee Tune
John Urciolo
Yui & Block Design
Elizabeth Wallace
Sarah Weiner
Carole Whittam, Takoma Park Singers

Thank you!