



General Government & Social Services Committee

November 15, 2022
Summary and Motions

Committee chair, Council Member Susan Lamb, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Committee members Vice Mayor Steve Kay and Council Members Liz Sheehan, Fred Brown, Whitney Baxter, Amanda Bledsoe, and Kathy Plomin attended the meeting.

I. Approval of October 27, 2022 Committee Summary

A motion by Liz Sheehan to approve October 27, 2022 Committee Summary, seconded by Fred Brown, the motion passed without dissent.

II. Explorium Update

Colby Ernest, the Director of the Explorium, presented on behalf of this item. He gave a brief review of his presentation to the General Government and Social Services Committee from March 2022. The Explorium made many updates and repairs to the Museum since the last presentation. They have a new website where tickets can be purchased and programming can be viewed. The Explorium has begun exploring various community partners and they are wrapping up their strategic plan. There has been over 10,000 visitors to the museum since July, which is a higher number of visitors than Pre-Covid. There has also been 500+ group visits and over 3,500 visitors from public outreach. They have implemented an Explorium Experience and have hosted events across the Lexington community which include Art, Kids Club Family Day at Keeneland, the Boo-Seum and other Explorium field trips. They also hosted their first sensory hours for children with sensory needs in November. There is also the Experiences Fund which offers low-income family discounts, Title 1 school discounts, free community outreach programming, camp scholarships, and special events.

Ernest gave additional information about their strategic plan. The themes of the strategic plan includes finance, programs/exhibits, marketing/PR, development, and facilities. Ernest shared four goals the Explorium and its board has set for the next five years. Those goals include expand STEM, arts, and humanities based exhibits that highlight community/community partners, provide an interactive and engaging space that maximizes the ability for children to learn through play, become a steward in the community and provide new and engaging programs and events for a diverse range of children and families.

Plomin asked about the cost of leasing the space. Ernest said they have been leasing their current space since 1990 and are in that lease until 2024. They are looking at potential negotiations for the lease, but are also making sure it can achieve their goals. The space is about 22,000 square feet and the actual museum is 14-15,000 square feet. Plomin asked how many employees work at the Explorium. Ernest said there are nine employees. Plomin asked about the sensory event and if it will continue even though the Children's Charity no longer exists. Ernest said the event will continue.

III. Global Lex Annual Update

Isabel Taylor, LFUCG's Multicultural Affairs Coordinator, presented on behalf of the item. She began providing updates on ARPA and the US Treasury's stipulations for Title 6. The limits and parameters of Title 6 applies to those receiving federal funds, which includes sub recipients of ARPA funds. The US Treasury expects evidence based reporting and Civil Rights Compliance. The sub recipients of ARPA are required to provide an annual report to LFUCG with a brief narrative of public notice of compliance, and other details. Taylor has offered to provide the sub recipients an annual analysis. She has held 41 ARPA trainings in November of 2021 and from May to October 2022, there were 10 ARPA trainings.

Taylor reviewed how LFUCG tracks the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) population in Lexington. This number is based on school aged children and they are 10% of the total LEP population. FCPS provides the number of English learners. There were a total of 15,020 total LEPs in 2006. In 2022, there is an estimated 85,400 LEPs in Lexington, which is roughly 26.5% of the total population. There are 205+ languages spoken in Lexington. She shared the e911 calls of the last fiscal year. Taylor expressed concern that they are tracking 206 languages but they do not know how many of them are actively being spoken. Global Lex clients speak about 145 languages.

Taylor showed the updated entry form for Lexington Global Engagement Center. The form asks the country of origin, level of English, and how many years they have lived in the US to understand what level of US systems they know. Since the pandemic, they are asking what the best way is for Global Lex to communicate with clients. They have a section with the "most often seen" issues like labor issues, code enforcement issues, etc. It also shows from where they receive referrals like the Food Bank, the Nest, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, etc. Taylor also explained the various factors they must consider with Global Lex clients; many clients have experienced various traumas, grief, and loss. She shared information about how refugees fare after resettling in the United States. Current challenges include the lack of infrastructure for interpreters/multilingual workforce, global communities need multilingual job training, access to services and information, and combating misinformation.

Taylor shared there was a new Administrative Senior Specialist in Global Lex, Trina Brown. There is a referral map of service providers that provide language assistance. They are planning on hosting various workshops in 2023 on domestic violence. They are hoping to receive grant funding to translate and videotape Driver's Ed (online). There will also be an update to the interpreter list. Global Lex will have a web page link to all prior exhibits from community artists from around the world.

IV. Redistricting Workgroup Report Out

This item was reported out at the November 29th, 2022 Council Work Session.

IV. Division/Program Review

Lamb directed the Committee to the Division/Program Review included in their packet for informational purposes only.

V. Items Referred to Committee

Whitney Baxter made a motion, seconded by Kathy Plomin to move the Explorium Update to annual items, the motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Fred Brown to adjourn at 2:12 PM, seconded by Kathy Plomin, the motion passed without dissent.

Meeting materials: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1McHEihXn7akbM3V0oWHpLrC907T3AUR-/view>

Recording of the meeting:

https://fucg.granicus.com/player/clip/5689?view_id=4&redirect=true&h=ba479032cc2c324e3d1e1b73ffd06fb7

JDS 1/11/2023