

**Amended Amendment 19 to Council Bill 58-2009 (as amended)**

By: Calvin Ball

Legislative Day No. 2

Mary Kay Sigaty

Date: February 1, 2010

Jennifer Terrasa

And at the request of the County Executive

**Amended Amendment No. 19**

*(This amendment clarifies language relating to the Arts and Culture section of the General Plan Amendment.)*

1 In the attachment, on page 15 strike the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth full paragraphs.  
2 Also in the attachment, on page 16, strike the first and second full paragraph and substitute:

3  
4 “Public art and cultural activities play a vital role in sharing the life stories of the people who  
5 shaped the cultural history of Columbia. Merriweather and Toby’s Dinner Theatre have  
6 entertained Columbians for over 40 years. Local sculptures, including The People Tree, The  
7 Hug, The Bears and Willard and Jim Rouse, each tell a different part of Columbia’s story. As  
8 later additions, the James Rouse Theatre for the Performing Arts and the Horowitz Visual and  
9 Performing Arts Center have housed many local performing arts groups and given visual artists a  
10 venue for exhibitions. Columbia is also fortunate to have the professional Rep Stage as part of  
11 the arts scene.

12  
13 This Plan envisions a dynamic and continuously increasing role for visual and performing arts in  
14 Downtown Columbia. In pursuit of this goal, this Plan calls for the formation of a Downtown  
15 Arts and Culture Commission, an independent non-profit organization, to oversee the planning,  
16 coordination and implementation of artistic and cultural activities, opportunities, events and  
17 works displayed in Downtown. The Downtown Arts and Culture Commission should complete a  
18 Cultural Master Plan that sets specific and measureable goals and identifies the means to achieve  
19 these goals for arts and cultural priorities identified for Downtown. The Cultural Master Plan for  
20 Downtown Columbia will encompass the potential expansion of visual, performing and literary  
21 arts and the potential roles that Merriweather Post Pavilion, the Howard County Central Library,  
22 Howard Community College, other existing performing arts facilities and existing and new  
23 public spaces could play in creating a 21st century cultural identity for Downtown Columbia.

1  
2 In support of the long history of arts and culture in Columbia, this Plan includes the renovation  
3 of Merriweather Post Pavilion. An icon of Columbia, Merriweather Post Pavilion was the  
4 community's first performance venue and continues to be a major regional destination. As  
5 identified in the report by Howard County's 2005 Citizen Advisory Panel on Merriweather Post  
6 Pavilion, the facility has long needed major renovation and capital repairs in order to continue  
7 bringing quality music and entertainment to the region. Merriweather Post Pavilion will be  
8 updated to become a state-of-the-art entertainment facility that should more effectively compete  
9 in attracting the most popular performers, better provide a suitable venue for a greater variety of  
10 artists in order to expand artistic and cultural offerings and serve as a catalyst for other new  
11 performance venues in Downtown Columbia. Recognizing the importance of this major  
12 community asset, this Plan also anticipates donation of Merriweather Post Pavilion to the  
13 Downtown Arts and Culture Commission in order to ensure its continued use as a performing  
14 arts center and premier regional concert venue.

15  
16 Successful operation of the pavilion will require alternative customer parking arrangements  
17 when the adjacent land currently used for parking is either environmentally enhanced or  
18 developed. Alternatives which would be phased in through the development program  
19 implementation could include construction of shared use publicly owned parking facilities or  
20 agreements with existing facilities for off peak use of their garages and parking.  
21 In addition, it may be desirable for various arts organizations to move their offices and/or  
22 operations downtown. Considering the popularity of Toby's Dinner Theatre, opportunities  
23 should be explored for a new and improved facility for the theatre as well as the possibility of a  
24 new children's theatre.

25  
26 Included in this Plan are a variety of new amenity spaces appropriate for public discourse,  
27 performance and arts-related activities. The Merriweather-Symphony Woods neighborhood will  
28 include many natural and planned spaces for small and large gatherings. Elsewhere, plazas will  
29 provide open air sites for enjoyment of the arts and other entertainment. Built environments, like  
30 the new Market Square addition to The Mall, should be designed and programmed to  
31 accommodate such activities as dance and music concerts, thus increasing performance space  
32 capacity in Columbia.

33  
34 The use of visual arts as a means for embedding meaning into the physical landscape also helps  
35 people form bonds with the places where they live and work. Learning from the examples of  
36 public art at the Lakefront, a downtown development master plan should include public art to  
37 continue building a memorable place filled with life and character that reflects the complexity  
38 and diversity of Columbia.

39  
40 Works of art, art places and performance spaces should be incorporated into both newly formed  
41 and existing amenity spaces throughout Downtown. Within these centers of civic life, art can  
42 play an important role in communicating what Columbians value. Some of Columbia's existing  
43 institutions such as the library, hospital, community college and Columbia Archives could also  
44 provide appropriate locations for enhancing the artistic and cultural life of the community.

1 An equally important goal is to include art in private developments. The architectural form of  
2 buildings could feature sculptural reliefs and integrate the design of both freestanding and  
3 attached installations. In addition to other locations, mixed-use storefronts wrapping parking  
4 garages could become studio and live-work space for local artists adding to the vitality of  
5 Downtown’s art scene.

6  
7 Additionally, the walls of buildings and parking garages could become the surfaces for murals  
8 and sculptural relief that tell the story of Columbia and its people. Common elements such as  
9 water fountains, bus shelters and signage could be transformed into objects of cultural meaning.

10  
11 To support public art in Downtown Columbia, this plan envisions the creation of the Art in the  
12 Community program. To this end, the plan recommends that subsequent legislation be adopted  
13 to describe and establish the program. This program will be supported by a percentage of funding  
14 to be included in the total cost of construction for projects in the Downtown. It is anticipated  
15 that property owners in Downtown Columbia will either provide art as an integral part of their  
16 projects, work together with other owners to provide a more significant Art in the Community  
17 contribution, perhaps as part of one or more of the Downtown Community Commons or, if either  
18 of those choices is impractical, support the program with an in-lieu fee. This Plan also envisions  
19 the Downtown Arts and Culture Commission as playing a critical role in the administration and  
20 coordination of the Art in the Community Program.

21  
22 Because this is a new program for Columbia, there could be an artist registry set up through the  
23 Howard County Arts Council that would assist owners in finding local or regional artists for their  
24 projects. There could also be multidisciplinary project teams including artists and landscape  
25 architects, together with the community, which would assist property owners with designing  
26 unique pieces of art that will become the hallmarks of Downtown Columbia.”

27  
28 On page 34, in the fifth complete paragraph, after the last sentence, insert the following:

29 “To this end, this Plan recommends the formation of the Downtown Arts and Culture  
30 Commission and that GGP’s cultural consultant should work with the Commission in guiding the  
31 development of a Cultural master Plan for Downtown Columbia.”. On the same page, strike the  
32 last paragraph.”.