

	Newspaper	Radio	Autumn Days Booth	Word of mouth	Flyer	Other-Email or work	no ans
How did you learn about this community forum	28	1	6	54	17	49	4

Boundaries survey comments written in margins:

- Focus on bistro/café before other types of restaurants
- What does family oriented mean?
- Leather goods store, nut shop, cheese/meat store, wine tasting, Sunday brunch place, gift store, candy store, ice cream parlor, ballroom dance and country western dance bar, culinary arts school, cake decorating, quilting place
- A unique "jewelry store", a Christmas Store, glass blowing/making and housing the "historical society
- Nice music store
- Photography studio/camera shop
- Sidewalks are a must! Plants, flowers along the street and lighting
- Candle and soap making tie in with herbs and natural products
- Free internet access throughout the arts district or maybe all of Ada
- Theaters are okay if they are for independent films or non-Hollywood acts
- Beauty salon, but only if it is a higher end spa/total body care – not pro cuts or equivalent
- Theater that shows artistic films, documentaries, classic films, etc. not new releases
- Check out www.themadpotter.com – it's a paint your own pottery studio – great for kids.
- Outdoor park – update the campus “greens” so they are inviting to the public
- Outdoor performance theater – with Wintersmith theatre being upgraded, use that theatre
- Family oriented place – family day, adult nights
- Business hours MUST be later than Ada’s other businesses – If 9-5 hours are the norm, it will be a failure, must be open Saturday and Sunday
- Place to hold community festivals and events – only class events should be held. If it is only 1 a year, then it is one classy event – not ten boring events.

Boundaries community meeting comments/questions on cards:

- Off site parking with tram/trolley to ECU for students/employees
- Wicker furniture creation and sale (easy to shop for out of area sales through website)
- Piped in music
- May give “tax” break if they employ “arts” in there
- Cater to prom pictures and wedding pictures
- Plants, flowers, trees, lawn
- Gazeboes to feature like music around the city
- Ada up for adoption
- Something that has identifiable duplication
- Definitely think bringing instructor in is great idea – music and art and drama, etc.
- How is the grant going to help real estate owners now in the area of E. Main?
- I have Karen’s Art and Framing and would like to see the boundaries include all of Main St. from Broadway on up to ECU, the Old Bank Gallery and Chickasaw Multimedia and McSwain are already there.
- I would like to open a small business, but can a small business compete with Walmart?

- Has anyone drawn a diagram of what it will look like?
- Can a restaurant or bar serve alcohol near a school or church after hours – does the law apply only when the school is open?
- Let's quit worrying about parking and focus on lighting and sidewalks.

Comments spoken to me after presentation:

- Community focused implies that there can't be anything that isn't PG – I think there should be things for children, but also adults
- It was nice to see that you are involving the community and that you want our input
- Great job
- When will they start paving the streets?
- I am concerned that ECU will not allow certain events in the Fine Arts Center. The Arts District should have a separate venue
- ECU announced a few years back that they had plans to expand all the way to Mississippi and Arlington – what does this mean for the Arts District?
- Does ECU really have a hidden agenda because I want to know now, not find out later?
- I think you need to have more City representation on your committees because I don't think they are really committed to the Arts District or keep their promise to support it
- I think the boundaries should evolve – begin small and annex (3 separate people)

Question 12 – What concerns do you have about the proposed arts district?

- Parking (5)
- Stable businesses/sustainability (2)
- Strong leadership for the project
- I don't want to take away from other performance areas (Wintersmith Amphitheater, Arts and Heritage Building)
- Whether or not the establishments will be secularly owned, not Trinity Baptist Church owned.
- What about older residents who own homes?
- I think it's a great idea
- Traffic flow
- Lack of community support.
- Space – I don't want families to lose their homes.
- I'm concerned that a small group of local fundamentalists will prevent restaurants and pubs from establishing businesses.
- Are city leaders committed to help make this work?
- Tourist and event focused
- Safety and security
- I am concerned that the new Fine arts center will largely “collect dust” between university functions, rather than serving as an “anchor” to the EMCAD by serving as a venue for activities that will help draw visitors to the district.
- Could the businesses be supported locally as well as by tourists?
- How will fair property values be maintained?
- Transportation to and/or from the new district
- Our ability to draw the artists and creative businesses to successfully support an “arts” district

- Those residents – will they stay? If so, where will new businesses and restaurants locate?
- That the facilities/district be totally accessible for individuals with disabilities.
- Selling the property owners on the viability of the project and getting them to open their pocketbooks.
- Don't want it to turn into a bar area with lots of alcohol
- Making these new buildings environmentally friendly
- Where will the money come from and will it be lighted and planned where it's very inviting?
- The ability for the area to be maintained
- Cost – how much is Ada government and community willing to give?
- It needs to be aesthetically pleasing, sidewalks, paint, flowers/plants
- Alcohol ordinances in the city are too restrictive
- Complete follow through by city of Ada for sidewalks, lighting and good streets
- That a handful of people will make it difficult even when most of the town wants change
- Lack of possible follow-through. This will work if dedicated people are kept in places of responsibility
- Go for it!
- What about existing businesses in proposed district area? Would they be bought out?
- An arts district should not include beauty parlors, martial arts (sports) studios, sports bars, and antique or “knick-knack” shops. It should be dedicated to music, theater and visual arts.
- Where will the necessary development funds come from?
- Safe streets/sidewalks
- I hope people really take this seriously, I think this is a wonderful idea. We need to give people a reason to stay in Ada for entertainment.
- Lack of agreement on goals causing a poorly focused end result
- That it won't happen soon enough and that the elementary school will be in the way of the districts growth
- Too many pubs
- That it will be governed by Baptists or other religious folks
- I am concerned about the city of Ada and Chickasaw Nation using the theatre too often.
- Relocation or removing current businesses/areas that are already located there.
- Wasting money and time
- Increased crime and drug use in the art district
- The community will not support it.
- That it is only going to be geared towards families and old people. That there is a need for a place where young people and ECU students can gather
- Businesses will only move in because ECU is doing the renovation.
- Property owners' cooperation
- Needs to have campus vibe similar to Campus Corner in Norman.
- Will it be big enough?
- Ada is not ready for an art district. If one would look at participation at the other art activities it is a very small repetitive group.
- Attract homeless and have no place for them to go.
- Having the diverse business/entertainment to generate enough interest to financially support the area.

- An arts district should not include beauty parlors, martial arts (sports) studios, sports bars, antique or “knick-knack” shops. It should be dedicated to music, theater and visual art.
- The input from current businesses and land owners should be considered.
- None
- Traffic and taxes (2)
- The homes that are going to be destroyed to build new buildings, restaurants and other things.
- Students must get involved. ECU has always been a suitcase college, need to change that
- It seems very important that the arts district should provide ample opportunities for all community members to participate in activities and events
- This is a good idea but in order to succeed it needs to be marketed properly.
- To have adequate parking for major clients.
- Need to determine the “style” of the district, probably eclectic but not shabby. New businesses will need to have a lot of capital to make it through the start up years – need to be advised of that. Have some entrenched businesses that will be hard for them to leave. Make sure there is signage.
- Do we have enough market area to support a market? Has there been a feasibility study or a marketing study done?

Question 13 – What obstacles does the community face in developing the arts district?

- Opposition from community
- Schools and churches
- Getting investors/businesses
- Support from community, may take many years to establish businesses, attract students, etc.
- Putting in a pub/bar. It would be wonderful to have some place to have fun and get a cold beer other than a restaurant!
- If it is built, will they come?
- Lack of public understanding about what an art district is
- Apathy
- Buying needed real estate (2)
- Attitudes/mindsets regarding drinking, late night activities
- Community support as a whole
- Current city ordinances and community opinions
- The area discussed (Main east to college from Mississippi may (hopefully) be too small. Suggest also including 12th street, Mississippi to College to the alley
- Security
- Finances/funding (11)
- Interest from the community as a whole
- Not to be branded by one age group
- Trying to please everyone will be impossible. I hope that “he who screams loudest” is NOT heard. I hope that we’re able to please the majority of the community.
- I don’t think the community really cares, ECU does
- Enlisting enough artists to make it creative
- The alcohol laws.

- Ada finally opening up to diversity
- How it would be promoted
- Churches, conservative community that resists change
- Keeping it fun but still not attracting bad influence
- Anti-intellectualism
- The people in the area not understanding what cultural arts really is – you might offer some educational classes to educate the public
- Bringing in new business
- Change is difficult for a small town to achieve when a vocal minority demands that restaurants and bars be prohibited.
- Street traffic (4)
- Parking (9)
- Not enough revenue generating potential to be self sufficient
- Boundaries
- Resistance to arts, alcohol and after hours, and traffic
- Low population and low income requires tourism
- Fix the streets before businesses move in and have their business disrupted by street construction and repair. Patrons hate that!
- Repave alleys and make them safer to walk on, especially by the Fine Arts Center
- Merchants/property owners' interest and willingness to invest.
- Fair property values
- Preconceived notions from Ada's civic leaders
- Local folks against change.
- Getting this community, especially the old people, to get behind this great idea
- Acceptance by the community as a whole
- Community apathy, lack of involvement
- Please put these ideas out there.
- Community support of artists
- Pressure from churches against alcohol
- People afraid to think on their own, express ideas
- Community doesn't like ECU students – why? They are a large part of the population
- The district should be for everyone
- Apathy and ignorance coupled with the idea that “we can't do that”.
- Acquiring the property
- Close minded, athletic based community
- Resistance to allowing businesses/restaurants that serve alcohol
- Close mindedness
- Getting the community involved. I don't think Ada takes change very well. It's going to be tough.
- Interest
- None that can't be resolved with creative leadership
- ECU student parking vs business parking
- Traffic flow/sidewalks/streets being friendly to current residents and homes
- The people who do not want alcoholic beverages
- Those people who have homes in the area
- Space

- Willard School if some businesses allow drinking
- Which part of the community?
- Participation
- Stereotypical attitudes that the arts district will be a party hangout
- What defines art is specific to culture and time. I am unsure of what ECU proposes as “artistic” in Ada
- I would hope none
- Lack of vision from city leaders – hold outs
- Increase of taxes for Ada (2)
- Current tenants in the buildings for which the district is proposed.
- Gaining support of the community and business owners in the proposed area
- Fund raising and reaching non-interested population in reference to art
- The main problem will be to get the district successful but the major obstacle is keeping it successful. One key will be how ?? the new theatre is will be how successful the district
- Is the market share and lack of enough interest from store and shop owners.

Question 14 – What suggestions do you have for us to improve future community forums?

- Don’t depend on Ada Evening News to get the word out in a timely manner
- I like being able to submit ideas over the internet
- None, really (3)
- Please schedule forums slightly later
- Break off into discussion groups – large group format could be too intimidating for some.
- More publicity (2)
- Utilize a diverse partnership between entities (including faith-based) so that the true message of the forums are heard and given an honest look by all.
- I thought it went very well
- Better ways to communicate when and where the forums are held.
- Get more people involved from all levels of the community, not just the decision makers in the city, but others also. Recruit people from local businesses to be planners.
- Contemporary art installation, museum center
- Give Pres. Rafes an egg-timer to limit his input
- You did great
- Excited devoted people who are willing to not only start this project, but will stay through completion.
- Get big business plan – design and control investment business types that reinforce \$\$ not create a competitive environment
- Try to get more ECU students involved; they are Ada’s future. I was one of 3 or 4 students here.
- I agree with establishing a small primary boundary and expanding through future phases as development occurs.
- Advertise on NPR 98.1
- Invite theater groups
- Advertise it, get the newspaper behind you!
- Have a moderator and microphones
- Why didn’t you include current owners (residents and business) in the planning committees?

- Better advertise the time, place and agenda
- Do a needs assessment to community members regarding interests/needs of county
- Rather than having a strict plan to present but solicit responses and ideas from people
- Continue community surveys, so the people of Ada who cannot attend the meetings will still be able to have some kind of input.
- Continue with this type of survey
- Reviewing other established districts in other areas.
- Hard to do. There is still the perception of “old Ada” running the show. Know people who have tried to get involved and were never acknowledged.

Question 15 – What additional comments would you like to provide?

- It seems college students will form the base of artists. And college students will form a base of frequent visitors. I think the Arts District should investigate campus life styles (ie: OU’s Campus Corner, Manhattan’s Aggeville). Another source of ideas.
- I’m extremely excited that this is being proposed – Can’t wait until it comes into fruition.
- I think the idea is great and I can’t wait!
- I would love to see incentives provided to small business owners to establish green buildings and green development.
- Ada needs more restaurants and friendly bars.
- Start district on East Main – develop on to include all of Main Street to the Chamber.
- Include West Main existing art gallery
- Some restaurants should be international cuisine, like Mediterranean, Greek, Thai, or Indian.
- We need a business in the district that is restricted to “Made in Oklahoma” products only.
- A design oversight committee is needed to attempt to renovate/improve with good taste.
- A number of state organizations provide mini grants for art performances.
- After hours coffee and pastry shops
- Music (live) venues
- This would be a great place for daytime family activities and then transition into a nice place for more adult evening activities such as restaurants and clubs that serve alcohol and dancing.
- I definitely think there is a need for this. Many people would attend events and eat down in this area. It may also keep young people around.
- How hard will it be to develop a small retail shop that would get people out of Walmart?
- No driving East Main. Parking similar to zone East/West of Broadway
- Under the Art Galleries, I would like to see more than just paintings, drawings and Native American Art. Here are just a few examples: graphic design, photography, popart, modern/abstract, ECU STUDENTS, short films, live/recorded music, etc. ECU students majoring in art, mass communication and music should have exhibits. Theater majors – small acts. Community members who want to share their talents.
- Try to incorporate a diverse mix of cultures and types of art
- Plan to be environmentally friendly
- Have things for all ages
- Make the district a pedestrian walkway with a couple of parking structures or at least limit traffic to local residents and business deliveries

- Have speed bumps in alleys
- The district needs to include a small theater for small music recitals and community theatre
- Let's go forward!
- Encourage a fine restaurant to “anchor” the arts district and provide the entertainment draw to the area.
- A pub is essential!
- In a perfect world, I wish ECU could purchase Willard Schools (to use it as the Education building and Daycare), then Willard could move, which would relieve the art district from having to worry about how close they are to the school.
- Facilities for Act II could perhaps be a part of this plan?
- Native American arts needs to be included
- A store that offers weaving/looms and yarn supplies and lessons tie in with Native American rug creation
- I do not think the boundary should extend West of Mississippi
- The district needs to include a small theater for small music recitals and community theatre
- Improving East Main and connecting a trail to Wintersmith Park are good ideas
- I would like to see a children's museum built here in Ada.
- New direction to meet the needs of population interested in learning and understanding and appreciation
- Need to make the rock garden a place to see. Local master gardeners are required to help the community. Another idea is service learning for horticulture majors.

Maps

21 - District to include a lot of West Main in addition to the East Main that is East of Mississippi

14 - District to include a couple of blocks of West Main in addition to the East Main that is East of Mississippi

29 – did not indicated a preference

57 – The district should not be West of Mississippi

2 – The district should be entirely West of Mississippi

1- The district should be along North Broadway

1 – There should be no district

Have the boundaries run North-South between Constant and Hope because the area utilizes the walkway, is away from established schools, leads right into Main St., would provide an excellent opportunity to replace dilapidated housing and can be expanded to include additional blocks on either side.

Beginning on East Main is a good idea- there has to be a starting point; however I would like to see it grow and be inclusive in the future. I also think dropping the “East Main” would evoke additional community support.