

ART future: Artists Revisioning the Future
Charlotte- Mecklenburg Artists and Creative
Community Demands for City Councils Funding of the Arts

We have over 260 signatures for our effort! Please join the movement!!!

- 1. Separate the budget vote for this year from a long term conversation about how to invest in and grow arts and culture in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The increased proposed funding for the arts will help to sustain the arts. We would like to have more opportunities for conversation. There has to be a seat at the table for all and transparency.**
- 2. Increase funding for the Arts & Science Council to invest in its cultural equity work, local creatives and organizations of all sizes through funding opportunities and capacity building efforts.**
 - a. Equity**
 - b. Access**
 - c. Inclusion**
 - d. Capacity Building**
 - i. In the [2020 Community Priorities Report](#) ASC conducted with UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, professional development and training was noted as one of six main areas that are needed (grant writing, marketing, media relations, social media, etc.).
- 3. Develop a process that is 12 - 18 months long that incorporates community members, creatives, elected leaders (*from the city council, county commission, the school board and NCGA*), audiences, donors, national experts and city/county staff. The current process did not involve and engage the broader artistic and creative community. We would like longer conversations with an opportunity to do more research of cities around the region and country that have developed models for a thriving community that provides return on investment for the city, artists, creatives and grow the collective community.**
- 4. Create a thriving community for creatives, artists, artisans, small artistic organizations and small artistic businesses (*visual artists, dancers, actors, producers, directors , performing artists, photographers, videographers, film makers, writers, playwrights, muralist, jewelers, graffiti artists, sketch comedy performers, comedians, musicians, vocalists, astronomy club, painters, sculptures, fashion designers - move below*) that will support artists and that will support creatives and make the city of Charlotte an attractive and unique place for residents and visitors against other Southern cities." Be a city that artists want to live and work in.**
 - a. The arts can generate local employment for artists and others.
 - b. Create a community that will support a culture for young people, students, and children.

5. Develop/Provide physical space for creatives and small organizations to work in their creative practice at a low or no cost outside of uptown.
 - a. Maximize the city owned spaces that are currently being used for the arts and those that are not for small organizations and individual creatives to use for development, rehearsals, workshops, classes and performance spaces.
 - b. Create alternative and non traditional spaces for artists to create and perform.
 - i. In the [2020 Community Priorities Report](#) ASC conducted with UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, access to affordable space was noted as one of six main areas that are needed.
6. Ensure that organizations in the county will maintain funding for all of the arts organizations, programming and individuals like those that do not reside in the city.
7. Ensure that there is diversity and equity maintained and amplified as outlined by the [Arts & Science Council's Cultural Equity Report](#). The work on diversity and inclusion is a process of continuous improvement that should continue to grow. The current report is a start that can continue to be developed. **There has to be a seat at table for all and transparency.**