

Resolution

Resolution Supporting Art, History and Culture in Buncombe County

- WHEREAS, Buncombe County's Sustainability Plan recommends that the County support business strategies that encompass targeted industry clusters (health care, advanced manufacturing, science and technology, arts and culture, knowledge-based entrepreneurship, agri-business, tourism); and
- WHEREAS, the arts and culture community in Buncombe County contributes \$44 million annually to our local economy with \$695 million in sales that represent over 9,000 jobs; and
- WHEREAS, the arts and culture community provide good jobs and employment opportunities to artists and cultural entrepreneurs who often create new business growth without assistance from government sources; and
- WHEREAS, Buncombe County government has admirably engaged in much needed construction programs over the past twenty (20) years that have resulted in fifteen (15) new school facilities and major renovations to four (4) other schools buildings with an investment in these school facilities of over \$235 million; and
- WHEREAS, additional Buncombe County government has constructed the beautiful New Courthouse with complete renovation of the existing eighty-five (85) year old Courthouse at a cost of \$71 million and renovated or constructed new branch libraries in every part of the County; and
- WHEREAS, Buncombe County government has invested more than \$189 million in new construction or major renovations to many other buildings housing government functions over the past twenty (20) years; and
- WHEREAS, despite this amazing and somewhat staggering construction investment, no money has been allocated for the celebration and/or investment of arts history and culture in or around any of these facilities;
- WHEREAS, Buncombe County has become known as an arts, history and culture destination in tourism and in creative thought and cultural entrepreneurship throughout the United States and abroad;
- WHEREAS, Buncombe County should honor the construction of the New Courthouse by creating a "History Wall" created and designed by local artists to display the colorful history and story of our County as well as more temporary exhibits of Art, History, and Culture throughout both Old and New Courthouses;
- WHEREAS, Buncombe County should further honor the construction of the New Courthouse by creating a permanent outdoor iconic monument, created and designed by local artists to reflect an artistic view of our County to be located near the entrance of the New Courthouse and
- WHEREAS, Buncombe County should seek new and enhanced partnerships with the arts, history, and cultural community

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That the County Manager is authorized and directed to work with various local Art, History, and Cultural organizations to create a "History Wall" in the Buncombe County Courthouse (area between old and new buildings), with a budget of up to \$25,000 to fulfill the concept of a large display memorizing the colorful and rich history of Buncombe County. Final approval of the design should be made by the County Commission.
2. That the County Manager is authorized and directed to work with various local Art, History, and Cultural organizations to begin work on an appropriate outside monument near the entrance of the Buncombe Courthouse, with a budget of up to \$50,000 to finalize the project. That preference for each project should be given to local artist using local materials. Final approval of the design should be made by the County Commission.
3. The County Manager is directed to contact local arts and history organizations, including the Art Museum, Arts Council, WNC Historical Association, Smith McDowell, and others to secure temporary Art, History, and Cultural displays for the New and Old Courthouses as can be accommodated.
4. That this resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this the ___ day of May, 2015.

ATTEST

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board

BY: _____
David Gantt, Chairman

Approved as to form:

County Attorney