

Amendment 19 to Council Bill 58-2009 (as amended)

By: Calvin Ball

Legislative Day No. 2

Mary Kay Sigaty

Date: February 1, 2010

Jennifer Terrasa

And at the request of the County Executive

Amendment No. 19

(This amendment clarifies language relating to the Arts and Culture section of the General Plan Amendment.)

1 In the attachment, on page 15 strike the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth full paragraphs.
2 Also in the attachment, on page 16, strike the first and second full paragraph and substitute:

3
4 “Public art and cultural activities play a vital role in sharing the life stories of the people who
5 shaped the cultural history of Columbia. Merriweather and Toby’s Dinner Theatre have
6 entertained Columbians for over 40 years. Local sculptures, including The People Tree, The
7 Hug, The Bears and Willard and Jim Rouse, each tell a different part of Columbia’s story. As
8 later additions, the James Rouse Theatre for the Performing Arts and the Horowitz Visual and
9 Performing Arts Center have housed many local performing arts groups and given visual artists a
10 venue for exhibitions. Columbia is also fortunate to have the professional Rep Stage as part of
11 the arts scene.

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13 This Plan envisions a dynamic and continuously increasing role for visual and performing arts in
14 Downtown Columbia. In pursuit of this goal, this Plan calls for the formation of a Downtown
15 Arts and Culture Commission to oversee the planning, coordination and implementation of
16 artistic and cultural activities, opportunities, events and works displayed in Downtown. The
17 Downtown Arts and Culture Commission should complete a Cultural Master Plan that sets
18 specific and measureable goals and identifies the means to achieve these goals for arts and
19 cultural priorities identified for Downtown. The Cultural Master Plan for Downtown Columbia
20 will encompass the potential expansion of visual, performing and literary arts and the potential
21 roles that Merriweather Post Pavilion, the Howard County Central Library, Howard Community
22 College, other existing performing arts facilities and existing and new public spaces could play
23 in creating a 21st century cultural identity for Downtown Columbia.

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2 In support of the long history of arts and culture in Columbia, this Plan includes the renovation
3 of Merriweather Post Pavilion. An icon of Columbia, Merriweather Post Pavilion was the
4 community's first performance venue and continues to be a major regional destination. As
5 identified in the report by Howard County's 2005 Citizen Advisory Panel on Merriweather Post
6 Pavilion, the facility has long needed major renovation and capital repairs in order to continue
7 bringing quality music and entertainment to the region. Merriweather Post Pavilion will be
8 updated to become a state-of-the-art entertainment facility that should more effectively compete
9 in attracting the most popular performers, better provide a suitable venue for a greater variety of
10 artists in order to expand artistic and cultural offerings and serve as a catalyst for other new
11 performance venues in Downtown Columbia. Recognizing the importance of this major
12 community asset, this Plan also anticipates donation of Merriweather Post Pavilion to the
13 Downtown Arts and Culture Commission in order to ensure its continued use as a performing
14 arts center and premier regional concert venue.

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16 In addition, it may be desirable for various arts organizations to move their offices and/or
17 operations downtown. Considering the popularity of Toby's Dinner Theatre, opportunities
18 should be explored for a new and improved facility for the theatre as well as the possibility of a
19 new children's theatre.

20
21 Included in this Plan are a variety of new amenity spaces appropriate for public discourse,
22 performance and arts-related activities. The Merriweather-Symphony Woods neighborhood will
23 include many natural and planned spaces for small and large gatherings. Elsewhere, plazas will
24 provide open air sites for enjoyment of the arts and other entertainment. Built environments, like
25 the new Market Square addition to The Mall, should be designed and programmed to
26 accommodate such activities as dance and music concerts, thus increasing performance space
27 capacity in Columbia.

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29 The use of visual arts as a means for embedding meaning into the physical landscape also helps
30 people form bonds with the places where they live and work. Learning from the examples of
31 public art at the Lakefront, a downtown development master plan should include public art to
32 continue building a memorable place filled with life and character that reflects the complexity
33 and diversity of Columbia.

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35 Works of art, art places and performance spaces should be incorporated into both newly formed
36 and existing amenity spaces throughout Downtown. Within these centers of civic life, art can
37 play an important role in communicating what Columbians value. Some of Columbia's existing
38 institutions such as the library, hospital, community college and Columbia Archives could also
39 provide appropriate locations for enhancing the artistic and cultural life of the community.

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41 An equally important goal is to include art in private developments. The architectural form of
42 buildings could feature sculptural reliefs and integrate the design of both freestanding and
43 attached installations. In addition to other locations, mixed-use storefronts wrapping parking
44 garages could become studio and live-work space for local artists adding to the vitality of
45 Downtown's art scene.

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1 Additionally, the walls of buildings and parking garages could become the surfaces for murals
2 and sculptural relief that tell the story of Columbia and its people. Common elements such as
3 water fountains, bus shelters and signage could be transformed into objects of cultural meaning.
4

5 To support public art in Downtown Columbia, this plan envisions the creation of the Art in the
6 Community program. To this end, the plan recommends that subsequent legislation be adopted
7 to describe and establish the program. This program will be supported by a percentage of funding
8 to be included in the total cost of construction for projects in the Downtown. It is anticipated
9 that property owners in Downtown Columbia will either provide art as an integral part of their
10 projects, work together with other owners to provide a more significant Art in the Community
11 contribution, perhaps as part of one or more of the Downtown Community Commons or, if either
12 of those choices is impractical, support the program with an in-lieu fee. This Plan also envisions
13 the Downtown Arts and Culture Commission as playing a critical role in the administration and
14 coordination of the Art in the Community Program.
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16 Because this is a new program for Columbia, there could be an artist registry set up through the
17 Howard County Arts Council that would assist owners in finding local or regional artists for their
18 projects. There could also be multidisciplinary project teams including artists and landscape
19 architects, together with the community, which would assist property owners with designing
20 unique pieces of art that will become the hallmarks of Downtown Columbia.”
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