



CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a regular meeting of the Arts & Culture Commission will be held in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 420 N Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744 on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 3:45 PM.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Public Input
3. Setting the Agenda
4. Correspondence
5. Approve minutes: March 2, 2021 Regular meeting.
6. Financials: Current revenue/expenditure report
7. Artist in Residence
8. Old Business
 - Art Plan & Goal Setting
 - Goodwin Art Exhibit
 - Mayor's Art Award
9. New Business
 - Consider sponsorship of Frederick Douglass Play
10. Announcements
11. Set Agenda For Next Meeting:
12. Adjourn



ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof the regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission was held in Council Chambers at 420 N. Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

Call of Roll: On a call of roll, the following members were present: Kayla Aubid, Kari Hedlund, Myrna Peterson, Jennifer Gorman, Gail Otteson, Tom Sippola, Sonja Merrild (arrived at 4:02pm), Anne-Marie Erickson (arrived at 4:10pm). Absent: Ed Zabinski.

Staff Present: Tom Pagel, Will Richter, Kimberly Gibeau

Public Input: None.

Setting the Agenda:

Request addition to new business: Rapids Riverfest event

Motion by Peterson, second by Hedlund to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Correspondence: None.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Otteson, second by Gorman to approve the minutes for February 2, 2021 as presented. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Financials: Current capital fund consists of \$45,250 which is committed to the Goodwin sculpture project. Total balance of operating fund is \$13,424.

Artist in Residence: No new updates.

Old Business:

Art Plan & Goal Setting: Discuss delaying some projects due to funding. Recommendation is to move forward with smaller art projects over next two years. Look for ways to encourage public interaction with Mr. Goodwin during sculpture development. Following further discussion, members Gorman, Merrild, Hedlund and Mr. Pagel will serve as a sub-committee for continued review of art plan and goals.

Goodwin Art Exhibit: Mr. Goodwin is interested in pursuing a possible exhibit in Grand Rapids to introduce work and support the sculpture project to begin in June. Artist has several pieces that can be brought in from his studio as well as photographed and developed into interpretive panels throughout the community. Locations to be considered for exhibit included Historical Central School and Jenny & Co.

Mayor's Art Award: An add has been placed in the paper with a nomination deadline of March 15th. Staff will also have postings prepared for social media and the reader board. Past nominees will be considered if they have not received the award. Future discussion should include timeframe for nomination retention.

Library Bike Rack Sculpture:

Artist Greg Mueller has submitted proposal for sculpture at the Library. This is a functional art piece, canoe design bike rack. Cost of the project is \$10,000. The library has received a grant for \$3000 (stipulation for project completion by June 30, 2021) and support from the friends of the library for \$1000. Seeking balance from the Commission.

Motion by Peterson, second by Erickson to support the Library Bike Rack Sculpture project in the total amount of \$6000. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

New Business:

Cultural Sensitivity with Art: Discussed need to ensure accessibility and equity in art for the community. Subcommittee will consist of members Aubid and Peterson and will contact Human Rights Commission to determine if they would like to have a representative on the committee.

Creative MN Economic Study: Following discussion, it is decided to re-visit this in 2022.

Rapids Riverfest: The City is collaborating with several organizations to develop and host a music festival in September 2021. Discussed possible opportunities for including public art displays, interactions.

Announcements: None.

Items for next agenda:

- Art Plan and Goal Setting
- Mayor's Art Award
- Goodwin Art Exhibit

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2021**

With Comparative Totals for the Period Ending December 31, 2020

| | <u>Actual 3/31/2021</u> | <u>Actual 12/31/2020</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Arts & Culture Budgeted Expenditures | \$ 7,500 | \$ 7,500 |
| Supplies | - | 87 |
| Seminar/Meetings/School | - | - |
| Mayor's Art Award | 378 | 489 |
| Vessel Concept Bike Rack | 3,500 | - |
| Utility Box Wraps | - | - |
| Art Mapping Project | - | 1,000 |
| Operating Transfer to Capital Proj 418 | - | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Balance Available | <u>3,622</u> | <u>5,924</u> |

To: Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission
420 North Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Email: Tom Pagel, City Administrator
tpagel@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us

Date: March 8, 2021

Re: **NOMINATION OF Lee & Mary Jo Jess for 2021 Mayor's Arts Award**

The 2021 Mayor's Arts Award is granted to an area business or individual(s) that made a significant impact on the arts in the Grand Rapids area. That includes supporting and promoting local arts organizations, programs and individual artists through funding, advocacy and community outreach. An outstanding candidate for this recognition would be Lee and Mary Jo Jess.

Lee and Mary Jo arrived in Grand Rapids in 1967 and immediately set about making serious marks in our arts community. They became involved with the then-new summer arts festival "Mississippi Melodie Showboat", a variety music event launched in 1965 that featured community performers arriving to the stage on the banks of the Mississippi River singing from a paddlewheel boat. The Jess's performed on the Showboat Stage frequently over the following fifty-some years, and Mary Jo went on to become a key member of the "Paddle Wheelers" to continue productions when the founder Lois Gildemeister was forced to bow out of directing.

In 1982, Lee Jess joined with Ernie Jacobson to create Tall Timber Days. This early August, three-day event continues to this day celebrating the lumber traditions that began in our area in the 1800's. Infusing the arts into the festival, with musical performers including the Applechords and other musicians, woodcarvers, chainsaw artists, arts and craft vendors and a wide array of food vendors, the celebration concludes with a Sunday afternoon parade attended by thousands.

Meanwhile, Mary Jo has directed church choirs at both Zion Lutheran Church and Community Presbyterian Church (where she continues to direct while Lee sings in the choir).

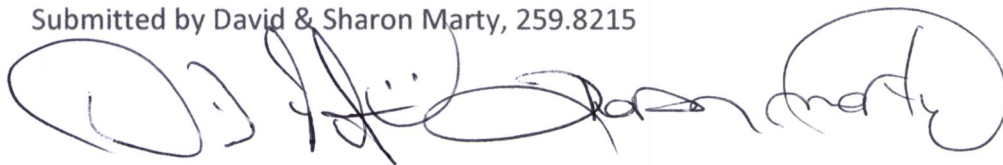
Lee and Mary Jo have been very active with the Grand Rapids Players through the years (see attached). Mary Jo has been involved with two major productions of "The Music Man", FOUR productions of "Amahl and the Night Visitors", a memorable production of "Chicago" and a stunning production of "Mama Mia", and many MANY more.

One of the gifts of the Jess's is that they have never been content to wait for projects to come along. Mary Jo was frequently invited to participate and help create fun and fund-raising collaborations for the stage including "Nonsense", "Forever Plaid" and "Forever...Patsy" and more.

And the Jess contribution is not limited to performances and special events. Lee and Mary Jo have been active financial donors, underwriters and sponsors for many performances and events in Grand Rapids, especially through the Reif Center. Notably, Mary Jo was Co-Chair of the Reif Renovation Committee that met every Monday morning at 7 AM for more than two years to raise funds and realize the \$10.4 Million upgrade.

We are indebted to Lee and Mary Jo Jess, and they richly deserve to be recognized with the 2021 Mayor's Arts Award.

Submitted by David & Sharon Marty, 259.8215

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David & Sharon Marty", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the typed name and phone number.



Grand Rapids Players proudly supports the nomination of Dr. Lee and Mary Jo Jess for the 2021 Mayor's Arts Award.

Lee and Mary Jo have continually provided both artistic and financial support for numerous arts endeavors since their arrival in Grand Rapids in the mid 1960's.

Specifically, their contributions to our organization are too many to recount. From performing to directing to board positions and financial support, their belief in our mission in the world of theatre arts has been truly strengthened through their presence.

Grand Rapids Players first met them when they joined the cast in *The Moon is Blue* in 1965. Soon after, Mary Jo became a familiar face and not just as an artistic director but a musical director as well! She continued with us, predominantly as a music/artistic director, in widely-acclaimed productions that included *The Sound of Music*, *Damn Yankees*, *Chicago*, *Music Man*, and *Mama Mia!*, all the while Lee joining her with support where needed. But she did play some stellar roles in *Nunsense*, *Patsy Cline*, and *Chicago*, as of late. Together Lee and Mary Jo also created fund-raising collaboration opportunities between Grand Rapids Players and Reif Arts Council.

Lee and Mary Jo Jess believe in quality, collaboration, commitment and community in all that they do. We, in the greater Grand Rapids area, are richer for their presence and contributions to the arts.

Thank you for this opportunity,

Grand Rapids Players Executive Board and Director

Daniel Willis
Katy Lyak

John Deak
Stacy Jayne

Therese

Tom & Nancy Saxhaug

1301 Lakewood Lane
Grand Rapids MN 55744

March 10, 2021

Dear Awards Committee,

One cannot think of Lee and Mary Jo Jess without also associating words like “arts” or “cultural” or “community.” There is no other couple more deserving of the Mayor’s Arts Award in Grand Rapids.

We have known Lee and Mary Jo almost 50 years now. We’ve been privileged to sing with them in the Community Presbyterian Choir and the Grand Rapids Madrigals (Nancy). We’ve been active with Lee in community events (Tom). We’ve all been in Community Theatre together, most notably for 3 productions of the Nunsense musicals in the 1990’s.

Watching Mary Jo direct the choir is a joy and a revelation. She is unflappable. When a choir member was consistently out of key, rather than suggest the person drop out of choir, she offered to work with them before choir each week. It’s all about equal access and opportunity for Mary Jo, not who is most talented. We need more of that in all area of our lives.

I hope the awards committee will strongly consider honoring Lee and Mary Jo for the energy they have put into our community, and for strengthening the arts in Grand Rapids and the surrounding area.

Sincerely yours,

Tom & Nancy Saxhaug

VISIT GRAND RAPIDS IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE



Letter of Support: Lee & Mary Jo Jess for 2021 Mayor's Arts Award

March 10, 2021

This letter of support is for the Mayor's Arts Award nomination for Lee and Mary Jo Jess submitted by David Marty.

Since Lee and Mary Jo arrived in Grand Rapids in 1968 they have shown support of the art and culture of the community. They have been involved with many art/culture events such as: summer arts festival "Mississippi Melodie Showboat", and Tall Timber Days. Both have been volunteers for the Grand Rapids Players and church choirs. Lee and Mary Jo have been active financial donors, underwriters and sponsors for many performances and events in Grand Rapids, especially through the Reif Center.

Lee and Mary Jo Jess have celebrated their love of the arts by purchasing local art and displaying it in their home, their business Dr. Jess Dental and giving it away as gifts. They have also underwritten exhibits at MacRostie Arts Center. They have always shown support for public art in the downtown business district as well as the river trail.

I ask that you consider Lee and Mary Jo Jess as the 2021 Mayor's Arts Award recipients.

Thank you,



Megan Christianson
Executive Director
Visit Grand Rapids



March 8, 2021

Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission
420 North Pokegama
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Attn: Tom Pagel

Dear Mr. Pagel:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter in support of a recent nomination for the Mayor's Art Award 2021. Nominees, Lee and Mary Jo Jess, are long-time avid art supporters in our community.

As the director of the Reif Arts Council and Myles Reif Performing Arts Center, I have had the pleasure of interacting with Lee and Mary Jo through live performing arts events and arts education events in Grand Rapids. They have been incredibly generous supporters of their time and resources for the benefit of arts and culture. The Reif has been on the receiving end of their generosity and deep knowledge of the arts through many hours of serving on the committee for the renovation of the Myles Reif PAC and by attending countless events in the theater.

Lee and Mary Jo never ask for recognition or thanks for their involvement with the Reif Arts Council and Reif Center. They are true supporters of the arts in our community and we are truly thankful.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Shantel Dow'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S'.

Shantel Nelson Dow
Executive Director

Mary Jo and Lee Jess are great supporters of live theater performances; Mary Jo has directed many and both have performed. The Presbyterian Church values Mary Jo's choral direction and her lovely voice even when she was singing dressed as a Catholic Nun. Oh how the community loved that performance at the Reif Center! On another note, how many families have two full size Grand Pianos in their living room? It was delightful to experience the sound as we visited their home. And not to be outdone, Dr. Lee's patients may have to listen to a drill while in the dentist chair; but, we also have the wonderful experience of seeing local, original art work on the walls. We as a community are truly privileged to have such a talented couple, who appreciate and support the Arts and Artists, and are so willing share their own artistic talents for our enjoyment. Thank you.

Congratulations to Mary Jo and Lee Jess from Mary and Mike Ives



March 12, 2021

Dear Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission:

Please consider awarding Mary Jo Jess, Lee Jess, and the Dr. Lee Jess Dental Practice this year's Mayor's Arts Award.

Not only have Mary Jo and Dr. Lee contributed aggressively in a financial way to the arts in our local community, but they have also provided leadership regarding so many community events and arts experiences. Our local Showboat, the Grand Rapids Players, and the Reif Arts Council to name a few.

Perhaps the most valuable contribution has been their willingness to participate and perform on our various community stages. By doing this, they have provided this most valuable gift. The gift of an outstanding example to countless people of all ages from our Grand Rapids local community and beyond.

Mary Jo and Lee have provided a strong positive effect on the arts in the Grand Rapids area. Their generosity and leadership will have a lasting impact on our city.

Respectfully,

Dan Margo, M.D.
Itasca Surgical Clinic
Lakewood Surgery Center

Letter of Support: Lee & Mary Jo Jess, Nominees for the 2021 Mayor's Art Award

March 12, 2021

Dear GRAAC Members,

I would like to offer a strong "second" to the nomination of Lee & Mary Jo Jess for the 2021 Mayor's Arts Award.

Lee and Mary Jo are truly an inspiration for their commitment to the arts in Grand Rapids. Not only have they been generous donors and underwriters of several local arts organizations, but volunteers, and participants as well. Their contributions have shaped the cultural and artistic fabric of our community for nearly 50 years and we are all richer for it.

In creating the Tall Timber Days Festival, Lee Jess (along with Ernie Jacobson) helped reestablish a sense of pride in our historic roots as a forestry town. We continue to celebrate this proud history each year through theatrical lumberjack shows and regionally produced artisan crafts. After 30 years of involvement his energy for this event remains. Similarly, Mary Jo's work with the long-running Mississippi Melodie Showboat also helped reconnect us to that heritage through dance and song. These events put Grand Rapids on the map as an arts destination.

The Jess's have been at the center of an exceptional music tradition at Community Presbyterian Church (CPC), Mary Jo serving as music staff for several decades. She leads the adult Chancel Choir with great skill and passion, and Lee sings with the ensemble.

Furthermore, their participation with the Grand Rapids Player's and Reif Center have culminated with several of the most celebrated local productions of the last 30 years including The Sound of Music, Nonsense, Forever Plaid, Chicago, Music Man, and – most recently – Mamma Mia. Mary Jo's service as co-chair of the Reif Renovation Committee helped propel the organization to the completion of a \$10 million expansion in 2016. She was a fierce volunteer, donating countless hours over several years.

I have personally admired this couple for a lifetime. Their time and energy for the arts is always graciously given, and they never seek praise or recognition. I consider myself lucky to have worked with Mary Jo on her productions of Mamma Mia, Chicago, and Showboat. What spirit she has! I like to call her Grand Rapids' First Lady of Song, not just because she is a beautiful songstress herself, but because of how she nurtures the gift in others. I've watched her coach singers to new notes, and performers into roles they weren't sure they could play. She is always more than a director – she is a coach, advocate, and champion of others.

Lee and Mary Jo would be humbled by this award, but they deeply deserve it.

Sincerely,
Katie Benes

Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission
420 North Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

March 7, 2021

Re: NOMINATION OF Lee & Mary Jo Jess for 2021 Mayor's Arts Award

To Whom It May Concern:

In the almost 30 years that I have lived in Grand Rapids two of the people I think of first when combining the ideas of the arts and the community are Lee and Mary Jo Jess. Their dedication to the advancement, production and support of a variety of types of arts has been constant and inspiring. I have worked with them in productions ranging from Tall Timber Days and Showboat to the Grand Rapids Players and the Reif Center. Not only do they bring enthusiasm to every project they are involved with, they bring expertise and a focus on excellence. To say our community is indebted to their leadership and drive would be an understatement.

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for their nomination of this award. They are both highly deserving of our recognition and thanks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Shrimpton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "S".

Scott Shrimpton

Mayor's Arts Award nomination letter

January 14, 2020

Dear Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission,

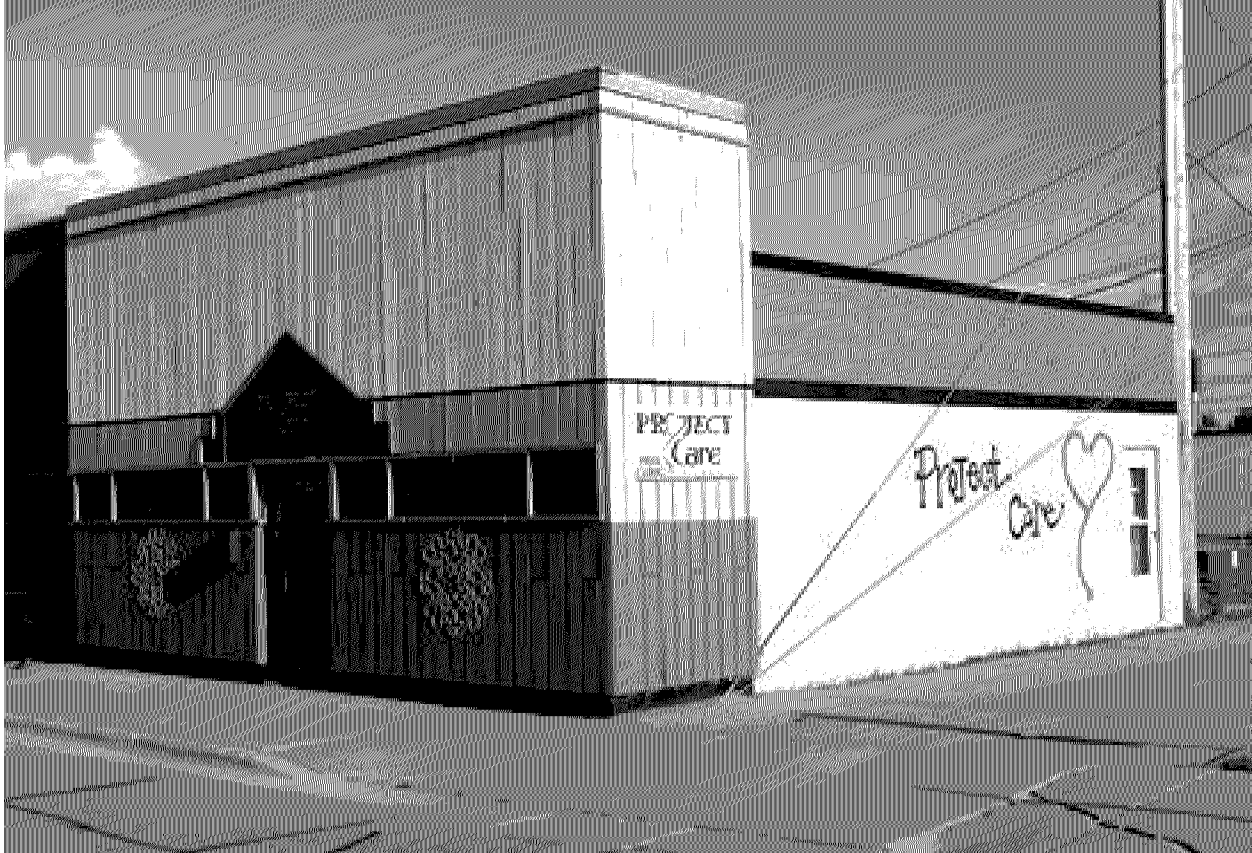
I would like to nominate Project Care Free Clinic of Grand Rapids and Site Coordinator Pam Dowell for consideration for the Mayor's Arts Award. I work as a paramedic in Grand Rapids and I am an enthusiastic volunteer for Project Care Free Clinic.

About eight years ago, I ended up in this northwoods milltown, mostly by accident. Since then I have found a real feeling of home here, and have become engaged in the community on a number of fronts, including with the homeless and the uninsured. It's easy to see the effect that the arts have on making Grand Rapids one of the brightest places on the Iron Range and in Minnesota's north woods and lakes more broadly. From my point of view, Pam Dowell's work at Project Care Free Clinic has been marvelous addition to the arts, culture and health of Grand Rapids. As someone involved in healthcare, and with an interest in being part of healthy communities, it's not hard to see the benefit that living in a place where art and creativity are valued and encouraged, provides to all segments of the community.

Pam became the manager of the local branch of Project Care Free Clinic about four years ago. One of her first initiatives was to have Project Care become a stop in the First Friday Art Walk. This way Pam was able to support the arts locally by bringing in little known local artists to exhibit at the downtown clinic. I recognize that awards and recognition often go to large benefactors and agents who have significant financial resources to contribute. While such major financial commitments are laudatory and are often a factor in supporting local art, I think it is also vital to recognize the significant contributions of time, resources and energy that are put forth by enthusiastic backers of the arts who are of more limited financial means.

Under Pam's direction and leadership, multiple and varied artists who were otherwise little known in this area have found a venue to gain exposure and display their work. On many First Fridays, several artists are presenting their works at Project Care Free Clinic. Sometimes, additional tent space had been needed to house the variety of artists and musicians presenting/performing at Project Care Free Clinic, who couldn't be contained inside the clinic building itself.

When Pam was new to her role at Project Care, she was concerned about the façade of the Free Clinic, and before several large grant funded projects aided in the downtown beautification, Pam, with her own funds and time, went to work enhancing the clinic façade with bold, bright colors and a hand-painted logo applied by local folk artist and former New Orleanian Patti Farrell.



Pam has been a huge supporter, & often benefactor for Patti Farrell. Patti moved to the Grand Rapids area in 2015 from New Orleans and knew very few people here. Pam saw Patti's art and encouraged her to reach out to the local arts community. Patti quickly became an artist in residence at the Central School. Project Care has hosted Patti as a consistent artist and exhibitor. Patti's clientele has grown and she has been able to exhibit her work at a number of Grand Rapids locations, and as a result has had a number of pieces commissioned. Pam herself has commissioned Patti to do special art pieces, including a memorial piece that was dedicated to the family of Bernice Kane, a nurse practitioner and volunteer at Project Care, who passed away two years ago in a tragic accident. Patti is now an artist assistant with Itasca Life Options coaching and instructing clients in art exercises and activities.



“Bernice-Afterlife”

Project Care Free Clinic is a non-profit free clinic that receives no state or federal funding. It runs on donations and grants, with an extremely limited budget, and is staffed by volunteers who are committed to providing service to the uninsured in our community. Pam’s mother, Jackie Dowell, pays the First Friday fees and Pam supplies all the added advertising, food, refreshments and marketing for the events out of her own pocket. Pam is very conscious of human rights issues and health care advocacy, so part of the art awareness will often be centered on social justice causes. The first Project Care open house introduced the area to the artworks of Shephard Fairey, a well-known street graphic artist based out of California. Pam was able to secure many prints from his series, including an autographed piece. She was also able to get some added pieces from his apprentice Ernesto Yerena.

See this story:

https://www.grandrapidsmn.com/news/project-care-open-house-celebrates-the-works-of-shepard-fairey/article_fca0e040-2c18-11e7-b2b6-f70c156102a0.html

In another exhibit, Project Care went out to the community, Kiesler Wellness Center and a local daycare and asked for children and adults in a wellness class to contribute art for an exhibit called, "The Healers." Pam provided the canvases and papers for the artists, and a wonderful body of work was created that focused on children's interpretations of "the difference makers" in their community. Each Kiesler participant painted or created a piece that spoke to art as healing.



See this story: https://www.grandrapidsmn.com/free_press/project-care-free-clinic-celebrates-the-healers/article_9576d55a-642a-11e8-9e01-af6e2dbb4904.html

This past year Pam happened upon two octogenarian home artists and offered them the opportunity to exhibit. These ladies were thrilled as they never thought of themselves as "artists." They were both very unassuming and knew little about the local arts in Grand Rapids. After their exhibits at Project Care, both women have been invited to show in other locations. It is heartwarming to see these initiatives by a local small business/individual result in increased energy, excitement and AWARENESS of local arts in the downtown area. Pam typically purchases a piece of art from the clinic 1st Friday artists, and has created a permanent collection at Project Care Free Clinic. It has been gratifying to see patients come in and admire the art on the clinic walls. It has also been a great way to learn about unknown artists. It is

often a patient or patient attendee who will tell Pam about a little known artist in the area, and Pam will reach out to them.

I also think the clinic is a particularly comfortable location for the exhibiting artists, as it is not a retail establishment and hence, the focus is solely on the artist's work. Each exhibitor has their own room and space, which creates a more personal venue for the public to engage with the artists. I am a regular attendee and supporter of the First Friday Art Walk. I appreciate that Project Care Free Clinic supports the downtown arts and promotes art as an avenue for better health and a stronger community. So, I present this nomination of a small, non-profit, free healthcare clinic, because I believe that art and creativity undoubtedly help the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of the community the clinic serves.

Sincerely,

Simon Gretton
212 NE 3rd Avenue, Apt. 8
Grand Rapids, MN
Phone 218.491.3713
Email: simongretton@gmail.com

Tyler Waller
28791 River View Drive
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

January 22, 2019

Subject: 2019 Mayor's Arts Award

Grand Rapids Art and Culture Commission,

I would like to nominate Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital for the 2019 Mayor's Arts Award.

My name is Tyler Waller and I am the Inpatient Pharmacy Manager at Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital. I have had the great pleasure of working at Grand Itasca for nearly 9 years and was able to participate in the planning and development of Grand Itasca's new Infusion and Cancer center. We are an incredibly lucky facility to have such a beautiful space to work and take care of our patients in. While the space and infrastructure are amazing- it was apparent early that the space would need art to bring it warmth and truly make it a space for healing.

The first installation put in this new space was the 2017 "Close to Home" capital campaign donor wall, designed and constructed by local artist Aaron Squadroni. This piece immediately brought the lobby to life and provided a way for donors to memorialize their loved one(s) and their commitment to cancer care. The artist continued and showcased the earth-tone theme that Grand Itasca is known for.

As an employee in this space, I noticed that it wasn't long before Grand Itasca had other beautiful pieces installed for our patients (*and employees*) to enjoy. Pieces by local artists such as: Charles Beck, Bob Carls, John Connelly, Dorothy Hall, Glenna Olson, Mike and Kathy Jasper, Reuben Patnaude, Karlyn Berg, Susan Clandon, Jane Latimer and Keith Thompson. It is my understanding that Grand Itasca invested nearly \$25,000 to bring this space to life and it shows.

While the Infusion and Cancer Center has been the most recent commitment to art, it is certainly not the only example. Grand Itasca's Professional Building annually adds art created by our pediatric patients to its clinic lobby. This art is created as part of the annual collection created to be auctioned off at the Burggraf's ACE Hardware Caring Fore Kids Charity Classic. What a wonderful way to have this population represented in our community.

As I walk the hallways of my work-place, I am so grateful for the time and effort put into making it a beautiful place. Our patients come to us during some of the hardest days of their life- this organizations commitment to making this space a beautiful place to heal is just another way that Grand Itasca strives for patient-centered excellence.

Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Tyler Waller, PharmD.

January 23, 2019

Tara Makinen
1114 NW 2nd Ave
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Re: Nomination of Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital for Mayor's Arts Award

Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission
c/o Amy Dettmer sent via email to adettmer@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us

Dear Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission:

I am writing to nominate Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital (GICH) for the Mayor's Arts Award. GICH is well deserving of this award for many reasons including:

- All artwork at Grand Itasca is high quality work from Minnesota artists with an emphasis on local artists.
- GICH entire facility has design elements that support a healing environment; the art collection is an additional investment in demonstrating commitment to art as a part of GICH's healing philosophy.
- Through GICH's permanent art collection, Grand Itasca has invested significant dollars in our community's creative economy by paying working artists for their work. Most recently spending \$25,000 to purchase over 40 new pieces for GICH's newly remodeled space including: Unit 5 in the clinic, the Oncology clinic and the infusion center.
- All artwork is also framed locally, again investing in local business.
- Local artists on display at Grand Itasca include: Charles Beck, Bob Carls, John Connelly, Dorothy Hall, Glenna Olson, Mike and Kathy Jasper, Reuben Patnaude, Karlyn Berg, Susan Clandon, Jane Latimer, Aaron Squadroni, and Keith Thompson. Among these names you will find artists recognized by the McKnight Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board, and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council.
- At Grand Itasca, the facility and artwork have been designed and selected to represent nature and the significant role it plays in the art of healing. When acquiring artwork, GICH has engaged a panel of community members with knowledge, experience and differing viewpoints in artwork to assist in the selection process.
- The GICH donor walls also demonstrate Grand Itasca's passion and investment in local art.
 - The 2005 "My Health, Our Future" donor wall recognizes donors who generously supported the original build of this new campus on Golf Course Road. The donor wall was designed and constructed by local artists with the intention to support and honor local donors along with local resources. Elements used on this donor wall include: wood for forests, glass for water and beautiful copper for local metals and resources found in our community.
 - Annually, Bob Carls and Amy Sharpe design and hand engrave the Foundation Fever – Employee Giving Campaign donor wall. On its 9th year of existence, this campaign allows for an annual addition to the recognition of donors and growth of Grand Itasca's art collection.
 - And most recently, the 2017 "Close to Home" capital campaign donor wall, designed and constructed by Aaron Squadroni, continues GICH's legacy of honoring the earth tones of our region all while recognizing community donors who helped bring a new cancer clinic and infusion center to our community. This donor wall is another symbol of Grand Itasca's significant commitment to the beauty of artwork throughout our entire facility.

- Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital has a continued commitment to the arts in our community: The plan for 2019 is to bring an outdoor labyrinth and healing garden to the campus. This project is being led by Grand Itasca Foundation in partnership with a community committee who are committed to expanding Grand Itasca's commitment to art and nature. The healing garden will be an outdoor space built as an extension of GICH's indoor artwork collection.
- Located at Grand Itasca's Professional Building, artwork created by Grand Itasca pediatric patients is annually added to that clinic lobby collection. Each year this original artwork is created by the pediatric patients who help Grand Itasca Foundation promote their largest fundraiser, the Burggraf's Ace Hardware Caring For Kids Charity Classic. The artwork project was created and is led annually by Foundation Board Member and Burggraf's Ace Hardware Store Owner, Amber Burggraf. The artwork is designed by pediatric patients and auctioned off at the event each year. Since the project began three years ago, the highest bidder who won the artwork at the charity event has then donated it back to the clinic & hospital to be displayed in the lobby at the Pro Building for all of GICH pediatric rehab patients to enjoy.

I am in my second term serving on the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, in the past years I have spent a lot of time reviewing grant applications, projects and resumes. Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital sets the bar high when it comes to the thoughtful process used to select art for its campuses, the investment in quality artwork and for creating beautiful healing spaces.

Sincerely,

Tara Makinen

January 28, 2019

Ms. Amy Dettmer,

Arts and Culture Commission,

City of Grand Rapids

Dear Amy and Commission Members,

Please accept the following as a support letter for the nomination of Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital for the current Mayor's Award through the Arts and Culture Commission. I note that in your Arts and Culture Commission Roadmap you state that Grand Itasca promotes "links between art and healing." It is this art of healing work at Grand Itasca that I am supporting for this award.

I have had the pleasure of working on this program at Grand Itasca as a volunteer community member before the new facility was built and through the current new remodeling for the cancer and infusion center. I was co-chair of the building committee for the new hospital and a board member of the facility so had a role in decisions about the selection of final furnishings for the new facility. We put together a small team of volunteers to work with area artists to bring art and healing together. We knew that beautiful architecture, natural lighting and the creative work of area artists could and would create an atmosphere for healing in the new hospital and clinic. More than 30 local and regional artists answered our call for original art. Patients and their families who spend time at Grand Itasca have told me many, many times through the years that their stay has been positively impacted by being surrounded by beautiful art as they journeyed through the healing process.

So when the new cancer and infusion center was completed this past year, once again it was a natural process to encourage local artists to submit original art in a variety of forms for the new healing space. Our team of community volunteers and Grand Itasca staff strongly believe that people heal when they are surrounded by caring people, good medicine and beauty, both through art and nature. We once again had a total art budget of \$25,000 for the purchase and framing of local art. The number of artists and quality of their work was exceptional and will once again help future patients, families and caregivers work together for better healthcare outcomes. Our next projects will be to complete a healing garden and labyrinth project at Grand Itasca in the next few months to continue these art of healing outcomes.

This ongoing partnership between local artists and the health care community is yet another example of art working to build a more caring, healing community. Thank you for your consideration of Grand Itasca for the this Mayor's Award this year.

*Barb Sanderson
1501 SW 3rd Ave.*

To Whom it May Concern:

We would like to add a brief email of support to previous nominations for Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital to be considered for the Mayor's Art Award. As supporters of art in the community, we continue to be appreciative of the art displayed at GICH. Every unit and hallway is adorned with art from local artists, often people we know, work with, and care for. We have both been a part of choosing some of this art, and we also appreciate that GICH is willing to take some risks and display eclectic art that may garner differing aesthetic responses from the viewer.

Because we both think that art is an important part of overall health, we commend the group for creating this award and hope that the work done at Grand Itasca will be recognized.

Sincerely,
Anne Tofte, MD
Bill Rutherford, MD

Amy,

This letter is to nominate Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital for the 2019 Mayor's Arts Award. When I read the award criteria in the newspaper, I thought, "This is exactly us!" By "us" I mean the community of Grand Itasca. I would like to highlight a few examples of arts support that have stood out in particular to me.

Grand Itasca supports performing arts in our community. It has done this by sponsoring shows at the Reif Center, being host to members of the Minnesota Orchestra, and recently serving as a venue for the Grand Rapids High School Brass Ensemble during the Christmas season.

At Grand Itasca, I have had the opportunity to see art produced by and performed by several people I have seen as patients. The same can be said by most of my colleagues. This has enhanced the relationships we have with these artists as we can appreciate each others' talents.

I have the honor of having a piece of my own artwork displayed at Grand Itasca. This is an example of Grand Itasca supporting emerging artists. In regards to the artwork displayed, a photo of a placenta, I like to point out that not only is there the art of medicine, but there is also art in medicine.

I spend many hours a week at Grand Itasca, and am fortunate that they have invested, and plan to continue to invest, in making it a beautiful place to work and visit. I'm particularly excited about the plan for this year to bring an outdoor labyrinth and healing garden to our campus. The healing garden will be an outdoor space built as an extension of our indoor artwork collection, and a great place to hang out on call!

Thank you for reviewing this nomination,
Patty Carlin-Janssen, MD

From: Wilcox, Noah [<mailto:noah.wilcox@grsb.bank>]
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 12:54 PM
To: Amy Dettmer <adettmer@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us>
Subject: Mayor's Arts Award

PLEASE NOTE: My email address now ends in GRSB.BANK. Please update my email in your address book.

Hello Amy,

It has come to my attention that it is that time of year, where the nominations are open for this year's Mayor's Art Award.

As the recipient of the first Mayor's Arts Award, I want to acknowledge the prestige and honor associated with being recognized with this special award.

I would like to nominate Sam and Katie Miltich for this year's award. Sam has done so much work to create a vibrant music scene in Grand Rapids over the years and has brought many very talented professionals to the area from around Minnesota and the nation to help grow our local arts culture. Katie, as you know, is the Executive Director of the Macrostie Art Center which curates shows by artists from the local area, other parts of Minnesota and around the country in addition to hosting educational and instructional offerings as well as providing merchandise for sale that area residents can purchase to bring that culture home or spread as a gift to others.

Together Sam and Katie have invested themselves in helping to create a visible and growing very vibrant arts culture here in Grand Rapids. We are blessed to have their talents as a part of our community.

Please let this letter serve as my strong nomination for Sam and Katie Miltich to receive the next Mayor's Arts Award.

Thank you for your consideration.
Noah

The Loves

34999 Grimsbo Road

Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Mayor's Arts Award

The Loves would like to nominate Janna Salmela for the Mayor's Arts Award. Mrs. Salmela has offered her studio to budding young artists such as my daughter Dixie during the Friday Art Walks many times. She has modified her space and others in the vicinity to cater to these artists expelling both her time and energy. Her passion and enthusiasm for art shine clearly through her expressions and cannot be replicated. The kindness she shows, speak greatly for her character. She does all this, not for profit or clients, but to offer a chance to help others shine. Please consider Janna, as she quietly builds the cornerstone of our diverse community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jeff Love

Aimee Love

Dixie Love

Brier Love



THE REIF

In the Shadow of Slavery

Home / Dance, ElderCircle, Family, Reif Series, Senior Series, Theater, Virtual Field Trips / Frederick Douglass: In the Shadow of Slavery

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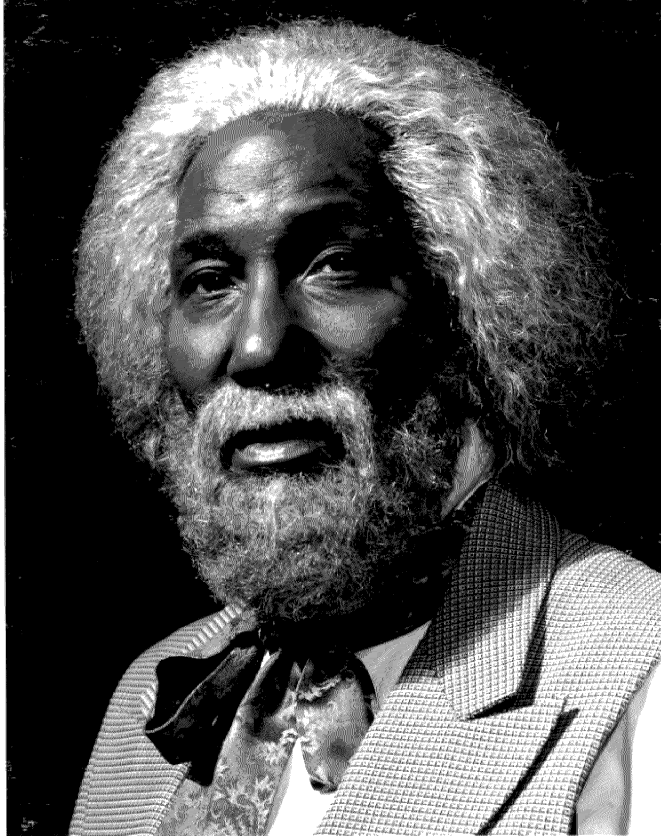
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MEL JOHNSON JR. AS FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Frederick Douglass: In the Shadow of Slavery

April 16 @ 1:30 pm - May 31 @ 2:30 pm

Details

Start:

[April 16 @ 1:30 pm](#)

End:

[May 31 @ 2:30 pm](#)

Event Categories:

Dance, ElderCircle, Family, Reif Series, Senior Series, Theater, Virtual Field Trips

Organizer

Reif Arts Council

Phone:

(218) 327-5780

Website:

reifcenter.org

Venue

Wilcox Theater, Reif Center

720 NW Conifer Drive
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
United States
[Google Map](#)

Phone:

218-327-5780

Website:

<https://www.reifcenter.org>



Frederick Douglass
In the Shadow of Slavery





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Frederick Douglass: In the Shadow of Slavery is a one-man theatrical

journey that chronicles Douglass' remarkable life; from his childhood in slavery to his perilous escape to freedom, from his intense friendships with Susan B. Anthony, John Brown, and Abraham Lincoln to his crucial work on behalf of former slaves following the Civil War. Incorporating gripping plantation songs, lush lighting and sound design, the story of Frederick Douglass' struggle for African American freedom, as performed by Mel Johnson, Jr., star of Broadway and film, is a fascinating evening of theatre that will inspire, educate and entertain.

REIF DANCE

EDUCATION

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FREDERICK DOUGLASS: In the St



MEL JOHNSON JR. - Actor | Director | Producer - Though easily recognizable from his TOTAL RECALL co-starring role opposite ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Mel is equally comfortable these days discussing the production of his new one man show "Frederick Douglass In The Shadow Of Slavery" which recently had its extremely successful world premiere in California at the





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[ABOUT](#)
While living in Los Angeles, Mel was the Executive Producer of Shadow Entertainment's Urban Horror label "Big City Pictures," he produced four feature films "Ragdoll," "The Horrible Dr. Bones," "Killjoy" and "The Vault" - All of which can be found on video. Mel was also the Artistic Director of The Imagination Workshop, a group of actors, writers, and directors who work within the psychiatric community and with kids at risk. He's extremely proud of the fact that during his tenure as Artistic Director, The Imagination workshop won the first Ovation Award given to a company for "Outstanding Community Outreach."

Mel has countless credits from a resume that reflects his work on stage, screen and television. As a theater director, his work is best embodied by the award-winning "Give'em Hell Harry" starring JASON ALEXANDER, "Oscar To Oscar," "The Me Nobody Knows," "The Ballad of Lizard Gulch" and the critically acclaimed "The Last White Man in the World." Most recently, he directed the World Premiere of Tom Dugan's one man show "Robert E Lee, Shades of





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When his acting career is mentioned, Mel finds it difficult to point to his most significant work, but can quickly identify the roles that gave him the most pleasure. In addition to his film work, the list includes Broadway stints in "On The Twentieth Century," "Eubie!" with Maurice and Gregory Hines, "The Rink" with Liza Minnelli, and Chita Rivera. Bob Fosse's "Big Deal," Mufasa in "The Lion King" and most recently starring in the new Earth, Wind and Fire musical, "Hot Feet!" Mel would be remiss if he didn't mention his long-standing relationship with The New York Shakespeare Festival, where he most recently starred in the revival of the musical "Two Gentleman Of Verona" for the festival's, Shakespeare In The Park. On television, he was a regular on David Lynch's "On The Air" and guest starred on numerous other T.V. shows from "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air" to "The Practice."

Mel has always found it extremely rewarding sharing with others what he has learned from his education, at the High School of Performing Arts and Hofstra University and his vast life experience. He has taught classes in both New York and Los Angeles, coached individually and spoken with numerous schools, colleges and community organizations around the country.

