

ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, August 5, 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a regular meeting of the Arts & Culture Commission will be held in the Conference Room 2B at City Hall, 420 N Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744 on Tuesday, August 5, 2014 at 3:15 p.m.

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Public input
3. Correspondence
4. Approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 1, 2014
5. Approve minutes of the Special Meeting held on July 16, 2014
6. Old Business: Discussion of Arts and Culture Plan
7. Set agenda for next regular meeting – Tuesday, September 2, 2014
8. Adjourn

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
CONFERENCE ROOM 2B- GRAND RAPIDS CITY HALL
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2014 – 3:15 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 Tuesday, July 1, 2014, at 3:15 pm

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Kathy Dodge, Brian Carlson, Lois Bendix, Michael Davis, Carissa Grosland, Sonja Merrild, David Marty, Karen Walker

Commissioners absent: Todd Driscoll

Staff Present: Amy Dettmer, Michele Palkki and Jessica Setness

A motion was made by Commissioner Marty, seconded by Commissioner Davis to nominate Commissioner Merrild as Vice Chair. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 3rd Regular Meeting and June 20th Special Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Carlson, second by Commissioner Marty to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 3, 2014 and Special Meeting of June 20, 2014. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Karen Walker arrived at 3:25 pm

OLD BUSINESS

METRIS ARTS DISCUSSION

A discussion was held regarding dates the consultants will be back in Grand Rapids. Monday, July 14 and Tuesday, July 15 will be focus groups and interviews done by the consultants.

There will be a Special Meeting scheduled on Wednesday, July 16 with the full Commission to discuss the events that will take place on July 14 and 15.

A discussion was held regarding the list of stakeholders. There were a few more names added to the stakeholder list, Commissioner Dodge will make sure that these are sent to the consultants. As discussed in the past, this is not a final list and names can be added at any time.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Michele Palkki

The next regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Arts Commission will be Tuesday, August 5, 2014 beginning at 3:15 pm at the Grand Rapids City Hall, Conference Room 2B.

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
GRAND RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – GRAND RAPIDS CITY HALL
SPECIAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014 – 8:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof the special meeting of the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission was held in the Grand Rapids City Council Chambers of the Grand Rapids City Hall, 420 N Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, at 8:00 am

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Kathy Dodge, David Marty, Todd Driscoll, Lois Bendix, Sonja Merrild, Karen Walker, Carissa Grosland and Brian Carlson

Commissioners absent: Michael Davis

Staff Present: Amy Dettmer, Jessica Setness and Michele Palkki

Consultants: Anne Gadwa Nicodemus – Metris Arts Consulting, Lynn Osgood, GO Collaborative

NEW BUSINESS

ARTS AND CULTURE PLAN: DISCOVERY VISIT 1

➤ What We've Been Hearing

A general discussion took place from Anne Gadwa Nicodemus and Lynn Osgood regarding the initial results from the past two days they spent with stakeholder interviews, City staff and focus meetings.

During discussions, many individuals said they would like to see Grand Rapids as more of a Regional Center for the arts and culture.

➤ The question – what are the closest regional centers and their identity.

Duluth – Economically sound, very versed in arts, many downtown arts/culture offered

Bemidji – Very well organized, 1st Fridays in place, flourishing downtown, chamber is open to the arts. Downtown sculpture walks.

Brainerd – similar to Bemidji they have art/walk space

Grand Marais – part of the regional area on the North Shore, have many arts and culture shops and festivals in place.

➤ **What are the attractions to draw people here and do we have artists with reputation**

Grand Rapids Values – attracting and retaining population. It is not so much the space that matters but what is here and available. The ease of small/community and access to all. Very high in outdoor recreation and arts

There may be a perception we are overlooked because it is not being identified. We seem to be scattered. The energy is forming so we have a huge potential. We need to clarify policies and legalities up front, so there are no misunderstandings.

People felt excited and want to see the plan come to fruition.

➤ **Art - Public**

Sculpture gardens, murals, access to children, downtown, green space/events or objects placed
Review the plan for capital outlay and strategic opportunities.

➤ **Arts - Education**

What is the City/Commission's role with education? Should this be more identified with schools and with their curriculum? What arts are available to children with school funding being cut from the budgets? Maybe we can help but not be identified as the provider. This could be followed up with more key individuals from the School District and the Commission. Arts opportunities are not always available to low-income families.

➤ **Arts - Business**

It was noted there was a definite interest in ties between arts and business. How do we meld these two entities together and use to interface with each other? There seems to be a change in the perception of arts and business.

➤ **Native American – Ojibwa**

We need to incorporate the Native American Culture as we proceed further; there is a strong sense of connectedness with our neighbors just to the west of Grand Rapids. What will be the integrated approach?

➤ **Time Line – Overview**

➤ **Survey – Launch August 29th**

➤ There will be a draft survey available in time for the August 5th Arts and Culture Commission Monthly Meeting. The plan will be to launch the on-line survey August 29th

Time Line – Survey Continued

The Commission can look over and make any further recommendations for the consultants to consider. The survey will be available to fill out on-line and will run for 3 weeks, 2 weeks prior to the first Community Meeting and the week of the Community Meeting.

Although the survey is done on-line, we will have different locations for people to complete the survey. The plan will be to have computers available for the public at the Grand Rapids Area Library, area Coffee Shops, possibly Community Education.

Our means for publicizing the survey will be done through many portals including but not limited to the City Web Page, City Department Face Book Pages, City Newsletter, Local Coffee Shops, Businesses, City Departments, Public Library, ISD Community Education, Tuesday Folders for Elementary Children, Press Release/Articles through the Grand Rapids Herald Review, ICTV, Public Service Announcements with KOZY/KMFY, KAXE,

The consultant team will plan to be back in Grand Rapids September 15 through the 17. There will be more stakeholder interviews, focus groups, the first community meeting and a public/place making strategic visioning meeting.

- **Interviews:** These will continue to take place along with focus group meetings
- **Community Meeting**

The Community Meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 16, time and location to be announced.

- **Public / Place Making Meeting / Strategic Visioning**

This evening will include the commission to help chair different tables that will each have a focus for conversation. A date and time to be announced.

- **Branding Discussion**

The Commission might want to look at changing the name for the Culture Plan. Right now there are many words “Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Plan”, sometimes less is more. The group was asked to write down as many names and then share those ideas with the group. It may be a good idea to go over those ideas at the next Commission Meeting on August 5. It does not mean the name has to change. It was just a suggestion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 am

Respectfully submitted by Michele Palkki

Brainstormed names from July 16 Special Meeting of GRACC:

Recreate Create
Wild about the Arts
Come for Recreation Stay for Arts
GR Arts: It's in MN's nature
Up North Arts
GR Arts Now
GRMN Creates
GR Creativity
Crossroads Art Plan (CRAP)
GR Art World
Homespun Arts
GR Creates
Imagine GR
(Lots of cities have used "Create X" so I don't recommend that name)

I think the big questions on the table is whether or not to go with "Grand Rapids Arts: It's in Minnesota's Nature" and stay within the standard branding parameters that it sets, or to go outside of that. The pros of that would be that it will help to align the efforts of the commission with other city/regional efforts. The cons would be that we'd have to use the graphics/fonts that are prescribed by the brand.

We have the following options:

- 1) Go with Grand Rapids Arts: It's in Minnesota's Nature;
- 2) Select a different name that's listed above;
- 3) Have a new name that's not listed above: or, finally,
- 4) Have Anne and Lynn work with Kathy and Amy or a working group to finalize something different than what's listed above. (In other words, nothing on the table seems to fit and it would be helpful if we went back to the drawing board -so to speak.)

Adapted from Lynn Osgood's email August 4, 2014.

**ARTS AND CULTURE PLAN
DRAFT SURVEY QUESTIONS
08.05.14**

Comment [AN1]: We will add a compelling "pitch" to encourage survey respondents to participate.

GENERAL SURVEY

ARTS, CULTURE AND THE ECONOMY

Please rank the following possible ways in which arts and culture contribute to Grand Rapids' economy.

Q1: Arts and culture in the Grand Rapids area help to attract and keep
...businesses
...workers
...retirees

Completely disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Somewhat agree, Agree, Completely agree | Don't know

Q2: Arts and cultural business and non-profits, in their own rights, are
... income generators
... job generators

Completely disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Somewhat agree, Agree, Completely agree | Don't know

Q3: Artists, in their own rights, contribute to the local economy.

Completely disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Somewhat agree, Agree, Completely agree | Don't know

Q4: Please feel free to share any examples or ideas for ways in which arts and culture can help grow Grand Rapids' economy.

ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

Please rank the following possible ways in which arts and culture contribute to Grand Rapids' community development.

Q5: Grand Rapids' current arts and cultural offerings are inclusive of
...minorities such as Native Americans.
... people of different ages.
... people of different income and educational attainment levels.

Completely disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree,
Somewhat agree, Agree, Completely agree | Don't know

Q6: Please feel free to share any examples or ideas for how Grand Rapid's arts and cultural offerings can be more inclusive.

Q7: Grand Rapids' arts and cultural offerings could play a larger role in
...poverty alleviation
...reduction in addiction
...healing in general

Completely disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree,
Somewhat agree, Agree, Completely agree | Don't know

Q8: Are the other community issues that you think arts and culture could play a larger role in?

Q9: Please feel free to share any ideas related to these areas of community development.

ARTS, CULTURE AND THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Please rank the following possible ways in which arts and culture contribute to Grand Rapids' physical environment.

Q10: The City of Grand Rapids should use the arts and culture to improve
.... general livability
.... streets
.... parks
.... city buildings
.... city infrastructure
.... the environment

Completely disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree,
Somewhat agree, Agree, Completely agree | Don't know

Q11: Please feel free to share any examples or ideas for ways in which the City of Grand Rapids can use arts and culture to improve the physical environment.

ARTS, CULTURE AND THE REGION

Q12: The City of Grand Rapids should support arts and culture in order to remain competitive with other Minnesotan cities.

Completely disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Somewhat agree, Agree, Completely agree | Don't know

Q13: The City of Grand Rapids should become a regional hub for arts and culture.

Completely disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Somewhat agree, Agree, Completely agree | Don't know

Q14: The arts should be more closely intertwined with the following types of activities in the Grand Rapids region.

- environmental activities
- sporting activities
- recreational activities

Q15: Please share your ideas for how the arts could be more closely intertwined with sporting, recreation, or environmental activities in the Grand Rapids region.

ARTS AND EDUCATION

Q16: It is important the arts and culture be supported by

- local schools
- area colleges

Completely disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Somewhat agree, Agree, Completely agree | Don't know

Q17: Please share your ideas for how local area schools and colleges could support the arts and culture.

Q18: Please share your ideas for how different types of arts programs could help to expand the reach of the arts to different groups in Grand Rapids (such as music camps for youth)?

SUPPORTING ARTS AND CULTURE IN GRAND RAPIDS

Q19: From your perspective, there is a balance of information between smaller arts organizations and one-time events, and larger arts organizations and reoccurring events.

- in the local media
- In tourism literature

More demographics

Completely disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Somewhat agree, Agree, Completely agree | Don't know

Q20: In your view, people in Grand Rapids would like to more actively participate in

... arts festivals

... visual arts

... music

... dance

... theater

Completely disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Somewhat agree, Agree, Completely agree | Don't know

Q21: Please give examples of activities you think people in Grand Rapids would like to participate in.

(At this point we will ask a question that asks people to answer a series of questions according to whether they would like to identify as an individual, an artist/arts worker, or arts organization. Folks will have the option for answering in multiple categories if they like.)

GENERAL PUBLIC SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Q22: Overall, how important a role do arts and cultural activities play in improving the quality of life of Grand Rapids area residents?

Not at all important, Slightly important, Moderately important, Very important, Extremely important | Don't know

Q23: What could the City do to have a positive impact on the local arts & cultural community?

Q24: What could individual citizens do to best support the arts and cultural community in Grand Rapids?

Tell us about yourself

Optional. So that we can put these responses into context, please considering sharing the following demographic information.

Q25: What is your gender?

Q26: What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 24-35
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75 years or older

Q27: What is your ethnicity (or race)? Please specify your ethnicity.

- White
- Hispanic or Latino
- Black or African-American
- Native American or American Indian
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Some other race or mixed race

Q28: What is your average annual household income?

- Less than \$20,000

Lynn
Can we ask this?

- \$20,001 - \$30,000
- \$30,001 - \$45,000
- \$45,001 - \$60,000
- \$60,001 - \$75,000
- \$75,001 +

Q29: What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? *(If currently enrolled, highest degree received.)*

- Some high school, no diploma
- High school graduate, diploma or the equivalent (for example GED)
- Some college credit, no degree
- Trade/technical/vocational training
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Professional degree
- Doctorate degree

Q30: Contact Information:

- (If they would like to be contacted further about Arts and Culture in GR and the planning process specifically.)

ARTS ORGANIZATION SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Q31: Does there seem to be a balance in opportunities for funding for smaller arts organizations and one-time events, and larger arts organizations and reoccurring events?

Q32: In your view, do Grand Rapids arts organizations work well together, and if not, what could the City and the Arts Commission do to improve this?

Q33: how long has your organization been working in the Grand Rapids area?

- 1-12 months
- 1-5 years
- 6-15 years
- 15 + years

Q34: What is/are your primary discipline(s)?

- Dance
- Design arts

- Literature
- Film/media arts
- Folk/traditional arts/crafts
- Music
- Theater arts
- Visual arts
- Multi-arts

Q35: What are the top 5 things would assist your organization in succeeding in Grand Rapids?

Q36: What are the top 5 things that prevent your organization from achieving its full potential?

INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Q37: Your Practice/Discipline

Primary Practice

- Music
- Graphic Design
- Fashion
- Film & Video
- Writing & Literature
- Cultural Management & Administration
- Photography
- Craft
- Visual Art
- Media Arts
- Theatre
- Performance Art
- Dance
- Culinary Arts
- Arts Education
- Community Arts
- Specialized Technical

Q38: Secondary Practice

- (same list as above)

Q39: What stage are you at in your career?

- Amateur/hobby
- Emerging
- Mid-career

- Established

Q40: How many years have you been an artist or cultural worker?

Q41: In a typical week how many hours do you spend on your cultural / artistic practice?

Q42: What activities do you spend the majority of your time doing as an artist & cultural worker

- working in the studio / practicing,
- networking,
- organizing exhibitions/performances
- administration
- (let's come up with a robust list)

Q43: What are the top 5 things that would assist your artistic / cultural career in Grand Rapids?

Q44: What are the top 5 things that are currently preventing you from achieving your full potential?