

Lee Arts Center (LAC)/Lee Community Center (LCC)

Talking Points

May 10, 2022

The Lee Arts Center (LAC) is currently operating on a limited basis to continue to provide programming for members. In the short term, we believe this is the best way to meet member priorities of equipment access and studio space. However, the physical building and its major infrastructure elements are aging and nearing the end of their useful life, and costs to replace systems are prohibitive.

The Lee Community Center (LCC) is open short-term for a modified LAC program

- We are pleased the Lee Arts Center (LAC) is now open and operating for Artists
 - *(Note: The Center continues to be closed to the general public)*
- Our goal is to continue to provide programming for existing members, focused on the priorities those members have expressed through various outreach efforts, while at the same time recognizing the practical challenges and condition of the physical building.
 - The top priorities for members include the open studio and access to equipment and opportunity for peer-to-peer learning.
 - Based on the utilization from January-June 2022, the LAC is open a total of 32 hours over five days each week
 - *Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00am-4:00pm*
 - *Wednesday & Friday: 3:00pm-9:00pm*
 - *Saturday: 10:00am-6:00pm*
 - *Note: The Center is closed on Sundays and Mondays*
 - AED-CAD has hired 2 temporary staff to oversee ceramics and printmaking programs for LAC.
 - For more information on how to access the Center and related programs, contact Kate Fleming at kfleming1@arlingtonva.us OR Lore Potoker at lpotoker@arlingtonva.us
- While the County Board increased fees to offset program costs in FY23, artists are welcome to apply for financial support.

The physical building and infrastructure elements at Lee Community Center (LCC) are aging and facing the end of their useful life.

- Our goal is to keep the Arts Center open for as long as possible, however, the LCC building itself and major infrastructure elements are aging rapidly, and according to engineers, they are simply nearing the end of useful life, and necessary improvements/fixes required for the Center.
 - The HVAC system and roof are at the end of their useful life, and many needed replacement parts are considered obsolete and are no longer available.
 - Roof repairs would trigger additional substantial costs due to asbestos remediation and ADA compliance – costs that are much higher than the assessed value of the structure itself.
- While we are making an effort to keep the building open for as long as possible and will have the capability to fix minor issues, large system failures will force us to close the building and

suspend programming until alternate arrangements can be made.

- We have completed a design study at the 3700 S Four Mile Run Cultural Affairs Building, which includes consideration for ceramics and other arts programming. No decisions have been made.
- Access to the adjacent Lee Center Park is not affected; it will remain open to the public and the students at the adjacent Rivendell School.
- A gifted and talented program offered by APS, which was operating at the LAC prior to the program and building closure in March 2020, will not be re-instated given staffing challenges and to ensure the health and safety of the students. There were approximately six students from three APS high schools in this program before the pandemic.

The future use of LCC and LAC program will be considered in the County's long-term planning efforts for Langston Boulevard

- Plan Langston Boulevard is considering the long-term use of existing facilities
- The LCC/LAC is one of several facilities being evaluated in Plan Langston Boulevard, a long-term planning effort by the County.
- As part of the long-term planning effort, staff is exploring opportunities for renovation, expansion, redevelopment, or other uses for existing sites to ensure we're using facilities efficiently and creatively.
- Public-private development options to achieve other community improvements (additional community spaces, stormwater management, affordable housing, etc.) are also under consideration for both the Lee Community Center and Langston Brown Community Center sites.
- A Preliminary Concept Plan for the corridor will be shared with the community for feedback in 2022. It will be followed later in the year by a final plan (with a vision, policies, and key implementation actions to guide future decisions) for the County Board's consideration.