

KUTS Update April 2024

An update on the celestial activity of KUTS -and- Creative Crosswalks become "A Thing"

KUTS Clay South - Water/Clay

The custom crosswalks were installed last November with lots of online engagement especially on Kerrville News facebook page - mostly positive. The story was featured on the national non-profit "America Walks" monthly newsletter, and we hear that other cities were reaching out to OUR city for details on how to bring those sweet new crosswalks to THEIR city.

Our superstar partners at KPUB will be installing string lights soon. Hey, that's three special design features (mural, lights, crosswalks) at one intersection - sounds like A Thing.

KUTS Clay South - Clay/Jefferson

Agreements are in place to install custom crosswalks here of the same design as Water/Clay, and ***installation is scheduled for Tuesday April 16th, 2024***. Holler if you want to help. There might be a keg involved.

You'd be part of the third element (mural, lights, crosswalks) at this intersection intended to bring the spirit of the River Trail up into the Clay South business district and the Doyle neighborhood.

KUTS Clay South - Jefferson/Hays

KUTS received a grant from H-E-B for \$10,000 to install custom crosswalks here to help improve the hazardous conditions H-E-B employees face when crossing Jefferson from the employee parking lot.

Holloway Plumbing has given permission for a mural to be installed on the back of their building (facing said parking lot) and KPUB has completed design for a string light installation near the intersection. A selected muralist from Junction has submitted an approved mural design and is working on a crosswalk design, and then we're ready to rock. Hint: celestial theme.

Three intersections all receiving upgrades. Sounds like a "Creative Crosswalk" program - more on that below.

KUTS Doyle

Through our friends Coach Fifer and the folks at the Doyle Community Center, we have reached out to owners of the remaining sites on the 7-stop Doyle Music Trail for permission to install markers at the former Juke Joint locations.

Once we have written permission, KUTS will draft content and have markers fabricated and then installed with help from our partners at the City Streets Department.

KUTS Singing Wind

Schreiner University has expressed a renewed interest in allowing trail development along the 1,500' gap along the Weston House property (between Singing Wind and East Main) to connect Tivy High School and Peterson Middle School to the Kerrville River Trail.

KUTS is working with designers on a pathway plan for this little bitty section. Hold one, please.

KUTS Story Trees

A strong sprouting to help celebrate our heritage trees has been stunted, but is not cut down. We have three plaques installed, but zero current submissions for Story Tree consideration.

Maybe The Kerr County Lead can help with messaging and a promotion to give this idea some nitrogen. Maybe the legendary Susan Sander will write one herself even though she now lives close to Canada. Maybe those ancient Cork Oaks at Sunflower Bank or those 250+ year old Post Oaks along Clay and Jefferson will inspire a story.

Creative Crosswalks: Ongoing Funding

Inspired by the success of the custom crosswalks at Clay/Water, KUTS is formalizing a "Creative Crosswalk" program in partnership with the City of Kerrville and KPUB and maybe even the Community Arts Program and maybe even YOU!

Intersections with high pedestrian potential anywhere in Kerr County could receive the trifecta treatment: 1) custom crosswalks; 2) public art; and 3) string lights spanning the right-of-way.

Clay/Water and Clay/Jefferson and soon Jefferson/Hays are the pilot intersections to show the people what The Thing could look like. "But who pays for this?"

KUTS is hustling to cover the one-time costs of 1) custom crosswalks and 2) public art, but the recurring monthly costs of the 3) string lights require additional funding support.

Our buddies at KPUB can't give it away, but they do have the ability to spread the cost out over time - if we get a little help from our friends.

That's you.

For each intersection, a commitment of at least \$50/month from at least 4 businesses (or maybe \$200/month from one) pays for the third component of string lights spanning the right-of-way and completes The Thing.

Holloway Plumbing and Pint & Plow set up automatic monthly payments to the KUTS Fund years ago, and we didn't even ask. But now, we're asking.

We have verbal commitments from some OG businesses along the Clay Street corridor - Kerrville Framing, Plant Haus II, NAPA, BrewTEAFul, Rails (plus our new friends at the Kerrville Board of Realtors!) so you're not gonna be alone with those plumbing and beer weirdos.

PLEASE CONSIDER INVESTING IN CREATIVE CROSSWALKS!

This can happen through the [KUTS website](#), and an outline of the Creative Crosswalk program plus a template Business Agreement are attached in this email. Please feel free to respond to this email with questions, or come have a beer to talk if you can catch me.

Dream big and stay steady amigos,

Jeremy