

# Voices

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## Town EDC Hears Presentation on Cultural Arts Center Plan

by Maeve Slavin

SOUTHBURY — Picture this: A Cultural Arts Epicenter right here in Southbury.

The amenities would include: a 5,000-seat theater; a 500-person community room; two art galleries, one for a permanent art collection and one for a flexible art collection; an academy; residences for visiting artists; a cafe and a fine dining restaurant.

"The most comprehensive cultural center ever," in the words of a young man called Kenneth Lundquist, Jr., who came before the Economic Development Commission on Tuesday, September 25, and expounded on his

proposal for a half hour after which he received members' blessing to work on developing the concept further.

He threw out a budget estimate in the range of \$300 million. Funding would draw upon federal, state and town grants, and support from the private sector, he indicated.

Of course the site in mind for this new Acropolis is the 125-acre Southbury Corporate Park and Mr. Lundquist argued that such a significant facility would support the principles of the Connecticut Commission on Cul-

ture and Tourism.

He elaborated on the data that demonstrates the correlation between quality of life, business development, economic growth and municipal prosperity.

If the idea was viewed as a tad far-fetched, credit was given for Mr. Lundquist's interest and energy, and who knows?

The commission supports the idea of a theater, a youth center, as well as other public cultural opportunities, and member John Bucciarelli (not present that night) is working up an idea for

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