



# **RUSSELL FARM ART CENTER GARAGE**

CITY COUNCIL: APRIL 7, 2025

STAFF PRESENTER: JEN BASHAM, DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION



# BACKGROUND

- Russell Farm Art Center is a 30-acre property, established in 1877 by Martha Russell. The farm has been passed down through generations of the same family.
- In 2012, Charlie and Louise Boren generously donated the farm to the City of Burlison, accompanied by the Russell Farm Use Agreement.
- The agreement establishes the Art Advisory Committee, Historical Advisory Committee, and the Boren Property Advisory Committee.
- To further support the farm, the 501(c)(3) organization Friends of Russell Farm is a volunteer-led group that raises funds to support programs and projects at the farm.
- The Art Advisory Committee and the Friends of Russell Farm have been working to raise the funds to convert the current Garage into a dedicated art classroom and gallery since 2022.
- Currently, art programming primarily takes place in the Chesapeake Building, a multi-use building.

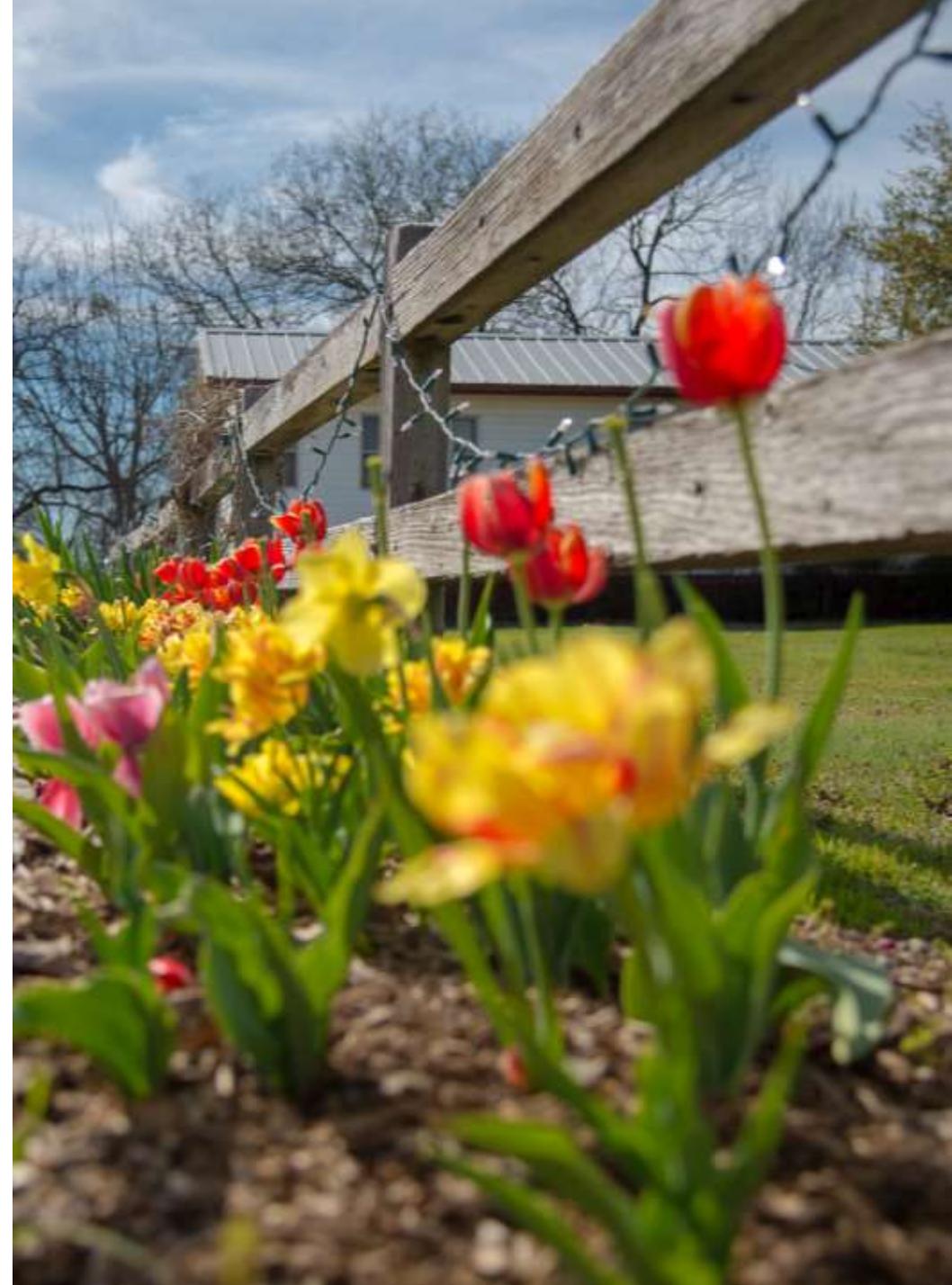
# GARAGE CONVERSION – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

## **Project Purpose:**

The purpose of this project is to create dedicated art space, within the existing footprint, that enables expanded programming in a more functional environment, to include:

- Improved climate-controlled working space
- Storage for supplies, increased outlets, and ability to rinse/clean art equipment
- Flexibility for arranging set-ups and displaying art
- Improved lighting conducive to art creation

The scope of work involves the renovation of the garage interior, a reconstructed small exterior enclosure, and no changes to the existing carport.



# BUDGET & FUNDING

**Current Project Estimate:  
\$46,325**

The Friends of Russell Farm (FORF) have committed donated funding to this project up to \$50,000. A portion of the funding will come from dollars raised by the Art Advisory Committee and the remainder will be supplemented by private donations specifically directed to this project.





## TIMELINE

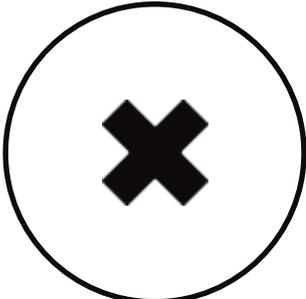
- Park Board recommended approval of the project and acceptance of the donation on March 20, 2025
- Present to City Council on April 7, 2025
- If approved the project is scheduled for completion by June 1, 2025.



# DIRECTION



Recommend acceptance of the donation for the Garage conversion



Deny