

11/14/05-

050399

Sept 12, 2005

TO: Warren Nielsen,
Gainesville City Commissioner-At Large

FROM: Barbara Komer, Interim Dean
College of Fine Arts

Re: *Civic Lights*

Civic Lights is a bold stroke:

- 1 to raise UF's profile as a place that affects the lives of Florida citizens;
- 2 to link Gainesville and UF as Madison, Ann Arbor, Austin, and Berkeley are linked to top tier institutions; and
- 3 to build on Gainesville's reputation for fostering the creative class

Civic Lights accomplishes these goals by:

- 1 Capitalizing on UF's research strengths with interdisciplinary collaboration—visual and performing arts; architecture and urban planning; material science research in solid state lighting;
- 2 Using these research efforts to support the City of Gainesville's goals in urban design and sustainability;
- 3 Showing unusual applications of basic research—materials science researchers can interact with urban planners and artists who develop lighting designs that are energy efficient and create safer, inviting environments;
- 4 Addressing state and national priorities for sustainability in energy and environmental issues;
- 5 Creating unique public exhibition and performances combined with specialized conferences that will draw tourists, artists, and researchers to Gainesville

Civic Lights is an urban lighting design exhibition, with performances, that will be open for tours and conferences, annually or bi annually, for 3-4 weeks. It provides an educational experience for professional lighting designers and students who work closely with top designers in the world to design temporary light installations in 5-6 sites in Gainesville and on the UF campus, doing the design and set-ups in one week. After the sites are ready for exhibition, there are tours and conferences for researchers in LED lighting, "green" energy solutions, urban planning and safety, accompanied by performances with local and visiting artists.

We are working from a model that has been implemented in European communities since 1998. UF and Gainesville will be the first U.S. site to host this European model. The planning and budget models may be adapted for our use here. We plan to have this be a self-supporting budget, with conference income, in-kind donations, and sponsorships from industry, city and county commissions, and possibly some governmental agencies (Department of Energy).

Timeline:

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| Summer 2005 | Develop interest in individual meetings with various collaborators
(This has been accomplished.) |
| September 19, 2005 | Meet with EDAC committee 1-3 pm at City Hall |
| By Sept 30, 2005 | Contract a half-time Event Coordinator |
| Aug- Sept 2005 | Establish steering committee to provide guidance for the project, set dates, etc.
Develop final budget and begin development efforts with appropriate sponsors |
| Sept-October | Conduct individual meetings with City and County Commissioners to build support and anticipate concerns |
| Sept 26-Oct 1 | Stan Kaye and Barbara Komer visit Sweden to participate in 2005 Alingsas workshop |
| October 17 | ELDA partners meet with City Staff at City Hall, 1:00 pm
European partners with experience in these workshops come to U S to assist in presentations and planning efforts. |
| October-Nov 2005 | Engineering partners visit with US Dept of Energy regarding potential interest and sponsorship |
| December 2005 | Determine final dates and if there is sufficient support to anticipate adequate funding and support for workshops and exhibition |
| Spring or Fall 2007 | Host Civic Lights in venues at UF and in Gainesville |