



City of McKinney Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public input requested for MPAC use review

City Council seeks citizen input on the direction of the arts center

McKINNEY, TEXAS (Jan. 29, 2010) – McKinney City Council has started a process to review the future use of the McKinney Performing Arts Center (MPAC), and public involvement is requested. The MPAC was opened in March 2006 in the building that formerly housed the historic Collin County Courthouse, located in the middle of McKinney's historic downtown.

Last fall, City Council reviewed a peer analysis of other area arts centers and appointed a special committee made up of Mayor Brian Loughmiller, Mayor Pro Tem Pete Huff and District 1 Council member Don Day to recommend a plan for MPAC's future direction. This plan was discussed at the Jan. 4 City Council work session, when Council charged city staff to gather public input and bring recommendations back to meet three goals: increased activity and use of the facility, decreased operating expense and a stronger inclusion of the visual arts.

"City leaders want to hear what our citizens really want in their arts facility. The importance of cultural arts in McKinney can't be emphasized enough. Our thriving arts scene is an integral part of the quality of life we pride ourselves on as a community, and the arts have a tremendous positive impact on our economic development," said District 4 Council member Ray Ricchi.

Initial feedback from arts groups who regularly use the facility has been gathered and will be incorporated into the plans. There are two scheduled opportunities for the public to review the proposed plans, ask questions and give feedback. The first public forum is hosted by the McKinney Arts Commission (MAC) on Thursday, Feb. 18 at 9 a.m. at the MPAC, 111 N. Tennessee St. The MAC serves as the advisory board to the City Council about expenditures of city funds designated for promoting or sustaining the arts in McKinney.

The second public forum held at the MPAC will be on Thursday, March 18, also hosted by the MAC. This meeting will mirror the first, with time for explanation and questions, followed by feedback from residents present. Details about the meeting will be communicated to the public when they are determined. Anyone unable to attend the meetings will have the opportunity to submit written feedback online by visiting www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org.

“MPAC and the MAC support and help arts in McKinney flourish, so it’s only right that the panel of experts appointed by council help lead the public discussion to determine the best course for MPAC’s future,” said Ricchi, who is the City Council liaison to the MAC.

Comments and public response from the meetings and online will all be considered for the final recommendations that will be presented to City Council during their regular work session on Monday, April 5.

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About McKinney

McKinney, Texas, is unique by nature. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., McKinney has a current population of 126,500. Incorporated in 1848, the city is located 30 miles north of Dallas and is the county seat of Collin County. McKinney offers rolling hills, lush trees, a historic downtown square and unique neighborhoods and developments, and it was recently ranked as one of the Top 10 Best Places to Move by Forbes Magazine. Visit the city’s Web site at www.mckinneytexas.org.

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