

**CITY OF LITTLETON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL  
October 2025**

**ARTS & CULTURE BOARD**

The Arts & Culture Board (ACB) is tasked with developing and sustaining a framework to support the arts and culture in Littleton. The board is composed of 11 members appointed by City Council. Currently all seats are filled and there are no vacancies. The board has 3 standing subcommittees (Library, Museum, and Public Art) and others can be added at the discretion of the chair. ACB meets monthly on the second Thursday at 6:30pm in the Littleton Museum Lecture Hall. Museum Director Tim Nimz is the lead staff liaison for the board, with support from Library Director Dennis Quinn, Museum Deputy Director Becky Kosma, and Public Art Administrator Anna Dyste.

Over the past 6 months, ACB completed the first-ever Arts & Culture Community Strategic Plan. The plan was presented to City Council at an April 8 study session and adopted unanimously by Council on May 20 with direction to begin implementation. A key component of the Community Strategic Plan is the creation of Percent for Public Art program; these programs are used across the country to allocate a small percentage of municipal capital improvement budgets for the acquisition of public art. On August 26, ACB met with City Council and received direction to bring back a resolution establishing a program for Council consideration. This is tentatively scheduled for October.

In other news, the Mural Program has two applications in process, with installation tentatively scheduled for early Q4 2025 and late Q1 2026. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual State of the Arts in Littleton event was held on April 2; the highlight of the evening's program was the presentation of the second Littleton Arts & Culture Award to longtime Western Welcome Week executive director Cindy Hathaway. In June, July, and August, ACB considered 39 applications for the 2026 Arts & Culture Grants and referred 17 of them to Council with funding recommendations.

In addition to working on the Community Strategic Plan, ACB will review and possibly revise the Lodgers Tax Grant Policy in response to declining revenues; review Mural Program applications; and hold quarterly meetings of the Culture & Arts Partners group.

Each of these ACB initiatives is in service to the following Council and board policies:

- Horizon 2027 Strategic Outcome: Vibrant Community with Rich Culture
- Horizon 2027 2-3 Year Initiative #2: Develop Arts & Culture Master Plan to establish the long-term vision for promoting arts, fostering inclusivity, and enhancing quality of life through various cultural initiatives and experiences
- Arts & Culture Community Strategic Plan 2025-2029
- Arts & Culture Board Strategic Plan 2.0 2023-2026

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP BOARD**

The Environmental Stewardship Board (ESB) provides City Council and staff input on the community's environmental stewardship and sustainability priorities. The board is composed of seven members appointed by City Council. Over the past six months, the Environmental Stewardship Board (ESB) has been providing valuable input and feedback on emerging projects that directly relate to the Environmental Stewardship Action Plan. ESB heard from Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) and made the recommendation for the city to join the coalition. ESB crafted a letter of support, and as a result of their enthusiasm, council received a motion for the city to join. Littleton became the 46th municipality in Colorado to join a coalition advocating for climate action at the state level, particularly as it impacts local governments.

ESB has hosted several guest speakers, including Jacob Smith, Executive Director of CC4CA; Dr. Damien Thompson, Co-Founder and Director of Frontline Farming; internal staff members discussing building code updates; and Monika Foley and Janet Jerde of Gerrity, Aspen Grove. Furthermore, ESB Board Chair Gretel Pavao collaborated with NextGen Advisory Board to provide her expertise and serve as a point of contact between the two groups, particularly regarding waste diversion and context for the board to support the South Metro Waste Diversion Plan. In addition to guest presenters, ESB has heard presentations from the sustainability coordinator about the completed Greenhouse Gas Inventory and the South Metro Waste Diversion Plan. As a result of this information, guest speakers and internal presenters have driven ESB to provide input on an upcoming Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, the South Metro Waste Diversion Plan, and the opportunity for the city to join CC4CA.

Over the next six months, ESB looks forward to implementing the South Metro Waste Diversion Plan, with a focus on areas such as planning, community outreach, and education. ESB will also hear from the newly hired Manager of Grounds, Open Space, and Natural Resources, who will provide an update on the work completed during a joint study session with council in March 2025 on the South Suburban Parks and Recreation District (SSPRD) operating agreement. ESB will also be a key stakeholder in the city's Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) over the next six months. ESB will provide input on community mapping, cultural assets, and understanding current hazards within the city, as well as offer solutions to help Littleton better adapt to a changing climate.

## **NEXT GENERATION ADVISORY BOARD**

The Next Generation Advisory Board (NGAB) is tasked to provide City Council with various recommendations, suggestions, and feedback on matters of City policy that directly impact the attraction and retention of residents between the ages of 16 and 36. The board is comprised of 7 members appointed by City Council who fall within this age demographic. NGAB exists to bring forward the perspectives of younger residents, future leaders, and emerging community voices, ensuring that the City's policies, priorities, and initiatives address today's needs while positioning Littleton for long-term success. Because NGAB is asked to engage in a diverse set of initiatives across the City, we must act diligently and strategically to provide timely, high-quality support.

Over the past six months, NGAB has meaningfully contributed to several critical efforts in alignment with the Horizon 2027 Strategic Plan. In August, NGAB issued formal support for the adoption of the South Metro Waste Diversion Plan, recognizing its alignment with the City's Environmental Stewardship Action Plan — highlighting key provisions to expand recycling access across housing types, improving equity and helping Council anticipate impacts, maintain fairness, and build public trust. Furthermore, NGAB provided support for the annual evaluation of 3A fund use based on ballot measure commitments, offering recommendations to keep spending transparent, compliant, and focused on voter priorities.

Looking ahead, NGAB will continue to deepen its partnership with Council by prioritizing evaluation of current initiatives, looking to bring a fresh, future-oriented perspective to some of the City's most important initiatives. NGAB will evaluate Project Downtown, preparing research and recommendations to ensure redevelopment plans are inclusive, vibrant, and appealing to younger residents and visitors. Moreover, NGAB intends to enhance its cross-board collaboration, partnering with other boards on safety and infrastructure projects, broadening solutions with NGAB's unique perspective. In addition, NGAB will prioritize community connection, building relationships with local next-gen groups to better enable younger voices to learn about and connect with government, both through communication of NGAB priorities and the solicitation of input from various surveys.

NGAB will continue to maintain an advisement-ready approach to City growth and culture, ready to advise on housing, workforce, transportation, and cultural policies to ensure that Council decisions resonate with emerging City demographics and future community needs, in addition to providing just-in-time advisement on emerging issues. NGAB is excited to build on its current momentum — expanding our role as a reliably-trusted advisory partner by elevating emerging voices and helping Council make decisions that are transformative in the present and future.

## **TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY BOARD**

(Still Awaiting)

## **APPEALS AND ADJUSTMENT COMMISSION**

The Appeals and Adjustment Commission (AAC) is tasked with reviewing quasi-judicial variance requests, appeals to the Unified Land Use Code (ULUC), and appeals to the adopted ICC Building Codes. The AAC is composed of five (5) members appointed by City Council. There is currently a vacancy on the commission. The AAC meets the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Littleton Center. Planning Manager Jerad Chipman and Chief Building Official Tim Steinwinder are the lead staff liaisons with the support of the planning and building divisions of the community development department.

Since the last update, AAC had acted on three (3) variances. The three variances focused on allowing a detached garage in the front yard, allowing a parcel to utilize the Single-Family

Narrow Lot zoning standards, and allowing a variance to roof form requirements. Throughout the rest of 2025, AAC will continue their quasi-judicial variance and appeals review role.

## **HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

The Historical Preservation Commission is tasked broadly with protecting and preserving Littleton's historic resources. This is done primarily through the regulatory framework of local designations and subsequent review of exterior modifications to those properties. Additionally, the HPC serve as advocates and educators on the importance of historic preservation and the celebration of the city's tangible and intangible history. The HPC is comprised of seven regular members and one alternate; all seats of the HPC are currently filled. The HPC meets monthly on the third Monday at 6:30pm in Council Chambers. Senior Planner Sara Dusenberry is the lead staff liaison, with support from Planning Manager Jerad Chipman and Planner II Jesse Sheets.

Since the last report, staff has approved two administrative level COAs. Additionally, staff and the HPC reviewed three applications submitted for the Downtown Historic District Grant Program. All three applicants were deemed eligible and received funds. One application for a Colorado State Residential Preservation Tax Credit was reviewed and approved by the HPC.

The HPC has also undertaken items on their one-year work program. The HPC has held two study sessions to discuss potential updates to the Unified Land Use Code (ULUC) and the Major-Minor Alterations Chart, which dictates how various modifications are reviewed for designated buildings. Review of the ULUC and chart are meant to understand where the process is most effective and how it may be modified to ensure it is working well and efficiently.

Another item on the work program is the completion of the citywide survey plan. This is expected to be completed by the end of December, with implementation beginning in 2026. In Horizon 2027, completion of a preservation plan is noted in the 2-3 year initiatives. The citywide survey plan cannot replace a preservation plan but will inform the overall plan and is a helpful step to complete leading up to the creation of a preservation plan. The identification of historic contexts for the city is often a component of a preservation plan and provides a strong basis to build on, ultimately creating a more well-rounded and effective plan. Additionally, survey plans or future survey work tend to be recommendations within citywide preservation plans. By having this component complete, recommendations within the preservation plan can go beyond this initial step and potentially take a more proactive approach to future preservation efforts.

The HPC was also involved in discussions on the City Ditch and potential preservation efforts for the Slaughterhouse Gulch Flume. With Council's authorization to move forward with the stabilization and preservation of the structures, the HPC will be included in the planning efforts. Staff expects to apply for planning grants in the spring of 2026, and if awarded, work would likely begin in the latter half of the year. The planning work will look at the best ways to maintain, interpret, and celebrate the ditch and flume structure, while creating a unique amenity for residents and visitors that highlights the city's rich history and impact on the region.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION**



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The Planning Commission (PC) is tasked with reviewing quasi-judicial development activities, Unified Land Use Code (ULUC) updates, and long-range planning efforts. The commission is composed of eight (8) members appointed by City Council, seven (7) acting members and one (1) alternate. Currently all seats are filled and there are no vacancies. The Planning Commission meets twice a month on the second and fourth Mondays at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Littleton Center. Planning Manager Jerad Chipman is the lead staff liaison for the commission with the support of the planning and development engineering divisions of the community development department.

Since the March update, PC reviewed several development requests and made recommendations on ULUC updates. Quasi-judicial development requests heard include a Conceptual Master Development Plan for River Park South and a rezoning of four parcels on Littleton Boulevard. PC provided a recommendation to city council for text amendments to the ULUC pertaining to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), Master Sign Plan, Legislative Updates, Urban Forestry, Process Improvements, and Rezoning and Map Amendment process updates. Study session topics included a discussion on the Planning Commission's Work Plan, Downtown Littleton's Northern Gateway and Geneva Village – ULI TAP, Master Sign Plan provisions, and Urban Forestry ULUC integration.

In 2026, PC will continue their quasi-judicial development review, engaged in ULUC updates, and participate in long-range planning efforts. Long-range planning involvement will focus on the Littleton Boulevard Sub-Area Plan.