



August 11, 2025
Takis P. Karantonis, Chairman
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Chair Karantonis and Members of the Arlington County Board:

I write on behalf of the Yorktown Civic Association regarding the LAC Studios, formerly the Lee Arts Center, at 5722 Langston Boulevard. While not in our civic association footprint, the LAC borders our neighborhood and has served thousands of residents in this area. Many residents of our civic association have benefitted and would benefit from its continued use as a community center. As you know, the site provides a critical, publicly accessible center and open space. The Langston Boulevard Area Plan (LBAP) acknowledged that renovations to the site or even redevelopment may be required. The LBAP also called for a community facility and publicly accessible open space at this location “that incorporate new uses that benefit the community.”¹

As Arlington County begins the next planning phase, the Yorktown Civic Association makes two requests.

First, we request that this space remains public. Put simply, the LAC occupies a rare two-acre space on Langston Boulevard that is open to the public. There is no full-sized or full-function community centers along Langston Boulevard. The closest existing community centers on the corridor (Dawson Terrace and Langston-Brown) are either small, share space with significant school uses, or are outdated and in need of updating. Preserving a public community space in the heart of the boulevard means nearby residents in our civic association and several others can access a playground, athletic field, basketball court, gardens, and a mature tree canopy, among other features. Protecting this public open space is a key element of both the LBAP and the county’s Public Spaces Master Plan. The very first action item on the latter recommends “[a]dd[ing] at least 30 acres of new public space in

¹ *Langston Boulevard Area Plan*, Arlington County, Va., (Nov. 11, 2023), 63; *see also id.* at 65 (“The population based PSMP Level Of Service estimates that the County will need additional community centers in the future, therefore, adaptation of these sites in the future should ensure a community center is provided along Langston Boulevard.”).

the next 10 years.” Maintaining the LAC space as a public space, therefore, aligns with Arlington’s vision, goals, and its residents’ needs.

Second, the Civic Association requests that citizens form the heart of any task force to develop the LAC’s future. A citizen-based task force can then work collaborative with staff to develop the space’s use, consider any proposed changes, and offer feedback any future use permit on the site. A citizen-based process ensures that the priorities and needs of the most-affected residents will be heard at all steps of the process.

Yorktown’s residents are excited about the many potential public uses for the LAC. We look forward to working with you, other civic associations, and the Langston Boulevard Alliance to determine its best use for the community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zachary Newkirk', written over a horizontal line.

Zachary Newkirk,

President, Yorktown Civic Association

cc:

Mark Schwartz, County Manager

Langston Boulevard Alliance Board of Directors