

PROGRESS REPORT

Working Group Name: Heritage, Culture, and Arts Assets at Texas A&M

Working Group #: 8

Chair: Susan Ballabina

Date: March 09, 2022

Update on Actions Taken Since Last Report:

This is the sixth report of WG8. The 5th meeting of the members of the working group who could attend in person and via zoom was held on May 06, 2022, with Dr. Susan Ballabina attending via zoom. The WG8 agreed to have two additional meetings in May (on the 13th and on the 20th) to meet the timeline for completion of all WG8 deliverables.

At the 5th meeting, attending members received final reports from the two subgroups (which met every week in April), the WG8 & WG10 joint Performing Arts Center Subgroup (PACS), and the WG8 Museum Subgroup (MS). The PACS reported on their main topics of discussion on the meetings to date and reported that the final recommendations would address: **(1)** a recommended potential location for the Center, and its fit within the Campus Master Plan; **(2)** the relationship of the Center with the academic program for the new school of visual and performing arts, including the name of the school; and **(3)** the primary scope of the operation and events to be held at the Center (including for TAMU and for the Community at large). Similarly, the MS reported on five important recommendations that were the focus of their last five meetings: **(1)** name, nature, essence, and focus areas for the Museum as a destination with a unique, flexible, and interactive experience, that reflects and highlights Aggie pride and great contributions to the World; **(2)** content and scope of the museum, including existing collections and special exhibits (Cushing collections were added to the original charge) ; **(3)** "must-have" spaces and "dreams" in addition to the anticipated physical and virtual teaching and research spaces in the museum, focused on what TAMU has accomplished in the past, is doing today, and could accomplish in the future; **(4)** a suggested location that will provide maximum accessibility to TAMU students, faculty, staff, former students, and friends, and for the B/CS community and visitors from Texas and beyond; and **(5)** a functionality, formal, and iconic aesthetic that is compatible with the TAMU campus and reflects the Aggie core values, and would be of strong appeal to the anticipated audience.

Next Major Issue to be Addressed:

Both subgroups will provide their drafts of their final reports at the WG8 meeting scheduled for next Friday, May 13, 2022. Work will proceed systematically in May for the whole WG8 membership to complete all the deliverables, as planned.

Barriers Encountered and Solutions Identified:

WG8 has not encountered any barriers to date, just raised important questions.

Deliverables Completed:

Deliverables are in progress for each of the elements of the charge.

Timeline for Completion of Remaining Deliverables:

Based on the clarified specific scope and deliverables for each of the four cultural components, WG8 will comply with the timeline set for the final deliverables: June 1, 2022, or earlier if possible (May 20, 2022).