

Meeting with WCDC-City Council-WADA

January 13, 2026

Topic: Discussion of funding Mural downtown

The WCDC work session on January 13, 2026, discussed the Weston cultural history mural project. Dave Laufer updated on the project's progress, including securing artist Michael Butler and preliminary budget estimates. Annie Boyd outlined potential funding sources, emphasizing WADA's role as a grant pass-through to avoid city legalities. Key tasks include finalizing the mural design, legal agreements with the property owner and artist, and securing a maintenance plan. WCDC will oversee project completion, while WADA will handle grant applications. The goal is to submit grant applications by the end of 2026, with the project completed within 12 months of funding.

- Dave Laufer lists the attendees: Annie Boyd, Carol Kirk, Bill Boyd, Chuck Price, Vicki Mast, Arlene Wynn, Greg Phillips, Lois Phillips, and Suellen Harrell.
- Trish Neal and Sheldon Delph appeared via Zoom.

Action Items

- [] Contact the property owner (Cecil Faircloth) and the artist (Michael Butler) to discuss and initiate the pending contract negotiations for the mural (permissions, scope and expectations)
- [] Email the full project package (project description, preliminary budget, bios, schedules, excluding final mural drawing) to the WADA contact to enable grant pursuit; deliver by the end of this month
- [] WCDC will serve as project manager for on-site work once grant funds are secured: oversee and manage physical completion, coordinate artist and property owner, purchase/rent supplies/equipment, recruit volunteers, schedule workdays, and coordinate with public works; provide this role in writing for grant documentation
- [] Identify potential private donors who previously supported city projects and develop an outreach approach to request donations or support for the mural project
- [] Identify and engage legal counsel to draft/review hold-harmless and contract language for the mural project and report back with recommended attorney(s)
- [] Coordinate creation of a draft hold-harmless agreement (prepare initial draft for attorney review) for the property owner/artist to protect the owner and clarify responsibilities
- [] Prepare a resolution or agreement between WADA and the City acknowledging WADA will act as the grant pass-through for the mural project (so grants and contracts can be executed)

Outline

Agenda Overview and Initial Introductions

- Dave reads the agenda for the WCDC work session on January 13, 2026, including updates from Dave Laufer, Annie Boyd, and WA DA.
- Dave Laufer from WCDC to give an update on the Weston cultural history mural project.

Dave Laufer's Update on the Mural Project

- Dave Laufer explains the idea of a painted mural for the downtown area, specifically the S & K Hot Rod business.
- He mentions that the city council agreed to pursue the project further, including finding an artist and exploring grant opportunities.
- Dave Laufer introduces Michael Butler, an artist from Walla Walla, who is excited to work on the project at a discounted rate.
- The project includes a budget for the artist's fee and materials, and preliminary work on preparing the wall for the mural.

Discussion on Legal and Contractual Requirements

- Greg Phillips asks if the city attorney has been consulted, and Dave Laufer confirms it has been discussed but not yet done.
- Trish Neal mentions the need for a hold harmless agreement and the importance of keeping the city separate from the project.
- Dave Laufer emphasizes the need for legal agreements with the property owner and the artist.
- Annie Boyd suggests that WADA could act as the grant pass-through to avoid city involvement in the grant process.

Funding Sources and Private Donors

- Annie Boyd explains the limitations of having multiple grants open at the same time through the city.
- Dave Laufer suggests WADA as the preferred route for funding due to its nonprofit status.
- Annie Boyd mentions the possibility of approaching private donors who have supported city projects in the past.
- Dave Laufer proposes assigning tasks to reach out to private donors and explore crowdfunding options.

WADA's Role and Grant Application Process

- Trish Neal explains WADA's ability to apply for grants as a nonprofit and the benefits of using WADA as the grant pass-through.
- Trish Neal outlines the requirements for a complete grant application, including the final artwork, costing, and agreements with the property owner and artist.

- Dave Laufer mentions having a preliminary budget and description of the project ready.
- Trish Neal emphasizes the need for a complete project before starting to pursue grants.

Open Discussion and Task Assignments

- Dave Laufer proposes that WCDC oversee and manage the physical completion of the project once funding is secured.
- Trish Neal suggests including a written agreement for WCDC's role in the grant proposal.
- Sheldon Delph mentions the importance of knowing whether grants send checks upfront or as reimbursements.
- Dave Laufer and Sheldon Delph discuss the preference for grants that do not require matching funds due to WCDC's limited funds.

Final Steps and Next Actions

- Dave Laufer plans to email the complete project description and agreements to Trish by the end of the month.
- Trish Neal emphasizes the need for the final design of the mural before starting the grant application process.
- Dave Laufer will communicate with the artist and property owner about contracts.
- The meeting concludes with a summary of tasks and next steps, including identifying legal counsel and finalizing agreements.