



- Research
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## MEMORANDUM

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TO: City of Sioux Falls  
FROM: Keen Independent Research  
DATE: May 18, 2026

### Draft Plan Community Feedback

Following the release of the draft Sioux Falls Arts and Cultural Plan, additional comments were received related to arts education, public accessibility, cultural identity and long-term implementation considerations. This summary highlights several recurring themes and identifies where these topics are addressed within the draft plan. The document is intended to provide additional context and clarification as part of the public review and adoption process.

#### Plan Scope and Focus

Additional feedback requested clarification regarding the scope of the Sioux Falls Arts and Cultural Plan and the range of cultural topics addressed through the planning process.

**Cultural assets and community identity.** The plan includes recommendations related to arts organizations, artists, cultural facilities, museums, public art, creative programming and broader community cultural assets.

**Broader community cultural themes.** During the engagement process, participants discussed broader topics related to diversity, cultural representation, heritage and community identity. While many of these themes are reflected throughout the plan's recommendations related to access, participation, partnerships and cultural visibility, stakeholders noted that some broader community cultural topics may warrant additional discussion and exploration as Sioux Falls continues to grow and evolve.

#### Arts Education and Partnerships with Schools and Universities

Community feedback emphasized the importance of partnerships with K–12 schools, colleges and universities as part of Sioux Falls' long-term arts and cultural ecosystem. Educators and representatives from higher education institutions participated throughout the planning process, including through stakeholder interviews and educator-focused engagement activities.

**Related strategic priorities.** The plan includes several recommendations that support stronger coordination between arts organizations, educational institutions and workforce development efforts. These recommendations focus on expanding access to arts learning opportunities, strengthening creative workforce pathways and encouraging partnerships that connect youth, students and emerging creatives

with local arts and cultural experiences. Relevant strategic priorities include Strategic Priority 4 (increase access to arts and culture) and Strategic Priority 5 (support the creative workforce and economy).

Potential strategies related to this topic could include:

- Expanded partnerships with schools, colleges, universities and youth-serving organizations;
- Neighborhood-based arts programming connected to campuses, libraries, parks and community facilities; and
- Professional development opportunities that connect students and emerging creatives with local artists, arts organizations and creative businesses.

**Facilities.** Future facility and venue assessments may include coordination with K–12 schools, colleges and universities to better understand how existing cultural and creative assets are used across Sioux Falls. This could help identify opportunities for shared planning, coordination and long-term alignment related to creative and cultural spaces across the community.

**Collaboration with educational institutions.** Additional implementation strategies may include partnerships that support student showcases, artist residencies, workshops, internships, service-learning projects and other initiatives that strengthen arts learning and creative workforce pathways. These efforts could help expand collaboration between educational institutions, arts organizations and the broader creative community without requiring schools or universities to serve as primary public venue providers.

## Community Participation and Accessibility

Community comments received following release of the draft plan highlighted the importance of continuing to expand participation and engagement opportunities for independent creatives, grassroots organizations, neighborhood-based groups and culturally diverse communities throughout Sioux Falls.

**Expanding participation and outreach.** Residents also emphasized the importance of ensuring that arts and cultural opportunities remain visible, welcoming and accessible to people of different backgrounds, ages and experience levels. The planning process included engagement with a range of community stakeholders, artists, educators, organizations and residents. At the same time, feedback received following release of the draft plan reinforced the importance of continuing to broaden outreach, strengthen relationships and create additional opportunities for dialogue with diverse communities and independent creatives as implementation moves forward.

**Related strategic priorities.** These themes are reflected throughout the plan’s strategic priorities related to audience development, neighborhood-based programming, partnerships, communication strategies and expanded access to arts and cultural experiences across the city. Strategic Priority 4 specifically focuses on increasing access to arts and culture through:

- Broader geographic distribution of programming;
- Stronger community partnerships; and
- Efforts to expand participation and engagement across Sioux Falls communities.