



**OGLETHORPE
UNIVERSITY
MUSEUM OF ART**

August 11, 2020

To the Mayor and Council of the City of Brookhaven

I am delighted to inform you that on August 5, 2020, the Brookhaven Arts Advisory Committee voted to adopt the art and culture plan, *Arts Brookhaven: A Vision for Culture and Creativity in our Community*. As Chair of the Committee, it is an honor to represent the members this evening in transmitting this document to you for consideration for adoption and implementation.

The arts have the power to reach our emotions and bring us hope. This year, perhaps more than any other in our lifetimes, we need creative expression to interpret our experience, lift us up, speak to our hearts, and carry us through. The arts are more than an inspiration in unprecedented times, however, they are also a consistent and powerful economic driver, draw for visitors, and community builder. Arts contribute more than \$760 billion yearly to the US economy (2018, US Bureau of Economic Analysis and NEA). They entertain and engage visitors with over 75% of all leisure travelers participating in the arts (2019, American Alliance of Museums). The arts rebuild and connect community as a trusted source and a creative solution for distance learning and living (2020, Americans for the Arts). With this plan as dynamic guide, the Committee is excited to see what Brookhaven can do with the amazing capacity of the arts now and many years to come.

Please note that the Arts Advisory Committee worked diligently with Civic Moxie to ensure this plan is inclusive of the valuable cross-cultural and multi-ethnic communities we are so fortunate to have here in Brookhaven. In that egalitarian spirit and with the fervent hope we reach as many constituents as possible, our strongest recommendation is that the City take immediate action to translate the plan into Spanish and make every effort to communicate its availability to our Latino community. The Arts Advisory Committee additionally voted to request arts funding be released if necessary, to facilitate this translation. Further engagement with every member of our diverse, inspiring, and creative community will only enrich Brookhaven's bright future as one of the region's and nation's leading arts communities.

On behalf of the Committee I thank you for this opportunity and look forward to supporting the implementation of *Arts Brookhaven: A Vision for Culture and Creativity in our Community*.

With kind regards,



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Chair, Brookhaven Arts Advisory Committee

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