

ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting, Tuesday, February 7, 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a regular meeting of the Arts & Culture Commission will be held in Conference Room 2B at City Hall, 420 N Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744 on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 3:45 pm

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Public Input
3. Setting the Agenda
4. Correspondence
Open Vacancy on Commission - Merrild
I Need Art in my Community - Dodge
5. Approve the following minutes: Regular Meeting January 4, 2017
6. Financials
7. River Venue Update
Up-Date – Public Meeting - All
Public Art Plan – Commissioner Bendix
8. Progress Reports
Utility Boxes - Commissioner Smith
Mayors' Award - Commissioner Marty
9. Old Business
Review 2017 Goals and Outcomes – Merrild
Art in Schools – Dodge/Dobbs
10. New Business
Art Place Grant - Dodge
11. Announcements
12. Set Agenda For Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 2017
13. Adjourn

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
CONFERENCE ROOM 2B – GRAND RAPIDS CITY HALL
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017 – 3:45 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof the regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission was held in Conference Room 2B of the Grand Rapids City Hall, 420 N Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, at 3:45 pm

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Sonja Merrild, John Connelly, Harry Smith, Lois Bendix, David Dobbs and Karen Walker

Absent: Kathy Dodge, David Marty

Staff Present: Amy Dettmer and Michele Palkki

Commissioner Merrild called the meeting to order at 3:45 pm

Setting the Agenda: Nothing to add

Correspondence: Nothing to add

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 2, 2016 meeting were in the packets for the Commission's review and approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting held on December 6, 2016.

Motion by Commissioner Bendix, second by Commissioner Dobbs to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, December 2, 2016 as presented. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

FINANCIALS: 2016-year end came in under budget. The budget set for 2017 is \$5,000.00.

Commissioner Walker arrived at 3:55 pm

RIVER VENUE UPDATE

The working group, consisting of City Staff Dettmer, Commissioner's Dodge, Connelly, Smith and Merrild has continued their work with LHB. Ms. Dettmer reported that LHB has asked the commission to do a few things prior to the public meeting on February 1 at the Library.

Prior to the discussion for the public meeting the Commission reported that they would like information from LHB regarding their findings prior to this meeting so everyone is on the same page; they would also like to meet with them prior to the start of the public meeting from 4:30 – 5:30 pm

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The public meeting will then begin at 5:30 pm.

The Commission would like to get the word out about this meeting and how to proceed. Ms. Dettmer will work with our new Communications Specialist Lauren Van Den Heuvel to work on a press release; we will also have the information on our web page. Once this is done, it will be emailed to the Commission Members so they can in turn send it out.

There was also a question regarding a stakeholder list that LHB has and to email that to staff so it can be sent out to the Commissioners. Planning Tasks for Commission:

- **Advertisement for public meeting; how to get the word out:** Email lists, City website, Library postings and other. Commissioner Walker will work with Community Education and send out an email blast to all their families. Commissioner Merrild will contact Commissioner Marty and have him send to his contacts. Commissioner Bendix will send to the Grand Rapids Arts. Everyone is encouraged to send out to those in the community who may be interested in this project. The City will send the information to their employees as well.
- **Sign in sheet:** There should be a sign in sheet that the public can sign in on and leave their contact information. Have this available close to the front/possibly by the map.
- **Select a representative to give introduction and set the stage on how the project came to be. Introduce the LHB/Donjek team.** Commissioner Merrild will do this.
- **Public Input:** The Commission decided they would like input during this time. If there could be a map that people can place votes of other possible sites. We also would like a comment card available for attendees to leave their ideas for us.

Tentative Agenda:

- Welcome and Introduction of the project – Commissioner Merrild
- Project Goals and Guiding Principles – Commission Member and LHB
- Presentation of Phase 1 – LHB: Donjek/Jon
- Precedent Sites – LHB: Donjek/Jon
- Existing Conditions of Site Alternatives – LHB
- Other Issues & Opportunities & Nominations for Other Potential Sites – LHB
- Voting Exercise and/or Survey Handout – LHB
- Next Steps & Summary – LHB

PROGRESS REPORTS

Utility Boxes

Ms. Dettmer, Commissioner Dodge and Julie Kennedy attended a City Council Work Session on December 12 to receive direction from Council for the project and if approved they would go to the Public Utilities Commission for final approval. The City gave their ok for the Commission to proceed with the project and to keep them posted on the progress. Discussion will continue at the February Commission meeting.

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Business Arts Award

Commissioner Marty was unable to attend tonight's meeting, due to a previously scheduled event in the Cities. He did report the Chamber was happy with the resolution language and gave an all systems go. We should be releasing invitations soon and talk about the award itself. Commissioner Merrild will get in touch with Commissioner Marty and talk to him about how to proceed. A discussion will continue at the February meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

After a short discussion, the Commission set the 2017 Nominations as follows:

Chair: Sonja Merrild Vice-Chair: John Connelly Secretary: Lois Bendix

2017 Election: Nominations were named as listed above.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Connelly to accept the nominations as follows: Chair: Sonja Merrild, Vice-Chair: John Connelly and Secretary: Lois Bendix. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is still an opening to fill Benjamin Braff's open seat
An updated 2017 Contact List has been handed out.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by Michele Palkki, Administrative Assistant

Public Meeting

Reminder, the public meeting for the Mississippi Riverfront Venue will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2017. Commissioners will meet with LHB at 4:30 pm with the Public Meeting at 5:30 pm at the Grand Rapids Area Library, Grand Rapids MN 55744.

Next Regular Meeting

Reminder, the next regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 beginning at 3:45 pm at the Grand Rapids City Hall, Conference Room 2B, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids MN 55744.

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

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING January 31, 2017**

With Comparative Totals for the Period Ending December 31, 2016

	<u>Actual</u> <u>1/31/2017</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>12/31/2016</u>
Arts & Culture Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Supplies	-	409
Seminar/Meetings/School	-	700
Video	-	-
Economic Impact Study	-	-
Facility Rent	-	-
Riverfront Feasibility Study	-	11,432
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance Available	<u>5,000</u>	<u>(7,541)</u>
 <hr/>		
Arts & Culture Riverfront Feasibility Study		
Blandin Foundation	\$ 8,568	\$ 11,432
Reif Center	1,000	
Grand Rapids Arts	250	
KAXE	250	
MacRostie Art Center	250	
Balance Available with Donations	\$ 15,318	\$ 3,891



MacRostie Art Center

celebrating 50 years

January 30, 2017

Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission
420 N Pokegama Ave
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

To the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission:

I am writing with enthusiastic support for the Reif Arts Council's nomination of Grand Rapids State Bank for the Mayor's Arts Award.

MacRostie Art Center (MAC) recently celebrated its 50th anniversary as a nonprofit arts organization in Itasca County. Grand Rapids State Bank and the generations of Wilcox families at their helm have been consistent and significant supporters of our work from the very beginning. Before we moved to our current address in downtown Grand Rapids, the MAC was known as the Itasca Art Association. Lacking a permanent home, the group looked for alternative spaces to hold exhibitions, and the lobby of Grand Rapids State Bank became one of our galleries. Over the years, the bank hosted many exhibits from beloved art teachers Nora Stevens and Reuben Patnaude to prominent community artists Gene Lysaker and Jackie Dingmann. Gendron Jensen, now nationally recognized for his drawings and stone lithographs, had some of his first solo exhibitions at Grand Rapids State Bank in the early 1970s.

As leadership has transitioned, the bank has continued to support the work of MacRostie Art Center through the decades. Today with CEO Noah Wilcox they are a steadfast supporter of our exhibition program. Their ongoing support for the arts has made a significant impact on the success of local artists and arts organizations in the Grand Rapids area. Grand Rapids State Bank exemplifies the values of the Mayor's Arts Award, and on behalf of MacRostie Art Center I am pleased to lend my support to their nomination.

Sincerely,

Katie Marshall
Executive Director

Nomination for Grand Rapids State Bank



Stimulating Arts in
Northern Minnesota

The Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission recently called for nominations for the first Mayor's Arts Award to be presented to a business or organization that has made a significant impact on the arts in the Grand Rapids area through support of local arts organizations, programs and individual artists. Examples of significant impact include advocacy, community outreach, workplace based gallery exhibitions volunteerism and other activities that promote the value of arts and culture in our community.

Today I nominate a Grand Rapids area business that has been making a significant impact on the arts in our community for four generations; over 100 years. This business has been a regular supporter of many area arts organizations and individual artists. They sponsor exhibits each year at the MacRostie Art Center and underwrite major performances annually at the Reif Center. They have sponsored Grand Rapids Area Male Chorus events and Grand Rapids Players performances and many more. This business and its CEO are lead donors in the recent Reif Center renovation. In addition to providing funding, this business has shown a commitment to local artists, past and present. The business has commissioned a major bronze sculpture for the front of their business and another from Tom Page. They have created numerous displays of local art and photography within the business, including a permanent Centennial photography display in their place of business of the work of John Connelly. In addition, they regularly engage local artists for marketing and advertising materials, plus they utilize local musicians (including Sam Miltich, the LaPlants and Jim Mason to name a few) for customer appreciation day and staff celebrations. The business was the lead donor and collaborator for a recent retrospective of the work of Gendron Jensen.

And this support for the arts is not only for the projects of others. This business created and promoted the Grand Rapids Forest Jam to celebrate locally made music. Along with Tom Page, they are a founding and sustaining supporter of Peasants with Torches, another celebration of local artists. This business actively uses its social media to support local arts events. The CEO currently serves on the Board of the Reif Arts Council, and has met with local state legislators in support of state funding for the Reif Center project.

This is just a brief summary of the many contributions to area arts organizations and artists by Grand Rapids State Bank and CEO Noah Wilcox, an excellent choice to be awarded the first Mayor's Arts Award presented by the Arts and Culture Commission of the City of Grand Rapids.

Ben Edwards
Board Chair

Tom Karges
Vice Chair

Abby Kuschel
Secretary

Kirk Adams
Treasurer

Kris Ferraro

Jean Goad

Julie Kennedy

Matt Lehtinen
ISD #318 rep.

Sean Martinson

Jeanne Nicklason

Tom Peltier

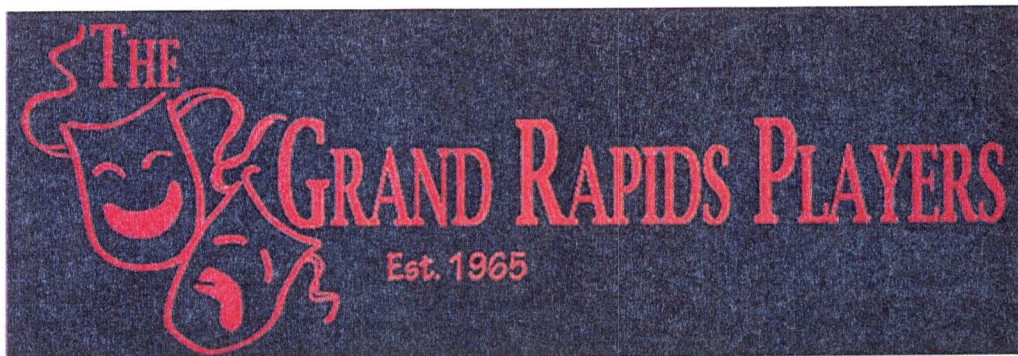
Bud Schneider

Donna Vennie

Noah Wilcox

Dan Margo
Past Chair

David Marty
President



To whom it may concern,

On the behalf of the Grand Rapids Players, I would like to support the nomination of The Grand Rapids State Bank for the Mayor's Arts Award.

Since 1965, The Grand Rapids State Bank has been the Grand Rapids Players' financial institution. They have been the keeper of our checking account, savings account, safety deposit box and all of our financial investments. Any organization that operates with a full volunteer board, there is inevitable turmoil. The Grand Rapids Players was not without exception. There was a time in the late 90's when our 'light was growing dim'. Our loan obligation was in default. We turned to them for advice and counsel and within days we received word that the GRSB board of directors considered our organization worthy of taking a risk. With their support we survived the crisis and have remained healthy since then. If it would not have been for the vote of confidence of The Grand Rapids State Bank, there is a good chance that our organization would have folded. As is evident in our performance playbills, GRSB continues to advertise, reaffirming their support in all of our ventures, including popular titles, original works and children's productions, as well as underwriting.

I hope that you will give serious consideration to the Grand Rapids State Bank as the first recipient of this prestigious award marking the commitment to the legacy of the arts in our community.

Sincerely,

Sharon Marty, Grand Rapids Players Trustee

David Marty

From: Samuel Miltich <sammiltich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 1:21 PM
To: David Marty
Subject: Mayor's Art Award

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello David,

I would like to lend my voice to the nomination of Grand Rapids State Bank. Beneath is a statement of support.

"Grand Rapids State Bank has been one of the largest and most consistent supporters of the arts in the Grand Rapids region. Their financial support has helped make possible countless arts events in the community, many of which I have been a part of. Their support has not been limited to just one medium. Noah Wilcox and Grand Rapids State bank have supported both music and the visual arts, as well as other mediums. Their commitment to the arts most obviously contributes to a very high quality of life, which is unique to a town the size of Grand Rapids. Not all communities of ten thousand people have had the same access to the arts as our community has, and GRSB has been an integral part of phenomenon. In addition to that, their support has also created economic opportunity for artists living in our community, making a life in the arts, in a rural region, all the more possible. I also believe that because we have arts access in our community it has helped bring people from other areas of Minnesota to Grand Rapids, further helping our tourism industry. GRSB and the Wilcox family are truly committed to our community and to helping ensure high quality art is accessible to the people of Northern Minnesota. For this I believe they deserve high recognition by the greater Grand Rapids community."

I hope this looks alright. Happy to lend a few words.

Best wishes, Sam

--

Samuel P. Miltich
218-326-2046 (h)
218-244-4089 (c)
www.sammiltich.com

Dear David,

I recently heard that you plan to nominate Grand Rapids State Bank for the newly created Mayor's Arts Award. I'd just like to express that I whole-heartedly agree with and support your nomination.

From my perspective as a photographer, patron of the local arts scene, and member of the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission, I've personally witnessed how Grand Rapids State Bank continually works to increase the impact of the arts in our community. The bank has a long history of financial support for arts-related capital projects, has underwritten and sponsored many arts and culture events over the years, and continually hires local artists to assist the bank with special projects, events, and marketing efforts.

Furthermore, Grand Rapids State Bank is truly a model of the ways in which local businesses can not only have a significant impact on the arts, but can play an immeasurable role in community development as a whole.

Thank you for your own driving role in our local arts and culture scene, and please let me know if I can provide any further information.

All the best,

John Connelly

David Marty

To: David Marty
Subject: FW: Mayor's Arts Award

From: Tom Page [mailto:tpage@paulbunyan.net]
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2017 9:09 PM
To: David Marty <DMarty@reifcenter.org>
Subject: Re: Mayor's Arts Award

Grand Rapids State Bank is a three generation bank that has seamlessly supported the arts.

As director of Peasants with Torches, a celebration of arts and culture, Grand Rapids State Bank has been the sole sponsor bringing the arts to a large segment of the community. Their generous dedication to arts and artists is a community model of social responsibility.

GRSB recognizes investment in the arts make for a healthier community. I unconditionally recommend Steve and Noah Wilcox, Grand Rapids State Bank for their contributions.

Thos. A. Page
Visual artist and Peasants with Torches director.

ITASCA
ORCHESTRA & STRINGS
PROGRAM

February 1, 2017

SENT VIA EMAIL: adettmer@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us

Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission
Attention: Amy Detmer

Re: Mayor's Arts Award

Dear Arts and Culture Commission,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Itasca Orchestra & Strings Program to nominate Grand Rapids State Bank for the new Mayor's Arts Award. Grand Rapids State Bank has supported the Itasca Orchestra & Strings Program in many ways including ongoing support through the purchase of business advertising in our concert programs. The revenue generated through our business ad campaign is vital to our Itasca Symphony Orchestra.

In May of 2014, the Grand Rapids State Bank commissioned local composer Graeme Shields to write a piece to commemorate the 100th Year Celebration of the GRSB. Graeme Shields worked with conductor Keith Swanson to write a piece showcasing the talents of our string section. This was a truly fantastic opportunity for our Symphony. The smiles of our ISO musicians as they thanked Graeme for writing a delightful piece, and the composer's joy of hearing his work performed to an enthusiastically applauding audience was a highlight of our ISO season.

The Grand Rapids State Bank does business in a way that means our community is better off because of their actions. This is more than financial underwriting: it is providing opportunities to cultivate our local talent, creating new artistic works, and encouraging our arts organizations to be the best we can be.

Sincerely,



Tara Makinen
IOSP Executive Director
218-327-5781
tara@itascaorchestra.org

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC ART PLAN

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HISTORY

The Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission was established on February 25, 2013 with Ordinance No. 13-02-04. The first responsibility for the commission was to develop and recommend to the council a mission, public agenda and strategic plan for arts and culture in Grand Rapids.

The Arts & Culture roadmap was developed by the commission and adopted into the City comprehensive plan on March 9, 2015. **Goal #4 of that plan is to Use the Arts to animate the physical realm and improve connectivity.** Every city strives for a welcoming and vibrant built environment, and the arts are a key component of the public realm's vitality. While the private and nonprofit sectors primarily promote arts and cultural programs and venues, city government typically leads efforts to integrate artworks into capital and infrastructure improvement projects. Such artworks can add greatly to streetscapes, trail networks, and civic buildings, bringing visual interest, community history, and vitality to many areas of the city. Because such pieces occur outside or in public spaces and there is no fee charged to view, they also help expand accessibility.

One of the Objectives of that goal is to Embed public art into existing and future streetscapes to create a dynamic and vital physical environment.

- 4.7 Identify upcoming City of Grand Rapids' Capital Improvement Projects where city staff, with support from Arts and Culture Commission members, can integrate artistic components along with their continued maintenance (e.g. 5th Street redesigns and existing and future roundabouts)
- 4.8 Create murals and art installations along existing infrastructure, such as bridges and railroad crossings, to help animate points of entrance into town and beautify neglected areas
- 4.9 Encourage the donation of privately funded art into Veteran's Park to help celebrate heritage and identity
- 4.10 Organize a sculpture walk that highlights work from regional artists and provides opportunities to animate downtown area and promote Grand Rapids as a regional arts center.

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A second objective under that goal is to Create initial public art policies and develop a program that consistently contributes to the vitality and economic development of the city.

- 4.11 Create City of Grand Rapids “Art Adoption/Acquisition/Loan” policy that would create a clear understanding of what type of artworks to accept into the city’s collection and to establish guidelines around the conversations about maintenance, insurance, and other administrative necessities
- 4.12 Create a City of Grand Rapids “Arts Inclusion” policy to help frame conversations between the city and private developers who might be looking to develop artwork within their own developments
- 4.13 Create a formal City of Grand Rapids Public Art Policy

INTRODUCTION: THE IMPORTANCE OF A PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

A public art program has the capacity to:

- Endow the city with a vibrant and vigorous artistic texture making the city stimulating and enjoyable to live and work in and to visit;
- Contribute significantly to the development of cultural tourism;
- Provide an avenue through public art for many voices from diverse backgrounds to join together to reach a common understanding and address community differences; in the process, community perceptions can shift, breaking down barriers that limit and separate neighbors, unleashing creativity and opening many possibilities for the future;
- Strengthen local communities where artistic and cultural activity is key to expressing personal and social identity;
- Achieve lifelong learning where the arts are a significant vehicle for developing learning opportunities for people outside the formal education sector;
- Promote health and wellbeing where involvement in the arts can promote the development of self-esteem and personal growth;
- Enhance, enliven and enrich public spaces and public experiences;
- Enhance and augment the distinctive identity and “sense of place” of the city as a whole, and as a complexity of diverse and distinctive neighborhoods;
- Make a crucial contribution to generating a poetic dimension to the city—that quality that elevates cities from the mundane to the memorable;
- Foster a positive civic identity that is regionally recognized and esteemed for the value it accords to nurturing a culturally rich and dynamic environment;
- Form an invaluable and meaningful cultural heritage that will foster an understanding and appreciation of our identity, history and aspirations for generations to come;
- Provide a sustainable framework for the care and conservation of this unique cultural heritage.

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC ART PLAN

SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS, VALUE, PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

1.1 **Definitions of Public Art, Public Space, Visual Artist, Other Visual Arts Professionals, Public Art Committee and Public Art Plan**

Public Art can be defined most simply as visual art that exists for the public, are commissioned or purchased by or donated to the City to be in publicly accessible spaces. Public art may be functional as well as aesthetic, free standing or fully integrated into the structure of a site. This definition includes:

- permanent installations in all media;
- artists' collaborations on architecture, landscaping or amenity design; and
- temporary installations in all media located in the public sphere.

It does not include:

- directional elements;
- art objects that are stock items or mass-produced;
- art objects that are portable or easily moved unless the work has been designated by the Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission as temporary art, and will be on display for less than 6 months;
- playground equipment, statuary projects, landscape architecture, landscape gardening, fountains and greening projects unless these elements are integral to the work of art itself or a collaboration among design professionals including at least one artist.

Public Space is defined as an area accessible to and frequented by the general public and owned and operated by the City of Grand Rapids. This includes, but is not limited to, the City's parks and squares, boulevards, streets, bridges, as well as the architectural facades, concourses and foyers of City-owned facilities.

Visual Artist

A professional visual artist is a person who has specialized training in the artistic field (not necessarily in academic institutions); is recognized as a professional by his or her peers; has produced an independent body of work and has maintained an independent professional practice for at least three years following the completion of specialized training in the field; and has had at least three public presentations of their work in a professional visual arts context over a three-year period.

Other Visual Arts Professionals

A visual art professional, in this context, is a person who is recognized as a professional curator in the visual arts, visual arts critic, visual arts educator, architect or landscape architect; possesses skill, training (formal or informal) and experience in the applicable discipline; is active and committed to his or her practice; has a minimum three-year history of public presentation, public projects and/or publishing in this discipline; seeks payment for his or her work in this discipline; and is recognized by his or her peers as a visual arts professional.

Public Art Committee

The Grand Rapids Public Art Committee is a Volunteer Advisory Committee for the City of Grand Rapids. Appointments to the committee are made by the Chair of the Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Committee, and shall consist of 5 members, no more than 1 commissioners and at least one visual artist professional (See Section 4.2), along with no more

than 3 other citizens. This public art committee will make a general plan for the placement of public art in the central business district by June 30, 2017.

Public Art Placement Plan

The Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission, along with the Public Arts Committee, shall develop a Public Art Placement Plan for the City of Grand Rapids. This plan will identify sites for public art, starting with the Central Business district and moving out into public parks, and public trails, as well as possible neighborhoods. This plan provides a ten-year plan for integrating art into the civic environment.

1.2 Value of Public Art

The value of public art must include its social value as a means through which to express, reflect and enjoy our city. Public art works make walking through the City's streets and open spaces an interesting and thought-provoking experience for people living, working and visiting. It contributes to the identity and character of a place by marking out an area as unique within the city, and supports economic development.

Public art programs have long been central to the development and revitalization of major urban cities like Toronto, Chicago or New York, and now smaller cities are following suit. Whether small neighborhood pleasures or large icons, public art works can make a city known more widely, encourage cultural tourism and play a critical role in a city's cultural development.

The value of public art must include its impact as a significant economic driver. Public art is identified as a mechanism that improves the competitive advantage of a municipality, attracting professionals to live and work in the area and making it a more desirable place to locate businesses. Arts bring economic development and revitalization to neighborhoods. "Cities that thrive in the 21st century will be those that pay attention to developing a true diversity of human creativity. That means more (and more accessible) public art." – Ryerson University study.

1.3 Principles and Purpose of this Public Art Policy

A Public Art Policy for a city facilitates the creation and acquisition of quality public art and ensures that professional artists are involved in its creation. The primary aim of a public art policy is to foster innovation and quality works of art.

A Public Art Policy for a city ensures that the process for commissioning, acquiring and managing public art works is open, equitable and fair and meets professional standards; it also outlines funding sources to create and maintain public art. Such a policy protects and maintains public art as a valuable part of the built environment and makes space for public art available and a priority in the development of the city's streetscape.

A Public Art Policy ensures that a strong public art collection for the city evolves from the Arts and Culture Plan for that city.

A Public Art Policy encourages the allocation of a percent for public art in the budgets of all significant public developments across the city.

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A Public Art Policy encourages discussions between city staff and private developments to consider public art in their development. That discussion is initiated by the director of community development.

1.4 Goals of this Public Art Policy

The goals of a Public Art Policy are interpreted in the commissioning process to ensure the innovative quality and integrity of the City's selection of artists and projects and maintenance of artworks. The goals of a Public Art Policy for the City of Grand Rapids are:

- To ensure the artistic merit, quality and integrity of the artworks owned by the City of Grand Rapids and intended for public spaces;
- To provide a range of opportunities for artists at various stages of their careers to make public art through establishing a set of processes and procedures that allow for innovation, that value the artists and the artistic process, that respect the creative rights of artists and defines standards and establish criteria for the selection of Public Art;
- To enhance the community's sense of ownership and value by commissioning works that are site-specific and encouraging awareness of collective heritages, neighborhood identities and the value of creativity and creative processes in small city living;
- To ensure that all artworks in the City of Grand Rapids' collection will be part of a coherent program of maintenance, conservation and preservation;
- To build upon existing relationships between the City, artists and arts organizations and community members to improve the opportunities for citizens to participate in the arts in their daily lives, encourage civic discussion about public art and make possible the expression of a variety of cultural voices;
- To recognize and stimulate a high caliber of small city design by enhancing the aesthetic quality of the built environment and incorporating original artworks into the infrastructure of the City;
- To promote Grand Rapids as a *Creative City* recognized regionally as valuing the arts and as a destination for cultural tourism, while acting as a stimulus for economic development; and
- To use City resources wisely to develop projects in a strategic and cost effective manner.

1.5 Promoting Public Art and Educating Public Audiences

The City of Grand Rapids' Arts and Culture Commission will provide opportunities for the public to learn about and become involved with the art in their streets through:

- Publicized artist competition calls; Public art walking and driving tours made available to the public (e.g. on the City's website);
- A publication promoting the integration of art into city revitalization; neighborhood renewal projects and plans of subdivisions;
- The Grand Rapids Public Art Committee will aid the City in developing a Public Art Plan to guide an overall strategy for public art sites and programming; and
- All the above information as well as this Public Art Policy will be posted on the City's website.

SECTION 2: PROCESSES AND PROTOCOL

2.1 Commissions: Artist Selection Processes, Selection Panels, Project Management, Projects Initiated by Community or Arts Organizations

The City of Grand Rapids endeavors to commission innovative public art works that are of the highest quality, are relevant to their prospective neighborhood and context, and enrich the experience of Grand Rapids' residents and visitors. The City aims to carry out this ambition through equitable and objective selection processes with valuable input from community members and guidance from relevant art professionals.

2.1.1 Artist Selection Process

The process by which an artist is selected for a commission has a significant impact on the project's success. The City of Grand Rapids operates competitions as its primary form of artist selection. Depending on requirements specific to the project, the competition may be open, limited/invitational, or by direct selection. Following are definitions of these three forms of competition:

- **Open Competition:** A competition that is broadly advertised—locally and statewide. Nationally and open to any artist interested in submitting materials for consideration per the guidelines established in the “call to artists.” This is the process most favored by the City and adhered to whenever the project budget and timeframe allow.
- **Invited/Limited Competition:** In a limited competition, a select number of artists are recommended by a selection panel, program staff or public art consultant and invited to submit materials for consideration. Limited competitions may be staged when a project requires a specific art form, or there are pressing time restrictions on its completion.
- **Direct Selection:** The commission of a work by an artist or the purchase of an existing work of art, as recommended as a curatorial choice by a selection panel. A direct selection may be warranted when there is a single clear choice or a sole source in terms of the artistic solution for a project. A direct selection may also be appropriate where there is a time constraint or an extremely limited project budget.

The form of competition to be used for a project is determined by the Grand Rapids Public Art Committee in consultation with City staff and the art consultant, should there be one contracted for the project.

2.1.2 Selection Panels

The role of the selection panel is to measure the artist's present proposal and past work against the general goals of the City's Public Art Policy (*outlined in Section 1.4, above*) and the specific objectives of the commission at hand. The number of participants on a selection panel or jury will comprise not less than three and not more than five in number while respecting the need to involve stakeholders and a breadth of informed perspectives.

Qualified selection panels will be comprised of the city engineer, the public works director and most recognized visual arts professionals as well as representatives of the community with interests in the site.

These selection panels select short-listed and winning artists for public art projects for properties under the City of Grand Rapids' jurisdiction.

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Selection panel members are recognized visual arts professionals, as defined in Section 1.1, and include practicing professional artists, curators, art critics, art educators, architects and landscape architects. Art dealers and art consultants are not allowed to participate on selection panels.

Members of the Grand Rapids Public Art Committee are not allowed to sit on any selection panels or juries during their tenure on the Committee but may recommend jury members to the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission or the Public Art Consultation, if one has been hired.

2.1.3 Project Management

The city engineer will develop the request for proposals with input from the Grand Rapids Public Art Committee for permanent commissions and projects initiated through the City of Grand Rapids' Capital Program. The request for proposals is publicly posted. Proposals submitted to each competition are evaluated by a selection team.

The Arts and Culture commission and the Public Art Committee coordinates the competition for artist submissions, community consultation, assembles and manages the selection panel, and oversees all aspects of the commissioning process. This is done in conjunction with the city engineer, who works with the winning artist through to the completion of the public art work. The public works department will also be consulted to identify the maintenance the artwork will need.

2.1.4 Projects Initiated by Community or Arts Organizations

Public art projects proposed by external community or arts groups must be reviewed by the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission and the Public Art Committee against the criteria in 2.2.1. Proposals should outline the role of the artist in the project, identify a lead organizational contact and potential site(s) for the work. The City engineer will be consulted before acceptance of any proposal.

2.2 Donations/Official Gifts: Criteria; Finished Work; Commissioned Works; Procedure

Official gifts of art are directed to the Grand Rapids Public Art Committee for review and consideration to ensure the integrity of the donation process, the desired location of the artwork, any conditions accompanying the gift, the meeting of specific aesthetic and technical criteria, and a cash donation or provisions agreed upon towards future maintenance and conservation of the artwork.

2.2.1 Criteria

- Suitability of the donation as determined by the guidelines and mandate of the Grand Rapids Public Art Committee;
- Quality of the artwork, based on a professional assessment of the work, detailed written proposal, drawing and/or photographs;
- Suitability of the theme of the artwork to a public venue;
- Appropriateness of the artwork to the site, in the case where a site has been recommended;
- Qualifications of the artist based on documentation of past work and the artist's professional qualifications;
- Financial implication based on the costs of the project implementation, the installation of the work, and the ongoing maintenance of the artwork;
- Provision by the donor for ongoing maintenance of the artwork;
- Absence of restrictive conditions imposed by the donor;

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- susceptibility of the work to wear and vandalism and potential danger to the public;
- suitability of the artwork to the technical requirements of installation in a public space;
- durability of the work under outdoor environmental conditions of public display; and
- ease of maintenance and repair.

These criteria as well as relevance of the subject matter to the City of Grand Rapids guide the evaluation to ensure the integrity of the process.

2.2.1.A If the donation in question is a finished work, the piece will first be reviewed by an art conservator or qualified individual to assess the condition and feasibility of preservation in a public location. If the work is deemed feasible to include in the City's collection maintenance program, the city engineer or public works director, in consultation with the Grand Rapids Public Art Committee, will review the piece against the above selection criteria and with consideration to possible locations.

If the piece is deemed eligible to become part of the City's collection, and a suitable location can be agreed upon, the Public Arts Committee shall submit a report to the city administrator, with a recommendation of acceptance of the gift by the City of Grand Rapids. The city Council will then consider the recommendation. If the donation is approved, the city engineer or public works director will work out the installation details with the donor or their designate.

2.2.1.B If the donor is proposing the commission of a new work not yet in existence, the proposal is reviewed by the Grand Rapids Public Art Committee and recommendations made to the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission. The proposal must be subjected to the criteria listed in 2.2.1A.

2.2.2 Procedure

The offer to donate an official gift of public art or the installation of an artistic tribute to acknowledge a significant historic event should be sent in writing to the City of Grand Rapids' Arts and Culture Commission to bring to the Grand Rapids Public Art Committee for consideration. The submission should include a detailed description of the gift (Appendix i, Public Art Donation Process Information), the relevance of the subject matter to the City of Grand Rapids and contact names for follow up.

2.3 Procurement

Work purchased for the City of Grand Rapids' collection must be of high standing within its artistic field, both conceptually and aesthetically, and in technical execution. The City of Grand Rapids seldom purchases pre-existing artworks for its public art collection and does not acquire work with the intent to profit by disposal later.

2.4 Temporary Public Art Projects

The City of Grand Rapids provides a venue for innumerable artistic projects. The City's Arts and Culture Commission will continue to work with a variety of arts organizations to produce challenging and innovative public art projects on a temporary basis. Temporary visual art projects provide opportunities to artists to experiment with the scope and scale of artwork and serves to increase public awareness of contemporary artistic practice and ideas about the public realm.

From time to time, the City of Grand Rapids may allocate funds specifically for temporary projects and will provide support for projects initiated by artists, arts organizations or communities.

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A Sub-Committee of the Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission will be developed to review and recommend temporary public art projects (visual arts specific). The city administrator will be consulted.

SECTION 3: MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS' PUBLIC ART COLLECTION

3.1 Maintenance and Conservation: Public Art Inventory, Evaluation, Insurance

It is the responsibility of the City of Grand Rapids to maintain all permanent works of art within the Public Art Inventory, in accordance with the approved maintenance plan and/or conservation plan required for each piece. Development of the maintenance plan and/or conservation plan is the responsibility of the artist and will be submitted to the City at the time the artwork is installed. The plans will include, but not be limited to, a maintenance dossier, shop drawings, manufacturers' lists, key contacts including the artist, maintenance and/or conservation specifications, and budgets. The City will be responsible for the care and maintenance of the artwork, in accordance with the approved maintenance plan. To build longevity into its public art planning and processes, all public art competitions and donations will include a maintenance fund in the budget for the conservation of the public artwork.

The City's Public Art Program establishes a treatment and maintenance program that is proactive and uses public funds wisely by avoiding costly preservation procedures that result from neglect. A Public Art Conservator, a qualified, professional trained in art conservation, may be contracted by the City of Grand Rapids' Arts and Culture Commission to participate in the technical review of existing art work.

3.1.1 Public Art Inventory

The city clerk regularly updates the Inventory of Public Art owned by the City. These records include a detailed description of the artwork, its fabrication, site conditions, conservation and maintenance plan, and visual documentation of the artwork. The Public Art Inventory Records are updated when new works are acquired and following routine inspections, maintenance and conservation.

3.1.2 Collection Evaluation and Insurance

The City of Grand Rapids' public art collection is to be insured as property of the City for vandalism, liability and theft, and each piece as acquired should be appraised based on market value and re-evaluated as needed.

The members of the Public Art Committee will also be covered by the municipal insurance policy that indemnifies them against legal responsibilities for their actions, if they are not guilty of wrongful acts or gross negligence.

3.2 De-Accessioning: Criteria, Evaluation, Methods (Removal, Destruction)

De-Accessioning is the process by which an artwork is removed from the City of Grand Rapids' collection. It may involve the relocation, removal or disposal of an artwork, if these actions are not in conflict with the terms on which the City acquired the work.

All recommendations for de-accession are reviewed by the Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission and must be approved by City Council.

3.2.1 Criteria

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Assessment to determine whether a piece is to be removed from the City of Grand Rapids' collection would be based on one or more of the following considerations:

- the artwork has been damaged and/or has deteriorated beyond feasible repair;
- the continued satisfactory condition or security of the artwork cannot be realistically guaranteed; it is too costly to maintain or insure;
- the artwork endangers public safety;
- profound alterations of the site have occurred which affect the integrity of the artwork; and
- the site is no longer accessible to the public and an alternative appropriate site can no longer be found on City property.

SECTION 4 - ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Grand Rapids City Council

The Grand Rapids City Council approves the public art plan and policies.

The City Council approves the final acceptance of all public artworks commissioned by or donated to the City as endorsed by the Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission as well as annual budgets for the maintenance and cleaning of the City's public art collection.

4.2 Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission and Public Arts Committee shall work closely with and consult with the City Administrator, the public works director and the city engineer.

4.2.1 Mandate

The Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission provides expert community input on the City of Grand Rapids' public art policies and procedures, giving guidance and advice to City departments, agencies, sponsors, boards and commissions from the earliest stages of public art projects proposed for City-owned lands and potential donations to the City. Specifically, the Commission, along with the Public Arts committee reviews, develops and recommends public art policies, competition guidelines for public art commissions and temporary public art projects; reviews and recommends proposed donations of artwork to the City; recommends artwork to be de-accessioned; recommends processes and systems to fund, maintain/conserv, document, interpret and promote public art projects; and provides advice to City staff on the management and promotion of the City of Grand Rapids' public art collection. The Commission and Public Arts Committee promotes awareness and understanding of the importance of high-quality public art and encourages the development of public art in the city of Grand Rapids.

4.2.2 Conflict of Interest

Members of the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission and the Public Arts Committee may participate on selection committees or juries for specific public art projects, proposals, or commissions, provided there is no conflict of interest.

4.3 Municipal Staff Responsibilities

The city administrator manages all issues relating to public art on City-owned lands.

- Develop, manage, audit, maintain and promote the City of Grand Rapids' public art collection

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- Oversee the art consultant and artist selection processes, contract negotiations, site planning and preparation, installation, insurance and maintenance of commissioned or donated public art works;
- Mediate between the art consultant, artist or donor, community groups, staff of other municipal departments and the City's agencies, boards and commissions;
- Provide advice and support to artist and community initiated temporary projects;
- Report policy recommendations to City Council.

SECTION 5: FUNDING

5.1 The City of Grand Rapids will fund public art through an art set aside of 1-1/2 percent for all public works programs. This money will be put into a fund to purchase or commission public art.

5.1a The Arts and Culture Commission will apply for grants to maximize the number of dollars available for public art.

5.1b The City treasurer will administer the funds.

5.2 Donations

The City will manage a donor program that will provide stewardship to individuals, families and businesses who seek to donate to the City of Grand Rapids' Public Art Program.

5.3 Public Art Reserve Fund

A Public Art Reserve will be created to receive cash contributions from public and private donors, as well as grants received, and operate in accordance with Grand Rapids' financial policies. The Public Art Reserve will be used to fund and maintain projects in accordance with this Public Art Policy.

All funds to be used for Public Art regardless of origin, will be held in the Public Art Reserve Fund. This fund is to be used with Council's approval to fund Public Art and maintenance projects. approved by the Grand Rapids Public Art Committee, through its selection and recommendation processes.

Therefore; any design or donation proposal must include ten per cent (10%) of the value of the artwork or art commission for future maintenance. These funds are also held in the Public Art Reserve Fund, from which the City draws annually approved sums for cleaning and restoring the City's public art. restorations will be made in accordance with recognized principles of conservation.

Appendix i Public Art Donation Process Information

Phase one:

The following information is needed to determine if a City of Grand Rapids location would be suitable for the proposed art donation.

1. What are the dimensions of the proposed sculpture?

a. height

b. width and depth

c. area of base

d. weight

2. What is the material of the sculpture? Is it resistant to outdoor conditions?

(acid rain, smog, snow, frost, salt, etc.) This will be followed up with more specific questions regarding the surface texture of the sculpture.

3. How was this piece fabricated and where? Was there a foundry or fabricator associated with the piece? Please provide details.

4. What kind of foundation does the sculpture require (both above and beneath the surface of the ground)? Please provide foundation and installation drawings for review.

5. How will the sculpture be affixed to the foundation?

6. What is the proposed site for the sculpture?

7. What is the projected budget for the installation of the artwork?

a. cost of shipping and/or storage

b. cost of site preparation

c. cost of installation

Are you willing to provide 10 % of the value of the artwork as maintenance money?

9. Please provide photograph(s) and technical drawings of the work as well as photographs of other works by the artist and the artist's resume.

Appendix ii Material Selection Guidelines for Outdoor Artworks

Artwork being considered for the City of Grand Rapids Public Art will be assessed from a maintenance and conservation perspective to determine the piece's durability outdoors and potential maintenance costs to the City.

The City of Grand Rapids will endeavor to keep its commissioning processes relevant to contemporary art practices by considering new materials or media after thorough research.

The materials selected can make a significant difference regarding the lifespan of an artwork in the outdoor environment. Material selection alone, however, is not the only determining factor; quality of workmanship, fabrication and finishing methods, design details and siting all play a significant role in an artwork's durability.

Appendix iii Technical and Conservation Manual Information

Artwork Title:

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Artist's Name:

Address:

Telephone Number: Home Cell:

E-mail:

Location of Artwork:

Installation Date:

Primary Materials:

To be able to maintain this artwork in the future, it is necessary that the City of Grand Rapids have detailed information on all materials, methods, fabricators and suppliers used in its production.

Please provide, upon completion of the project, the following information in the form of a Technical and Conservation Manual.

List in order of prominence all materials used in the artwork and outline methods and materials used to achieve the finished product. Use the sheets provided and photocopy as needed. Use one sheet for each material.

Primary materials to be described:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Additional information to be included:

1. All product information supplied by manufacturer and fabricators, including maintenance recommendations.
2. Drawings and/or photographs illustrating the fabrication and installation process.
3. All engineer-approved drawings, where applicable.

(one sheet for each primary material)

Artwork Title:

Primary Material:

Application:

Fabricator: Telephone Number:

Address:

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Supplier: (list product names and sources of materials)

Found materials and source/location:

Fabrication methods: (list all techniques and methods used)

Surface applications: (mechanical, chemical, coatings)

Surface applications: (mechanical, chemical, coatings)

Pigments and paint samples: (list all pigments used and proportions; list color codes available on commercial products; provide paint/color samples where applicable)