# **ROCKFORD REGION** CULTURAL PLAN



**Public Launch** 

May 10, 2023

We encourage you to acknowledge the presence of the people who came before, wherever you are.

# Agenda

- 1. Welcome
- 2. Introductions
- 3. Process Overview
- 4. Public Engagement
- 5. Breakout Group Discussion
- 6. Next Steps



# About Lord Cultural Resources

As the leader in cultural consulting services, Lord Cultural Resources relies on a global network of offices in Toronto, Los Angeles, New York, London, Madrid, Dubai, Mumbai and Beijing.

We share our knowledge in presentations, articles and publications.







# Project Advisory Council (PAC)

Artist/Union- Javier Jimenez Community Foundation of Northern Illinois – Dan Ross Community Foundation of Northern Illinois- Jennifer Smith City of Rockford- Mayor Tom McNamara City of Rockford – **Barb Chidley** Coronado PAC- Beth Howard Midland States Bank- Martesha Brown Rockford Public Schools – Earl Dotson Rockford Public Schools – Ginny Barnett Rockford Public Schools – Maureen Kirschmann Rockford Regional Health Council – **Becky Cook Kendall** Transform Rockford – Spitty Tata

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau-John Groh **RAMP-Eric Brown** RAMP- Jackie Sundquist **RAVE- Gretchen Gilmore** Region 1 Planning Council-Mike Dunn Rockford Area Arts Council- Armando Cardenas Rockford Area Arts Council-Vic Rivera Rockford Park District- Laurie Anderson Rockford Park District- Danielle Potter Rockford Park District- Jay Sandine Severson Dells Nature Center- Asia Peters Transform Rockford- LoRayne Logan Winnebago County- Chairman Joe Chiarelli YWCA- Diego Valdivia

# Your Planning Team



#### Eve Moros Ortega Director Project Lead



#### **Tiffany Lyons** Senior Consultant

Project Manager



#### Valerie Guevara Senior Manager Project and Operations Engagement



#### Isabella Rivera

Research & Administrative Associate Coordination & Project Support



# WHY CREATE A CULTURAL PLAN? ARTS & CULTURE BENEFITS

- Post-COVID: Arts & Culture will be even more important
- Data shows impact in multiple sectors:
  - $\,\circ\,$  Health: Mental and Physical
  - Social Cohesion
  - Environment
  - Economic Impact
    - \$804.2 Billion contributed to the US Economy annually
  - $\,\circ\,$  And many more benefits....





# Rockford Region Cultural Plan

# The Cultural Plan will:

- Leverage Rockford's network of arts attractions & venues.
- Nurture Rockford's future cultural leaders, artists, volunteers, and audiences.
- **Support** culture as an engine for a creative economy, attracting and retaining diverse residents and visitors.
- **Position** culture as an integral part of Rockford's overall municipal responsibilities.





The Macon Cultural Plan results from a year-long process, engaging over 1,200 Maconites in every community. The Plan articulates a vision for how arts and culture can help all in Macon thrive, and identifies the priorities, strategies, and actions to bring this vision to life.



#### Priority A **Tourism**

Brand Macon as a vibrant, innovative and creative destination.



#### Priority B Education

Ensure access for all to quality formal and informal arts education



#### Priority C Creative Industries

Encourage innovation, creative enterprise, and entrepreneurship for artists at all career levels.



#### Priority D Neighborhood Development

Ensure social equity by helping Macon's many neighborhoods develop their distinctive identities.



#### Priority E Audience Cultivation

Engage and develop new and existing audiences for Macon's cultural sector.

Who Participated?

Vision

67 Steering Committee Members • 121+ Cultural Assets • 45 Interviews • 100+ Launch Event Attendees • 929 Survey Respondents • 75 Sector Conversation Participants

We believe that Macon's ethnic, cultural, and creative diversity is the key to ensuring equity, and economic prosperity for all.



### VISION

We envision Kingston as a city where arts and culture can connect our diverse populations, celebrate our unique energy, educate people about our rich histories, enliven our landscape with public art, provide economic opportunities, and support both long-term and new residents so all can prosper.

## PRIORITIES



#### **CREATIVE ECONOMY**

Preserve and create affordable space, workforce development, and economic opportunities



#### **CONNECTIVITY AND COLLABORATION**

Improve communication and local/regional geographic and organizational partnerships



#### DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESSIBILITY Celebrate Kingston's cultural diversity while ensuring equity and inclusion



#### POLICY AND FUNDING

Strengthen support and policy for arts and culture





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Six priorities emerged, and were overwhelmingly confirmed, as crucial to achieving Dallas' vision for arts and culture. They are described here in rank order:

- Equity is fundamental to a healthy community and a healthy arts ecosystem. It is the foremost of the six priorities and will be the lens through which the rest of the plan—and OCA's work—will be approached.
- Diversity, Space and Support for Artists represent key categories of programs and initiatives through which OCA, other organizations, and funders can serve Dallas's arts and cultural sector and the broader community.
- A Sustainable Arts Ecosystem is a broader goal to which the other priorities will contribute.
- Finally, Communication supports and promotes all the activity taking place under the banners of the preceding priorities.

#### OCA vision:

An equitable, diverse and connected community, whose residents and visitors thrive through meaningful arts and cultural experiences in every neighborhood across Dallas.

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Over a hundred dedicated leaders from throughout Dallas—artists, leaders in arts organizations, business, philanthropy and City government formed taskforces to ensure that each priority was thoroughly defined and actionable. In six weeks, taskforce members met over 21 times, reviewed hundreds of pages of public input, research from the cultural planning team, and met with other entities in the city tackling their priority. The result is 31 strategies and 140 initiatives designed to tackle the heart of the city's arts and cultural needs.

These priorities, strategies, and initiatives are the flexible legs on which the Cultural Plan and Updated Policy stand.

As new stakeholders emerge throughout the city, new opportunities can be considered to achieve these recommendations and more.

The final Dallas Cultural Plan and an updated Cultural Policy to support the implementation of the Plan will be briefed before the Quality of Life Committee of the Dallas City Council before it is taken to City Council for full approval by the City Council.



# OUR PLANNING PROCESS

Phase 1: Opportunities Assessment

- Background Review
- Site Tour (March 29-30<sup>th</sup>)
- Prelim Stakeholder Workshop
- Outreach Strategy
- Market, Trends & Comps
- Preliminary SWOT
- Asset Mapping Planning February to August 2023

#### Phase 2: Public Engagement

- Stakeholder Interviews
- Community Workshops
- DIY Conversations
- Intercept Events
- Online Survey
- Asset Mapping
- State of Culture

#### May to September 2023

#### Phase 3: Vision, Strategy, Implementation

- Strategy Development
- Implementation Workshops
- Draft Cultural Plan
- Testing Workshop

#### Sept 2023 to Jan/Feb 2024

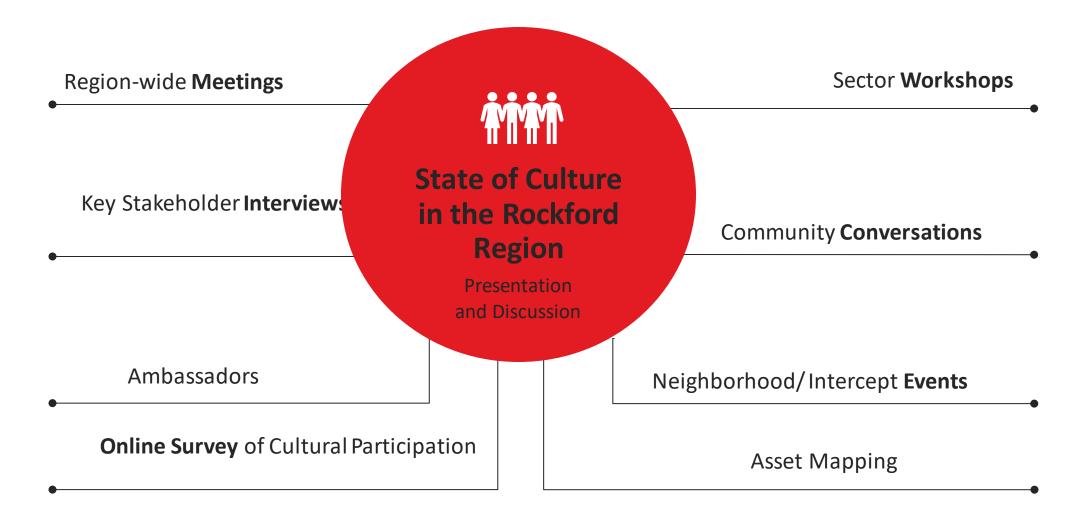
#### **Final Cultural Plan**

Early 2024



# **Public Engagement**

#### MAY – SEPT 2023





# **Breakout Discussions**

- Select a Reporter and Recorder
- Introduce yourself to your group
- Answer the prompts
- Visit the activity booths if you finish early!

## **Discussion Prompts**

1. What are the greatest strengths of arts and culture in the Rockford region?

2. What are the gaps or obstacles?

3. What are the biggest

opportunities?

# **REPORT BACKS**

# How You Can Get Involved!

- Take and Share the Cultural Participation Survey
- 2. Follow the process at <u>www.artsforeveryone.com/culturalplan</u>
- 3. Register for events
- 4. Promote the process in your networks
  - Family
  - Friends
  - Colleagues
  - Communities





# THANK YOU.

For more information contact info@artsforeveryone.com

