

April, 2020

Hello Friends,

Hope you all are well. I won't apologize for the timeliness of this email - we're all in the same boat here. Spending all waking hours pivoting, adjusting, and redefining our businesses in this unprecedented time. Probably more than just the waking hours too.

Pint & Plow continues on, true to its roots, just in a different style. We closed our doors to on-site dining, and moved to an online ordering system backed up by curbside pickup in our potholed parking lot. We've partnered with the Kerrville Farmers Market to help it transition to a similar system, and to help keep local food access a thing. We have never strived for "perfect", and are reminded daily that qualities like "authentic", "honest", and "scrappy" have always serve us better anyway. KUTS qualities, really.

Morale is almost weirdly high, and we've been able to retain all of our 23 employees. This due largely to the grit of our staff, but even more so, to the overwhelming support of our Kerrville community. Small gestures by many folks have inspired us to keep going, as best we can. It's a remarkable community, and we do not take it for granted. After this, we never will.

Work continues on implementation of the KUTS-Clay South concept. Through support of KUTS sponsors, we are still working to realize a good chunk of the vision we've created together for the Clay/Water intersection, including: crosswalks; public art; informational markers; and, string lights that span across Clay Street.

KPUB has taken the lead on the string light element, and has hired a structural engineer referred by Kerrville engineer Jim Maxwell: Amy Stone of M&S Engineering in New Braunfels. Amy made a site visit on March 12 to look at the Voelkel Building and revisit the Parking Garage (her company has worked with the City on this structure for past projects). She is designing a system that considers stuff we laymen wouldn't think of, helping us avoiding the classic "Pinterest fail" that often happens with projects that appear much simpler than they actually are. She's smart and competent. Even more importantly, she loves our concept and is excited to be part of the team that makes it real. She hopes to learn some things to take back to her own hometown. She gets it.

Katharine Boyette has created an RFP for murals and other public art for the project, and continues her conversations with Kerrville Chalk Festival and other local artists to get it right. She too is passionate about public art, and the potential it has to transform our perspective, our experience, and our understanding of our world and our community.

We received a grant from the McLaughlin Doty Foundation. Beth McLaughlin has requested that these funds go directly towards the public art component of Clay South. Katharine and others are working with Beth to collaborate and make sure we knock this part of the project out of the park.

We are cautiously planning for the next public Trailblazer event, to be held on the third floor of the Parking Garage. Once we're able to physically gather again, just imagine the party that will be.

The good fight continues. The City is facing the same challenges as other small businesses, as monthly revenue from sales tax accounts for something like 25-30% of its budget. As a major partner to KUTS, this could have an impact. But support for KUTS is strong, deep, and diverse - the impact is only turbulence. We'll get through it.

Just a note really, to check in. The way that Cardinals and Chickadees chirp to each other as they scurry about the trees. "I'm still here. Love you. Cat on the ground! Love you. My branch! I found a bug! Heh bebe! Are you my mother? Love you!"

Hope all is well, and that each of you feels the same almost morbid optimism that more than a few of us share right now. We'll get through this, truer to ourselves than ever. Take care and stay well - we'll see you soon.

Jeremy