

Listening Session One -- December 1st, 2018

Table One Transcript

In attendance:

Aaron Paden, Dave Loewenstein, Connie Fiorella Fitzpatrick (plus Andrés), Meredith Moore, Kim McDermot, Godfred Beardshear, Greg Herrod

What do you love about East Lawrence?

“A place we could stay”

Working class

Vernacular architecture of working class

Nothing matches!

“Crazy quilt over the grid

“It’s my home. I can feel good about it.”

Layers

Age

Character

Found things

“Place where people have homes”

Mixed use historically -- homes, employers
manufacturers, activists

“People fight really hard!”

“I love this place because of the people.”

Microcosm of what’s going on nationally

Culture of mutual aid

“I belong here.”

“I could not imagine living anywhere else in
Kansas.”

Part of a larger struggle, strife for equality

Still somewhat affordable

“I love how it’s embraced me.”

Artists work together

Opportunity to create beauty

What piece of EL history is most inspiring to you?

- The effort to keep New York School open -- people came together and fought!
- Love in the East Bottoms -- Etta Lowry and Tom Delahunty -- people that refused to conform
- Native history of East Lawrence presettlement -- Delaware long houses on NY St so long ago
- Barbara Willits -- mother, working class, factory worker, became president of ELNA, fought off the economic interests that tried to tear down EL with Haskell Loop -- as an inspiration to overcome.
- Bill Hatke -- our Walt Whitman -- poet, off the grid, gay man, gardner
- Joe D -- mumblin Joe, BMX Joe
- Shelly Miller -- our friendly neighborhood bitch
- Brenda Nunez
- Leon Kimball
- Animals I have known in EL -- horses on 15th, generations of neighbor dogs
- Jim Crow history of EL -- streets that Natives couldn’t cross and black people could not cross, in the not so distant past, stories from Brenda
- RiverKings and the culture of mutual aid
- Fur Trading on Delaware St, north of Hobbs

- The galvanizing of EL during the Haskell Loop period -- EL wouldn't exist if the loop had been completed
- La Yorda -- just east of Pohler, flood destroyed the Mexican American immigrant home place

What kind of public art have you experienced that is significant to you?

- The process of the Farmer's Mural tear down -- bricks to Dave's studio and people's gardens, the piece lives on, the life of an art object, the spirit of the thing lives on, new mural re-created too, support from museum, making sure people were happy.
- Anish Kapoor -- "The Bean" in Chicago -- it's beautiful, meaningful and accessible to everyone, no harm done
- Vietnam War Memorial -- reflective quality -- both physically and emotionally
- San Francisco -- tax assistance for free, in a beautifully, artfully designed office space, where people can get help -- art that provides a service
- Public Art means different things to different people -- art that is in the public realm vs. art that is funded by public dollars -- art in the public realm can just appear, art that is funded by public dollars is just that -- expand the idea of what "public art" is -- accessible, outsidish, non-permanent
- What public art should be -- something that connects people, with the earth, other people, ideas, spirituality, etc
- All prehistoric art -- "I'm modern cave man" spirit lives of all humans, cave dwellings, great sacrifice by the artist
- Rasquachification -- a chicano term -- from "rasquachismo" the celebration of your place and what you have at hand, brightly colored homes, a shrine of plastic flowers, a fence made of found objects etc Roberto Bedoya -- altars, flower beds, Funky Town

Bonus: What is your favorite place in East Lawrence?

- The Amtrack lobby! "Time stopped there" like a lot of EL
- Parks -- Hobbs, contained space for a baby, safe
- Favorite Blocks -- 12th Street highway to South Park, downtown, Burroughs Creek Trail, etc, peaceful.
- KT's yard
- Tracks on New Jersey