



**Arts Council
City of Prairie Village
July 15, 2026**

Call to Order

Approval of the Agenda

Public Participation

Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of May 2026 Meeting Summary

City Council Report

Current Year Financial Update

Current Year Financial Update

Old Business

Public Art Master Plan Update

New Business

Planning Meeting

Past Show/Event Report

Upcoming Show/Event Planning

State of the Arts (9/16/2026)

Recollections at Meadowbrook Show (10/14/2026)

Special Olympics Gallery Opening (11/18/2026)

Marketing Update

Planning Ahead

General Updates

Informational Items

Adjourn

EMERGING THEMES

FOR PRAIRIE VILLAGE'S ART AND CULTURE PLAN JUNE 2026

This brief summarizes the themes and insights gained from Phase 1 of the planning process. The goal of this document is to confirm what was heard, and identify potential areas of focus for the Art and Culture Plan. (These are not goals or action steps - those will come in Phase 3.) Input gathered during Phase 1 included:

- Online Survey with 274 responses & online idea board with 100+ interactions
- 3 focus groups: city staff, high school students and Prairie Village Arts Council
- Booth at Prairie Village Art Fair with 500+ visitors
- One-on-one interviews with 8 community leaders
- Steering committee meeting
- Review of existing community plans and data
- Site visits by consulting team

Project timeline overview:

- Phase 1, Input and Engagement - Completed
- Phase 2, Analysis - Completed (this document)
- Phase 3, Create Art & Culture Plan - Jul-Oct 2026
- Phase 4, Activate Plan with 2 Pilot Projects - Nov 2026-Dec 2026



PRAIRIE VILLAGE
THE STAR OF KANSAS



PRAIRIE VILLAGE TODAY - ASSETS AND CHALLENGES

Creating an art and culture plan requires an understanding of Prairie Village's cultural landscape. The plan will build on existing assets and identify how art can be used to address community challenges. The 5 most frequently mentioned assets are:

EXCEPTIONAL WALKABILITY

Residents value the ability to safely walk or bike from residential neighborhoods to commercial areas and schools. Cut-through paths in parks and neighborhoods contribute to both charm and connectivity.

TREE CANOPY AND BEAUTIFUL PARKS

Prairie Village enjoys street canopies of mature trees and many well-loved parks like Meadowbrook, Harmon, Franklin and Taliaferro.

SMALL TOWN CHARM, KIND PEOPLE

Many residents describe the community as "warm" and friendly, with a close-knit neighborly vibe. Residents are involved in civic groups and volunteer committees.

SAFE & CLEAN, WITH GOOD SERVICES

Safety and cleanliness are a high priority for Prairie Village. Residents agree that the city offers high quality services and infrastructure.

STRONG SCHOOLS, FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Safe streets, great parks and strong schools make Prairie Village an appealing place to raise a family.

OTHER STRENGTHS

Less frequently mentioned, but notable:

- Quality community festivals & traditions
- Strong base of art patrons
- Strong high school arts program



CHALLENGES AND GAPS

Frequently mentioned challenges include:

- Housing Affordability - Residents are concerned to see smaller homes torn down and replaced with less affordable homes. Rising property taxes bring financial pressure.
- Political Division - Residents cite a divisive political climate and spread of misinformation.
- Lack of Diversity - PV has limited racial and socioeconomic diversity, and some feel that the community has a reputation of exclusivity.
- E-Bikes - Some residents are concerned about the safety of young people on motorized bikes and scooters.
- Lack of community gathering spaces
- Lack of spaces for artists for performance, exhibit, and practice
- Environmental concerns, including stormwater issues causing water damage.

OPPORTUNITIES - AREAS OF FOCUS FOR ART & CULTURE

The results of Phase 1 suggest potential focus areas for the next phase of the plan. The topics and locations below are based on all plan inputs, and a desire to use the arts to address community challenges and build on its assets.

LEVELING UP OUR WALKABILITY

The community values its strong walkability, and art can further enhance this strength.

- Art pieces along paths and trails, including informal “cut-through” paths and the Tomahawk creek trail.
- Artistic illumination can make evening walks safer and more comfortable.

UNIFYING ACROSS BORDERS AND DIVISIONS

The hard lines of Prairie Village’s geographic and ideological borders could be softened through artistic intervention and more “third spaces.”

- Geographic borders: Art installations at borders with Kansas City & Overland Park can serve as a welcome feature, while acknowledging the cultural significance of these “lines.”
- Ideological division: Art can be used as a tool for unification, to bridge divides of identity & ideology and show that all are welcome in the community.
- Third spaces: New gathering spaces for all ages can foster more community interaction & unity.

ENHANCING CIVIC SPACES & INFRASTRUCTURE

These civic spaces are identified as a top priority for cultural enhancements.

- Parks - Interactive experiences & gathering spaces for Harmon Park (including pool area), Franklin Park and others
- New City Hall - Opportunities for art integration in and around building
- Key street corridors - 75th, Mission Rd
- Historic Statuaries - How can these be re-imagined and re-contextualized to help contribute to local lore?
- Stormwater Infrastructure - Artistic treatments can beautify and draw attention to this important issue.
- Commercial plazas: Village Shops & Corinth Square

SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ARTIST ECO-SYSTEM

Prairie Village has a strong arts community, both in terms of artists and art patrons. How can this be nurtured and grown?

- Identify potential gaps in available spaces for local artists to exhibit, perform and practice.
- Foster neighborhood-level connections between artists and residents, such as through art shows or studio tours.

THEMES TO BUILD ON FOR ART AND CULTURE

Public art and cultural programs must respond to the assets and character of the community, making them uniquely “Prairie Village.” A few examples of themes that could be incorporated into art and programming include (but are not limited to):

Historic Trails

In the 1800s, 3 major historic trails - the Santa Fe, Oregon and California - passed through the land where Prairie Village sits today. Santa Fe Trail ruts still remain at Santa Fe Trail park.

Statuaries

Shortly after its founding, statuaries were placed around the community. Each has its own unique story, which can be contextualized for the modern era.

Residential Architecture

Prairie Village neighborhoods are defined by mid-century architecture. The community has made efforts to preserve these historic styles - striving to balance preservation of historic character with market demands of modernization. New art pieces can draw inspiration from the lines and styles of the historic architecture.

Hidden Spaces and Trails

Residents talk with delight about the informal cut-through paths that lead through parks and neighborhoods, including the “spooky” path at Taliaferro Park. Other “hidden” spaces include Highland Cemetery, tucked in a neighborhood.

Trees, Trees, Trees

When asked about their vision of the future of Prairie Village, no theme was more prominent than trees and nature. Residents are proud of the mature tree canopy and green spaces of their community. Prairie Village public art can be inspired by and/or integrated with nature.

Desire for Unity

Historic “red-lining” practices used in Prairie Village’s founding left a lasting impact, yet they stand in contrast to residents’ current vision of a community that is inclusive and unified. Artistic themes of unification can address this modern vision while remembering the complexities of the past.

Franklin Park’s Equestrian History

Franklin Park has a largely forgotten history as a polo club. Art installations could highlight this equestrian past.



PUBLIC VIEWS ON ART & CULTURE - QUICK SURVEY INSIGHTS

RESIDENTS ARE POSITIVE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

- 82% say they are “proud to say I live in this community”
- 80% say “this community has a good reputation”
- 83% say they are “very” or “somewhat” satisfied with Prairie Village as a place to live
- Residents are slightly less positive about the future: 48% believe that Prairie Village will be “much better” or “somewhat better” 5 years from now, while 16% believe it will be worse

WHAT MAKES PRAIRIE VILLAGE UNIQUE FROM OTHER PLACES?

Top answers:

- Small-town feel & sense of community
- Walkability
- Parks, green space and trees
- Safety
- Good schools
- Well-kept homes and infrastructure

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM FACING THIS COMMUNITY TODAY?

Top answers:

- Housing: Affordability, tear-downs and loss of neighborhood character, gentrification
- Rising property taxes
- Lack of diversity; reputation for exclusivity
- Political division and misinformation

DESIRE FOR MORE ART & CULTURE

- Only 45% agree that “there are plenty of opportunities” to take part in art & culture activities in Prairie Village
- Only 38% agree that “There are *many different kinds* of arts and cultural activities” in Prairie Village

WHAT’S A PLACE IN PRAIRIE VILLAGE WITH UNTAPPED POTENTIAL?

Top answers:

- Former YMCA Site
- Vacant Church at 75th & Belinder
- Corinth Library
- Harmon Park
- Mission Road Corridor
- Corinth Shops & Village Shops
- Land around radio tower
- Parks and green spaces
- City Hall

PURPOSE OF ART & CULTURE

- “What is the most important purpose of Prairie Village’s arts and culture?”

Top 2 answers:

- Improve aesthetic quality (22%)
- Create sense of place (20%)
- “The arts unify us, regardless of age, race, ethnicity” - 73% agree with this statement

DO YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FUNDING THE ARTS?

- 87% in favor of funding for:
 - Parks, downtown, public places
 - Beautifying unattractive areas
- 70-72% in favor of funding for:
 - Programs for under-served populations
 - To support existing arts organizations
 - To support at-risk youth

PV RESIDENTS ARE ARTISTS

% engaging in artistic activity in last year.

Top 5 answers:

- 47%: painting, drawing, sculpture
- 43%: photography
- 42%: dancing
- 41%: singing
- 39%: crocheting, quilting, knitting, etc.