



Then and Now

The Time Has Come: Downtown Stillwater Cultural District

We didn't coin the phrase that links these facilities into a familial unit "Stillwater Cultural District Sisters." Julie Couch and Shirley Weeks get that credit in an earlier NewsPress article.

And, we didn't come up with the original idea of how cool and important an official "cultural district" would be for downtown. Our fore- "parents" have been working on this for decades.

But the wheel is beginning to turn for an important area of downtown that is and will become known as Downtown Stillwater Cultural District.

The area, according to several city-backed plans, is comprised of the Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History anchoring on the north, Stillwater Public Library on the south with Stillwater Center for the Arts (formerly MultiArts) and Stillwater Community Center in between, along Duck.

In 1991, then chairman of the Main Street Design Committee David Kulick was quoted in the NewsPress supplement "Outlook 2010: Looking into the 21st Century."

Kulick said, "One of the most important and exciting recommendations of the Downtown Plan calls for the creation of a cultural district in the blocks from Seventh to 12th, between Duck and Duncan streets."

Since then, the cultural aspects of the area continue to progress with Oklahoma State University Museum of Art now located at the old Postal Plaza

building on Husband and Hazel Modella Art Gallery on Main Street.

In mid-August, representatives of these anchors decided it was time to meet to discuss the importance of working together to find mutual areas that will enhance the downtown Stillwater cultural experience.

Members of the group are learning about each other's activities, facilities and events to co-market where possible and begin branding the area with the help of Visit Stillwater – and each other.

Downtown Stillwater is a happening place. The stars are aligned, the time is right.

Watch for more about Downtown Stillwater Cultural District, as we work to make it easy to navigate this exciting part of town.



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Ann C. Houston is a fan of Downtown Stillwater—shop local!! She is a longtime supporter of the Stillwater Community Center and member of the Stillwater Community Center Foundation.

The Stillwater Community Center Foundation and the Friends of Stillwater Community Center strive to provide supplemental resources for the Stillwater Community Center to ensure its accessibility, affordability and sustainability for its use by residents and visitors of Stillwater and surrounding area. Visit www.sccfriends.com for more information.

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